

# **Sigma Europe Region Newsletter September 2023**

**Spotlight on Sigma Europe  
Region Awards 2023/24**

**Find out what winning an  
award has meant to  
members and what grants  
and awards you can apply  
for in the coming months.**



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## Welcome to the Sigma Europe Region September 2023 Newsletter.

We are very fortunate in the Sigma Europe Region to have established a European Development Fund which over the last ten years has been a great source of funding for both grants and awards for members across our Europe Region.

This newsletter gives you insight into what winning an award has meant to the winners and also you will be able to view easily what awards are available for you to apply for over the next few months.

We have also details of two events occurring in September. 14<sup>th</sup> September at 17.30 CET a Phi Mu Chapter event and any Sigma member is welcome. 20<sup>th</sup> September 1-2pm CET we celebrate the winners of our Sigma European Recognition of Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards 2023.

Don't forget our fabulous PhD Virtual Connect event on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and submit your abstract by 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Just a reminder also you have two weeks left to submit your abstract for the Sigma Europe Biennium Conference in June 2024.

I wish you every success in your award and grant applications.

Dr Liz Westcott  
Sigma Europe Region Coordinator 2021-23





The Europe Region currently consists of 12 Chapters. Anyone from any of our 12 Chapters can apply for the awards on offer

- ▶ Rho Chi at-Large, The Netherlands Chapter
- ▶ Upsilon Xi at-Large, Wales Chapter
- ▶ Tau Omega, Sweden Chapter
- ▶ Phi Mu, England Chapter
- ▶ Phi Xi, Portugal Chapter
- ▶ Chi Delta, Armenia Chapter
- ▶ Omega Epsilon at –Large, Ireland Chapter
- ▶ Omegan Lambda, Israel Chapter
- ▶ Omega Xi, Scotland Chapter
- ▶ Alpha Alpha Beta, Italy Chapter
- ▶ Alpha Alpha Gamma, Croatia Chapter
- ▶ Alpha Beta Nu, Finland Chapter





## Sigma Europe's Awards for Nursing Excellence 2024

Sigma Europe's Awards for Nursing Excellence are based on the Sigma's dedication to fostering high professional nursing standards, recognizing excellent achievement, emerging leadership, and inspiring creative work.

The four awards are conferred to nurses each biennium for their contributions in the fields of education, research, early career researcher and nursing practice. [Criteria here for 2024](#)

Awards will be given to recipients at the **Sigma Europe Conference in 26-28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Bournemouth University, England.**

**The four winners will be given free registration to the conference and a funded place at the gala dinner.**

Nominations are open until **1st November 2023.**  
**Congratulations to the recipients pictured here from 2022.**



## Feedback from Sigma Europe Awards for Excellence Winners 2022

Thank Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, it was an honor and a privilege to receive this distinction, thank you for this Research Award 2022. Thanks, Sigma to contribute to improving the health of people worldwide through leadership and scholarship in practice, education, and research.



**Pedro Parreira, Sigma Europe Research Award**

It was an honor and a privilege to receive this distinction. This award, is an important recognition of research in Nursing, emphasizing the importance of research in education as an important contribution to student motivation and quality of care, valuing creativity and innovation to pursue and embrace the research in Nursing

It was a great honour to accept the Sigma European award for this biennium at the recent Sigma 6th Biennial European Regional Conference at the RCSI in Dublin. I want to sincerely thank all involved for this privilege. I am humbled that my work with nursing students, was recognised in this way and I accepted the award not only on my behalf but on behalf of my colleagues in the Department of Nursing and Healthcare Sciences at the Munster Technological University in Ireland and all nurse educationalists who tirelessly and compassionately contribute to excellence in nurses education across Ireland and the wider European Region.



**Joan Murphy Sigma Europe Excellence in Education Award**



Receiving the award from the Sigma European Region is a huge privilege and a great honour. For me, it represents recognition for investing in continuous improvement in nursing evidence-based practice, placing children and adolescents and their families centred care in articulation with all community structures in the health-disease continuum, from promotion and prevention to treatment and rehabilitation. Simultaneously, my investment in research to develop new knowledge in mental health literacy promotion as a predictor of better mental health, and also collaboration in nursing teaching, this award means that nursing leadership can be an example and inspiration for future nurses.



In addition to all the professional and academic hard work, this Award has a very significant personal and family meaning, because with the support of my family I can be a better person, a better nurse, a better researcher, a better teacher, and a better mother.

What a privilege to be Sigma!

With gratitude and “love, courage and honor”, as Sigma's President Kenneth Dion said to us.

