

**ABSTRACT
PARALLEL WORKING SESSION**

HEALTH

Pamela Gillies
Vice-Chancellor
Glasgow Caledonian University, UK

**Global Health Development – Glasgow Caledonian University and the
Grameen Trust Partnership**

Glasgow Caledonian University is strongly committed to its mission to promote the common good, and to actively apply our intellectual and social capital for the benefit of the communities we serve in Scotland and around the world

The University plays a leading role in health, nursing and social care education for students and professional health care workers and is a WHO Collaborating Centre. Our research in the field of health was ranked in the top 10 of UK universities in the Research Assessment Exercise.

The University has engaged in a bold programme of work with Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Trust to leverage the institution's teaching and research strengths to help tackle aspects of poverty and inequality in Scotland and in Bangladesh.

Professor Yunus is recognised as one of the world's leading social entrepreneurs for his efforts to create a world free of poverty, and in Glasgow we are facilitating the setting up of a branch of the hugely successful Grameen Bank in Scotland to promote social business, through loans to the most disadvantaged borrowers. The University has appointed a renowned health economist as the Yunus Chair in Social Business and Health to evaluate the impact of the bank on the health, economic and social wellbeing of communities in Glasgow.

In return in 2009, an agreement was reached between The Grameen Trust and the University to establish a College to help develop nursing and midwifery capacity and capability in Bangladesh. The University has a strong track record of delivering nursing and midwifery education in emerging nations, including Kosovo and Tajikistan. This prompted Professor Yunus to request the University's assistance in Bangladesh, where the present lack of trained health professionals is seriously hindering health development. Compared to, for example, the UK, where 680,000 registered nurses serve a population of 60 million, Bangladesh struggles with only 23,000 nurses for their population of 145 million.

The Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing was formally launched on 1st March 2010 when 43 students were enrolled to begin their studies, selected from a total of 212 applicants, all from Grameen families.

This paper will discuss the partnership which enabled the establishment of the College, the process of curriculum development and recruitment, and its ambitions to train the nurse leaders of the future whilst also facilitating academic and cultural exchange between the UK and Bangladesh.