

Claudia C Bartz

I live in rural Northeastern Wisconsin, a state in the USA that lies east of Minneapolis, north of Chicago and west of Lake Michigan, one of the five Great Lakes. Living in a rural area gives me a great appreciation for the capability and promise of telehealth applications. I have been a professional registered nurse all of my adult life. I graduated with a Baccalaureate in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin, a Masters of Nursing from the University of Washington and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Arizona. I joined the US Army Nurse Corps while a student at the University of Wisconsin and served in the Army from 1967 to 1999. My assignments took me to Colorado, Texas, Washington State, Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, Augsburg and Munich Germany, and Mons Belgium. My clinical specialty was critical care nursing. As I progressed in my career, I took on staff level responsibility for education programs for nurses and paraprofessionals and for the regulatory oversight of Army and Department of Defense human and animal research. I served as Nursing Education Consultant and Research Consultant to the (Army) Surgeon General with the education and research roles, respectively.

After retirement from the Army, I lived in Milwaukee Wisconsin and was on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee College of Nursing. For about five years I taught nursing research and clinical nursing and I served as project director for three funded grants. From 2005 to 2015, I worked for the International Council of Nurses which is based in Geneva Switzerland. I was initially coordinator of the International Classification for Nursing Practice Programme and then, when ICN approved the beginning of its eHealth Programme, I served as coordinator of that programme. As part of that work, I managed the ICN Telenursing Network, organized meetings of and speakers for the network sessions at the biennial ICN Congresses, prepared manuscripts for publication, and represented ICN in various telehealth capacities to include the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth.

My introduction to the ISfTeH came in 2009 when I was asked to stand-in for the International Council of Nurses CEO, David Benton, as a speaker during the Med-e-Tel opening session. I could immediately see the value of an international organization open to individuals, organizations and businesses that would concern itself with advancing telemedicine and telehealth worldwide. I joined as a nurse and for almost 10 years served as the Chair of the Telenursing Working Group. I communicated with nurses in the TWG and also with nurses in the ICN Telenursing Network, encouraging nurses to attend Med-e-Tel and other related telehealth conferences and to make presentations and publish their work. I organized several virtual nursing education sessions during those years, both at Med-e-Tel and during other months of the year. The technology for these virtual sessions was greatly helped by Dr Adolfo Sparenberg and his team in Brazil. I made 1 to 2 presentations at every Med-e-Tel and also published several manuscripts in the Journal of ISfTeH. Several years ago, I joined as an Individual Member so that I could vote on matters before the organization.

While I am no longer employed (retired from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in September 2015), I continue to advocate for health, wellness and telehealth. For example, I am a member of the Healthy Oconto County working group here in Wisconsin. I continue to read the telehealth literature with particular attention to the roles of nurses in telehealth research. I serve as a reviewer for JISfTeH and also for the journals Research in Nursing and Health and Nursing Outlook. In addition to presentations at other conferences and related publications, I prepared one chapter for the 2018 volume of A Century of Telemedicine (Telehealth-Telemedicine in the U.S.A.).

As a member of the ISfTeH Board of Directors, I will continue to advocate for interdisciplinary representation and participation across the spectrum of the organization. I will also advocate for sound policies and practices of the ISfTeH and support its strong outreach to all of the working groups and to individual, and academic and corporate members. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve.