



From the President's Desk: Dr. Edilma Yearwood

Dear ISPN Colleagues,

I am happy to be communicating with you as your new ISPN president. Our 2016 conference in Minneapolis was a success and provided another unique opportunity to connect with our national and global colleagues. A sincere thanks to all our presenters and attendees, each of whom helped to enrich our gathering.

As a faculty member at a Jesuit university, I have had multiple opportunities and exposure over the years to engage in discussions and intentional exploration of the philosophy that serves as the spiritual frame for what we do and how we approach our pedagogical mission. Interestingly enough, some of these principles resonate with values and strategies that are part of the practice of psychiatric-mental health nursing. Specific principles include contemplation-in-action, reflection, cura personalis, formation, and flourishing.

[Read More Here...](#)

Innovation Corner

Supporting Student Veterans Transitioning to the Nursing Work Force

By Billinda Tebbenhoff, RN, DNP, PMHCNS-BC

Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Studies
The George Washington University, Ashburn, Virginia

The Department of Defense projects the most significant military drawdown of U.S. forces since World War II (RAND, 2015). The Army, for example, is planning to drop the number of service members from 510,000 to as few as 420,000, by fiscal year 2019. Reductions in force will increase the number of Veterans transitioning to the work force and to higher education. The Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Professions, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veteran's Affairs have responded to the need for work-force development by awarding several schools of nursing funding to develop and implement Veteran's Bachelor or Science Degree in Nursing (VBSN) programs.

[Read More Here...](#)

Top Ten Tips About Mental Illness and Tobacco Use

By Rhonda Schwindt, DNP, RN, PMHNP, PMHCNS-BC

Assistant Professor & Coordinator Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program
Indiana University School of Nursing

Persons with mental illness (MI) smoke more compared to those without a MI (36.1% to 24.1%), and die on average 25 years earlier than age-matched controls due to tobacco-related diseases.1 Moreover, investigators of a large epidemiological study found that smoking accounted for an estimated half of the deaths among persons living with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or depression.2 Given the deleterious impact of smoking, it is imperative that all nurses, regardless of treatment setting, help their clients achieve a tobacco-free life.

[Read More Here...](#)

Comments Due July 25: VA Proposal Affects APRNs

If you have not seen or responded to the following proposed rule by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that would affect APRNs, please do take a few minutes to read and respond. Your input is critical as we move to support full practice authority for advanced practice nurses in the VA system. **The comment period ends July 25, 2016.**

For more information, see the article below under Special Interest Groups: "ISPN MH Policy SIG: Reply Now to VHA Policy Affecting APRN Practice."

[View the VA proposal here.](#)

UN Releases MH Document

Great news for our entire global community: The Human Rights Council of the United Nations General Assembly just released a document on mental health and human rights. The resolution is led by Portugal and Brazil and cosponsored by 61 countries.

[View the UN document here.](#)

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The ISPN Call for Abstracts is Now Open!

ISPN is accepting abstract submissions for the 2017 Psychopharmacology Institute and the Annual Conference, March 7-11, at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, Baltimore, MD.

[View the submission site here.](#)

Deadlines

- General abstract submission deadline is Monday, August 1, 2016, at 12:00 midnight, Pacific Time
- Student poster deadline is Friday, September 30, 2016, at 12:00 midnight, Pacific Time.

[Read more here....](#)

ISPN Updates

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- [Resource Corner: 'Case in Binge Eating Disorders' Webinar: Free Continuing Ed Expires July 28](#)
- [Resource Corner: PsychU: Free Online Resources for Mental Health Professionals](#)
- [ISPN Award Recipients Take the Spotlight](#)
- [Renew Your Membership Now!](#)

Special Interest Groups

Reply Now to VHA Policy Affecting APRN Practice

As you know, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is currently considering an updated policy that would allow advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) working in the VHA to practice to their full practice authority. That means our veterans could get access to more providers, faster, without having to jump through hoops. It is a fact that recent combat veterans respond very positively to nurses in all roles. It's past time for the VA to let APRNs do the jobs they're trained, qualified, and ready for.

[Read more here...](#)

New PCLN Special Interest Group Formed

At the ISPN Conference in April, there was an organizational meeting to form a new Special Interest Group (SIG) for those interested in Psychiatric Consultation-Liaison Nursing (PCLN). So far, 22 people have joined the SIG.

[Read more here...](#)

ISPN Foundation News

'Bringing Mental Health out of the Shadows: Funding Research and Scholarship'

The Lamplighter Campaign

The ISPN Foundation is the charitable arm of ISPN. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise money to provide funds to encourage research and scholarship by providing grants for research and Evidence Based Practice (EBP) projects, particularly for fledgling scholars needing initial funding. In addition, the Foundation provides travel grants to members and students, enabling them to attend the annual conference. Over the past few years, funds have been awarded to international student members as well as regular members to assist them in completing their research, dissertations, or DNP projects; and to provide partial support for attendance at the annual conference. Information about scholarships, awards, and grants can be found [here](#).

[Read more here...](#)

International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
2424 American Lane • Madison, WI 53704 USA
Phone: 608-443-2463 • Email: info@ispn-psych.org
Web: <http://www.ispn-psych.org>

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