**Tânia Morgado Sigma Europe *Excellence in Nursing Practice Award***



This award was an amazing achievement for me, and it showed me that my hard work and dedication were worth it. It meant the recognition of my commitment to nursing and research and the importance of the partnerships that I have been developing since I started my career as a nurse. It is a professional achievement, but it significantly impacted my personal life, busting my confidence and making me dream even higher. This award showed me that I can achieve more than I expected. I also hope that this gives visibility to all the high-quality research developed by nurses and also inspires nurses starting their careers to think about research as one of their possible pathways. This award reiterated my perception of the

importance of nurses supporting each and being part of nursing societies, such as Sigma, with I am very proud to be part of. Sigma's European Awards for Nursing Excellence is an outstanding achievement in my career, and I am sure this will open doors for future opportunities!

**Camila Biazus Dalcin, Sigma European Early Career Researcher**

Still just 2 weeks to go for submitting your abstract  
[ow.ly/nUUc50PsAnA](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-health-social-sciences/departments/nursing-science/7th-european-regional-sigma-conference-2024)  
<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-health-social-sciences/departments/nursing-science/7th-european-regional-sigma-conference-2024>



## 7th European Region Sigma Conference

26th – 28th June 2024

Promoting Global Nursing: Education, Research & Practice to meet Tomorrow's Health & Care Needs



Dr Sandra Bibb  
President-Elect  
Sigma



Dr Liz Madigan  
CEO  
Sigma



Professor Michael Shannon  
Global Leadership Consultancy Ltd



Professor Natasha Phillips  
Founder  
Future Nurse



Professor Martin Bricknell  
Prof in Conflict, Health & Military Medicine  
King's College London



Margrieta Langins  
Nursing & Midwifery Policy Advisor  
WHO Regional Office for Europe



Professor Joy Duxbury  
Professor of Mental Health  
Manchester Metropolitan University



Joanne Bosanquet MBE  
Chief Executive  
Foundation of Nursing Studies



Rohit Sagoo  
Founder  
British Sikh Nurses

European Region Conference  
hosted by the Phi Mu Chapter  
& Bournemouth University

Click [HERE](#) for more information  
about the Conference

Click [HERE](#) to submit an abstract  
Submission deadline is 15/09/2023

#SigmaERC2024  
@SigmaNursing  
@PhiMuChapter  
@RegionSigma



An exciting Social Programme will  
include a Florence Nightingale Tour  
or a visit to Stonehenge on  
25/06/2024





Support to attend the  
Sigma Europe Regional Conference  
26-28th June 2024,  
Bournemouth University, England.

The Sigma European Development Fund is advertising applications to apply for **six stipends of 600 Euros** each to attend the Europe Region conference.

**Two grants** will be for members who have had an abstract accepted and **four grants** for members where there is not a requirement to have had an abstract accepted.

The opportunity to apply for these grants will be from **1<sup>st</sup> September and close on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

Details of how to apply can be found on the Sigma Europe website

<https://europe.sigmanursing.org/europeanregion/conference/conference>



## Example of the form for the 2024 Conference stipend

Dear chapter presidents and members,

We would like to invite you to submit an application for **Sponsorship from the European Development Fund (EDF)** to support attendance at the Sigma EC2025, Bournemouth, England. Would you please complete the form below and provide information on all the items.

Please send the completed form by the 1<sup>st</sup> January of 2024 to [Marie-Louise@Luiking.com](mailto:Marie-Louise@Luiking.com)

Best regards on behalf of the European Awards & Recognitions committee,

Dr Marie-Louise Luiking,

Please state which sponsorship option you are applying for. **X**

<b>1</b>	A Sponsorships of 600 euro's will be made available for a European Sigma member of a low-income country within Europe to support attendance.	
<b>2</b>	A Sponsorships of 600 euros for a Sigma member of an European chapter to support attendance ,who has had an abstract accepted but can demonstrate hardship/challenges in attending the conference without some financial support.	
	Name (applicant)	
	Name of European Chapter	
	Country of residence when applying only applicable for sponsorship option 1.	
	Please provide for both options a 300-word written motivation why you should receive this sponsorship and how attending the conference will benefit you.	
	For option 2 sponsorship, please state that the abstract has been accepted. Plus, the title of the abstract.	

More information to be found at  
<https://europe.sigmanursing.org/new-page/new-page2>



## Sigma European Regional Research Grant

Opens 1<sup>st</sup> June till 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023

The purpose of Sigma's European Research Grant for Nursing & Midwifery Research is to provide a grant for a Sigma European member or group of nurses/midwives working in the profession of nursing /midwifery to allow them to undertake a study in that field.

The research should focus on improvement in quality of care for patients, clinical nursing practice, nursing leadership, fields of education and research.



## Sigma European Regional Research Grant

The purpose of Sigma's European Research Grant for Nursing Research is to provide a grant for a nurse or group of nurses working in the profession of nursing to allow them to undertake a study in that field. The research should focus on improvement in quality of care for patients, clinical nursing practice, nursing leadership, fields of education and research.

