



# Forging the pathway forward for rheumatology nurse education in Asia-Pacific



## Our vision, mission and core values

The Asia-Pacific Initiative for Rheumatology Nurse Education (ASPIRE) aims to provide valuable and relevant content that meets the educational needs of rheumatology nurses across Asia-Pacific, delivered through an enduring and recognized initiative.

### Our vision

Empower nurses with the knowledge and skills required to support assessment, management and monitoring of patients with rheumatic diseases.

### Our mission

Leading change in rheumatology nursing education in Asia-Pacific.



## ASPIRE: Where it all started

ASPIRE was formed in January 2017 during the Inaugural Virtual Meeting of the Rheumatology Nurse Specialist Education Expert Working Group.

ASPIRE was established as a response to the expanding role of nurses in daily rheumatology clinical practice. As such, there is a need for a rheumatology nursing curriculum to assist nurses in acquiring a foundation of knowledge and skill set that extend beyond that of their initial education and training.

The initiative was led by an expert working group comprising leading rheumatologists and rheumatology nurse specialists.

The founding working group members include Professor Kazuhiko Yamamoto (Japan), Professor Lai-Shan Tam (Hong Kong), Ms Susan Oliver (UK), Ms Mie Fusama (Japan) and Ms Gladys Kwok (Hong Kong).

## ASPIRE Core Working Group



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## ASPIRE: Milestones

Since its inception in January 2017, ASPIRE has made notable strides toward the achievement of its mission. The following information highlights some of the milestones in 2017.

### ASPIRE core training modules

The core training modules were developed based on the recommendations by the ASPIRE working group and a region-wide education needs survey involving nurses in Asia-Pacific.

RA was identified as a key educational priority area, but future modules could cover other rheumatological diseases, including skills and competencies within rheumatology nursing.

Reviewed and endorsed by APLAR, these modules are structured around: patient assessment; treatment and self-management education; and disease monitoring and follow-up care.

The ASPIRE core training modules are now available for [download](#).

While each user has absolute discretion to select the module slides to be used, modification of the module slide content is NOT recommended as this will reduce the impact of the modules.

### ASPIRE implementation toolkit

The implementation toolkit outlines the process and steps to organizing a face-to-face educational workshop.

However, each individual or organization can decide for itself whether and in what manner to

adopt any or all of the toolkit components. The templates and materials contained herein are flexible and adaptable to meet audience-specific educational needs, suitability and time.

The ASPIRE implementation toolkit is now available for [download](#).

### ASPIRE training workshops

Nurses need to be appropriately trained in order to be effective in their expanded roles within a rheumatology multidisciplinary team.

The ASPIRE core training modules have been successfully piloted in a series of five nurse training workshops across Japan, Hong Kong and China. Much positive feedback was received from both the faculty and participants, who were all impressed with the quality of the ASPIRE-based rheumatology nurse education.

If you are passionate about upskilling nurses in rheumatology within your own practice setting, there is a small number of educational grants that will be made available to help you to organize training workshops using the ASPIRE core training modules. Please check this website in June/July for a further update.