

**2025-2026 Annual Report for the Western Institute of Nursing
Filipino American Nurse Scholars (FANS) Special Interest Group**

I. Introduction

SIG name: Filipino American Nurse Scholars (FANS) Special Interest Group

Reporting period: July 2025 to July 2026

Name and contact of person submitting the report:

Juvel-lou P. Velasco, Chair

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Mission Statement: To advance the understanding of the Filipino population as both providers and recipients of care through impactful research, education, advocacy, mentorship, and collaboration, with a focus on strengthening the presence and impact of Filipino American scholars in the Western Region.

II. Goals and Progress

1. ***Establish the Special Interest Group.*** The Filipino American Nurse Scholars (FANS) Special Interest Group was officially approved on October 17, 2025.

Founding Chair: Juvel-lou P. Velasco

Founding Members:

Marysol Cacciata

Marife Aczon-Armstrong

Sigrid Barrett

Dante Anthony Tolentino

Rachell Chanmany Pastor

Michael Joshia Morales

Paul Boy

Esther Kang

2. ***Recruit at least 7 members.*** As of July 2026, FANS SIG currently has 21 official members, exceeding our initial target.

Current members:

Juvel-lou P. Velasco

Marysol Cacciata

Marife Aczon-Armstrong

Sigrid Barrett

Dante Anthony Tolentino

Rachell Chanmany Pastor

Michael Joshia Morales

Paul Boy

Esther Kang

Trishia Marie Ferrer

Felicitas Dela Cruz

Ralph Fontejon

Quincyann Tsai

Kelsey Green

Julia Salve

Jeni Varghese

Rey Paolo Roca
Carol Cunningham
Emma Maneja-Aquino
Megan Alangu
Leilani Ayala

3. ***Establish bylaws.*** The FANS SIG bylaws were drafted, reviewed, and formally approved by members (see attachment titled “*Bylaws: Filipino American Nurse Scholars: A Special Interest Group of Western Institute of Nursing*”). We respectfully request that the approved bylaws be posted in the FANS SIG section of the WIN website for member access and transparency.
4. ***Communication Infrastructure.***
 - a. ***Bimonthly and Ad hoc meetings:*** The SIG convenes bimonthly on the first Monday of the month via Zoom. Ad hoc meetings are scheduled as needed, with coordination to ensure quorum by identifying the most convenient day and time for members.
 - b. ***Mailing List:*** A dedicated mailing list was established to support ongoing communication with current and prospective members. Prior to inclusion, explicit permission was obtained from each member to add their email address to the list. The mailing list is used to distribute:
 - Meeting minutes from bimonthly and ad hoc SIG meetings
 - Updates on currently enrolling studies by FANS members
 - Collaboration opportunities
 - Relevant events, projects, and initiatives concerning the Filipino nursing and scholar community
 - c. ***Quarterly Newsletter:*** The FAN SIG quarterly newsletter will be distributed via our mailing list and posted in the FANS SIG section of the WIN website to enhance visibility and accessibility. We will seek formal approval to publish each issue. The planned content includes:
 - Continuing education articles
 - Short narratives, insights, or editorials on timely topics
 - Member accolades and awards
 - Highlights of member publications
 - Research collaboration and recruitment announcementsThe inaugural issue (see attached document titled “*Official Newsletter*”) is scheduled for release this month and we would like to seek approval to publish this. We also recommend exploring a combined SIG newsletter to streamline communication efforts, reduce duplication, and enhance cross-SIG visibility and engagement.
5. ***Committee Structure.*** Three standing committees were established to support SIG operations and strategic opportunities.
 - a. ***Membership Committee:*** Lead initiatives to recruit and retain members, foster engagement within WIN SIG, and monitor the WIN Member Compass to identify and connect with individuals expressing interest in participation.
 - b. ***Research and Resources Committee:*** Facilitate connections among Filipino American Scholars and Filipino researchers, support

collaborative research initiatives, and contribute to the development and dissemination of scholarly resources.

- c. ***Continuing Education Committee:*** Plan and implement annual educational initiatives, including webinars symposiums, and conference sessions, to promote professional development and knowledge sharing among members.
6. ***Submit a preconference proposal.*** FANS SIG submitted a preconference symposium for WIN 2026 entitled “*Roots and Reach: Filipino American Nurses Transforming Care and Research*”. While the proposal was not accepted, the process provided valuable experience in collaborative planning and content development for future submissions.

FANS SIG is drafting a symposium proposal for WIN 2027 tentatively titled “*Life After the PhD: Navigating Uncertainty, Opportunity, and Diverse Career Pathways*”. This session will focus on career pathways following PhD completion, addressing transitions into academia, research, leadership, and advanced practice.
7. ***Collaborate with other SIG for WIN 2026 symposium.*** FANS SIG collaborated with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee for WIN 2026. Founding Chair, Dr. Juvel-lou Velasco participated as a panelist in a session titled “*Leadership, Advocacy, and Innovation in Advancing Health Equity Panel*”.
8. ***Continuing Nursing Education Proposal.*** FANS SIG is developing a CNE proposal titled “*Navigating Lifelong Learning: The Filipino Nurse as a Learner*”. If approved, this continuing education module will be published in the Fall 2026 newsletter and made accessible via FANS SIG section of the WIN website.

III. Scholarly and Professional Output

1. *WIN 2026*

23 attendees participated in the FANS Meeting
20 official members were listed in the WIN Member Portal
FANS members and volunteers presented 26 posters.
FANS members and volunteers delivered 24 podium presentations
4 FANS members and volunteers served as moderators and facilitators
In total, 26 FANS members and volunteers presented at WIN 2026

IV. Attachments

1. *Bylaws: Filipino American Nurse Scholars: A Special Interest Group of Western Institute of Nursing*
2. *Official Newsletter*