### Application

Grant application will be online. Recipients will be informed via the email and announcements will be made on the Sigma European Website & Social media platforms of Sigma Europe. The Sigma European Conference to be held at England in June 2024, will be the venue for the recipients to receive their grants in person or online. There will be two grants made available from the Sigma European Development Fund for this biennium 2022-2024.

### Rationale

The successful candidate/s will demonstrate self- motivation and foster a practice environment that promotes and values creativity in research, questioning, data-based decision making, access and synthesis of new knowledge, and the use of innovations to improve practice and clinical outcomes.

Nomination opens 1st June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023

Corresponding email: [Marie-Louise@Luiking.com](mailto:Marie-Louise@Luiking.com)

### Eligibility

All Active Sigma members in Europe, or a nursing research team with at least one active Sigma member, are eligible to apply for this research grant to the value of 3000 euros.

### Criteria

Nomination should show evidence of meeting the following criteria:

1. Proposes a research study/innovation primarily on nursing related issues.
2. Proposal should clearly outline background, aims and objectives, research design, methods, plan for dissemination, and project plan with timelines to include a completion date. Proposal should be between 1500 and 2000 words.
3. Shows proof of Ethical Approval.
4. Identifies potential benefits of the proposed research for nursing profession and supports Sigma's vision and mission.

### Submission Requirements

A complete nomination consists of:

- Supporting narrative, including examples of the above criteria (500 words maximum)??
- A letter of support from the regional chapter
- Lead researchers short curriculum vitae describing work, education, and biography (1 page)
- Will agree to a mini report 1 year from receiving the grant. 300 words approx. In addition, Sigma Europe needs to be acknowledged as co-funder in all project dissemination activities.



The PhD Virtual Connect is the **BEST** International platform to present! Abstract submission is **OPEN** for the 9th Ph-D virtual connect.

Upload your abstracts by **15th September 2023** to

<https://forms.gle/ArWk19qV4j9EMrNb8>



**9th PhD Virtual Connect 2023**  
"Re-imagining nursing research in an uncertain world"

**22 NOV 2023**  
[Kuopio] - Finland

Organization:  
Sigma  committee

Co-hosting Alpha Beta Nu chapter:  
website: [europe.sigmanursing.org/new-page/under-development](http://europe.sigmanursing.org/new-page/under-development)

The European Membership Involvement Committee – Sigma Theta Tau International and Alpha Beta Nu chapter cordially invite all postgraduate students in Nursing and Midwifery to the:

**9th Annual Postgraduate Research Student Virtual Scholarly Event "Re - imagining nursing research in an uncertain world."**

A European videoconference to present and discuss PhD research

**22nd November 2023, 12:00 – 14:00 (GMT)**  
Venue: Check with your local Sigma Chapter

**Benefits for PhD students**

- a low-cost opportunity to meet fellow PhD students from across Europe (no registration fee, no participation fee);
- a chance to present part of a thesis in a 5-minute presentation + 5-minute discussion in an online environment with peers from all around Europe;
- to share experiences and current developments in nursing research.

- Abstract submission will be open on 10th of July till **15th September 2023**.
- Places are limited.
- If we have more than ten submissions, abstracts scoring highest in peer-review will be accepted.

• Submit your abstract as a word document adhering to the following guidance:

- Title: max. 150 characters, total word count: 300
- Presenting author: last name and initials
- Institutions: max. 2 institutions for each author
- Introduction or background
- Aim of the study
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion and conclusions
- Practical and/or academic/research implications
- A maximum of 3 Keywords

All abstracts submitted will be peer-reviewed and feedback will be provided.  
Please use the Google form link below to upload your abstract and send.

<https://forms.gle/ArWk19qV4j9EMrNb8>

For further information please contact Marie-Louise Lukking: [Marie-Louise@Lukking.com](mailto:Marie-Louise@Lukking.com)

## Chapter Meeting & Induction Ceremony



- 16:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 16:40 Co-production in Digital Health  
Dr Theo Fotis, University of Brighton
- 17:30 Overview of Chapter Activities  
Dr Leslie Gelling, Phi Mu Chapter President
- 17:45 Induction Ceremony

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

16:30 – 18:30

Online Meeting

For more information and to book visit:

<https://PhiMuChapterMeeting.eventbrite.co.uk>

@PhiMuChapter  
@RegionSigma  
@SigmaNursing  
@Leslie\_Gelling  
@tfotis73  
#DigitalHealth  
#DigitalNursing

**Save the date**  
**20th September 2023**  
**between 1pm- 2pm CET**  
**Details to follow on The Circle**  
**and Europe webpages**  
**<https://europe.sigmanursing.org/home>**

Congratulations to  
the recipients of  
Sigma European  
recognitions in  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
excellence 2023.

Dr Angela Simoes,  
Ana Filipa Sousa,  
Marija Spevan & Prof  
Vanora Hundley.

