

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE
Annual Year Report 2025–2026

Date: August 7, 2026

2025–2026 Leadership

Chair: Dr. Sonja M. Robinson

Email: sonja@intsam.org

Co-Chair: Hildah Mokgolodi

Email: hlmokgolodi@gmail.com

Anticipated 2026–2027 Leadership

Chair: Hildah Mokgolodi

Email: hlmokgolodi@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Emad Helmy

Email: emad.helmy@int-cat.com

Committee Members

Essam Ali Osman A. Abobakr	Dalia A. AbouZeid	Sarah Aboulhosn	Soonhoon Ahn
Khalifa AlBarakati	Afaf Hamad Almujaalli	Eman G. Almutiri	Eman S. ALyousef
Jessica Ayub	Joe Chahwan	Christian D. Chan	Doug Cullen
Rebecca M. Dedmond	Abiola Dipeolu	Mary Ellen Earnhardt	Rebecca Flynn
Jane Goodman	Michelle Gross	Lynette Hepburn Richardson	Randa Helmi
Emad Helmy	Candy Ho	Brian Hutchison	Hyoyeon In
Sujata Ives	Mrudula Josyula	Kenya L. Johnson	Natalie Kauffman
Jaana Kettunen	Sepideh Kiazal	Jungeun (Jay) Lee	Simon D. Lee
Charmaine Lewis	Kelvin (Wai Kit) Ling	Jason Low	Brian Malott
Waleed Marwan	Marilyn E. Maze	April McHugh	Marcela Mesa Guerrero
Arun Mittal	Hildah Mokgolodi	Ahmed Mostafa	Magdalena Mot
Maha Fakhry Moussa	Rasha M. Madkour	Samantha Ng	Keith R. Okrosy
Miwa Omori	Effrosyni Parampota	Jim Peacock	Tina M. Peterman
Richard (Dick) Pyle	Tanisha Reed	Kelly J. Roberts	Sonja M. Robinson

Blanca Rosales-Ahn	Minobu Sato	Rania Sawalhi	Karol I. Taylor
Steven Thomas	Shelley (Hsiu-Lan) Tien	Sabira Vohra	Esther Wallen
Moon Wang	Ellen Weaver Paquette	Gemma A. Williams	Jeremiah Wong
Sing Chee Wong	Kelly R. Woods	Hyung Joon Yoon	Ginger Zhao
Amy Zdanowski			

Committee members are from the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America and the USA.

Committee Activities to Date

- Hosted three virtual Global Connections Committee meetings: Writing Winning Conference Proposals (Natalie Kauffman); Collaborating with NCDA Committees – NCDA committee Chairs and/Co-chairs presented; and Writing and Submitting Articles for the NCDA Web Magazine (Melissa Venable and Melanie Reinersman).
- Held the annual in-person committee meeting during the 2026 NCDA Conference in Minneapolis at Hell's Kitchen with more than 20 members in attendance.
- Successfully facilitated NCDA Ambassador Program to welcome and engage first time conference participants.
- Hosted a GCC information and membership table during the conference, resulting in successful recruitment of new committee members.
- Expanded global membership and strengthened international engagement through ongoing communication and outreach.

Projected Plan/Work Completed through September 30

- Finalize the 2026–2027 Annual Plan of Work.
- Complete onboarding of the incoming Chair and Co-Chair.
- Continue regular virtual professional development meetings.
- Expand collaboration with other NCDA committees.
- Continue recruiting and engaging members from additional countries.
- Encourage conference proposals and NCDA web magazine article submissions.