



**Elizabeth Bonham**  
ISPN President

## President's Message

Dear ISPN members,

In this column of *Winter Connections*, I want to talk with you about community and connections, two strategic goals that your active Board of Directors has addressed since our Summer issue.

### Community

- We had a major change in ISPN infrastructure with the Bylaws change in 2015. We have one journal, *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, which continues to be a beacon of psychiatric research and practice.
- We have two Special Interest Groups (SIGs) formed: 1) [Psychiatric Consultation-Liaison Advanced Nursing Practice SIG](#); and 2) [Psychiatric Mental Health Policy](#). I know there are more SIGs in the making, and I look forward to those.
- Groups are working on white papers and executive summaries to disseminate our knowledge.
- I appointed a Communications Initiative Task Force with Dr. Andrea Kwasky as chair to review new ways to implement being a visible and viable voice for psychiatric mental health nursing.

[Read More Here...](#)

## All Invited to Join the ISPN Special Interest Group (SIG) for Psychiatric Consultation-Liaison Advanced Nursing Practice

By Marilyn J. Shirk, MN, RN, CNS-BC, ISPN Board Member

Peggy Dulaney took the lead and initiated a proposal for a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Psychiatric Consultation-Liaison Advanced Nursing Practice. She recruited other ISPN colleagues, and sought and attained board approval for the first ISPN SIG on December 3, 2015.

Our newly approved SIG aims to:

- Engage, promote, and facilitate sharing of ideas, best practices, and experiences shared among any PMH nurses who are interested in aspects of psychiatric consultation-liaison advanced nursing practice; and
- Generate a network for members to develop professionally, collaborate on projects, exchange ideas, disseminate information, and promote research.

[Read More Here...](#)

We are thrilled to have Julie Sharrock as our international guest contributor!

### From Australia:

#### An International Perspective: Role Theory Using 'Play of Life' Figures

By Julie Sharrock, RN, General Nurs Cert, Crit Care Cert, Psych Nurs Cert, B.Ed, M.HSc (Psych Nurs), Adv. Dip Gestalt Therapy, FACMHN, MACN, MISPN, Credentialed MHN

Hello to fellow ISPN members and greetings from Australian Mental Health Nurses!

I value the opportunity to link with colleagues in the U.S. and internationally in my chosen area of PCLN practice. I am pleased to be able to give you a small insight into my working world "down-under."

As you know it is summer in Australia, and the end of the year brings changes as well as a period where many nurses have vacations. Hospital management aim for January to be a low activity period, however, in my experience, working as a PCLN over January does not resemble low activity. While the predominant image (and I would say misrepresentation of the holiday season) is that everyone is out enjoying family and friends, it is a particularly vulnerable time for those with mental health problems who may be lonely and stressed. Adding to this, their professional supports may be on vacation leaving them isolated and vulnerable. I always notice an increase in post-suicide attempt presentations to general hospitals at this time of the year. I usually work January but this year was unusual for me. I finished working in my full-time role as a PCLN after 39 years working full time in public health. I left the hospital on December 24 leaving my colleagues to respond to the holiday "low activity period."

In 2016, I will continue to be involved in my two areas of passion: PCLN practice and clinical supervision. Over the last few years I have increasingly found value in utilising role theory within my clinical supervisory practice (Sharrock, McDonald, & Javen, 2013).

[Read More Here...](#)

## And Finally, a Brief Note From our Esteemed ISPN Foundation

The ISPN Foundation Reception and Auction during the Annual Conference is the primary means by which we obtain funds to support efforts to achieve the overall goals of ISPN.

- Join us on Thursday, April 14, 2016, 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., in the 4th Floor Atrium at the Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, MN. The annual reception and auction will feature light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar (one drink ticket will be provided). Please RSVP for this event on the [Annual Conference Registration Form](#). Tickets are \$50.
- Another way to support the Foundation: [Donate an item for the Live Auction!](#) All contributions are welcome, including products that interest your colleagues professionally and personally.

The ISPN Foundation is the charitable arm of ISPN. The Foundation raises funds to provide grants to encourage research, particularly for fledgling researchers needing initial funding. In addition, we provide travel grants to members and students, enabling them to attend our annual conference. Information about scholarships, awards, and grants for 2016 can be found [here](#).

Due to the significant cost of international travel, such funding assists international members and students to attend our conference, network with colleagues, and give and receive knowledge to enrich mental health care here and abroad.



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[bethbonham@coopone.com](mailto:bethbonham@coopone.com)

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[pdulaney@bellsouth.net](mailto:pdulaney@bellsouth.net)

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[jgoodman@mghihp.edu](mailto:jgoodman@mghihp.edu)

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[mlovm\\_2007@yahoo.com](mailto:mlovm_2007@yahoo.com)

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[pdulaney@bellsouth.net](mailto:pdulaney@bellsouth.net)

Catherine Kane  
[ck9m@virginia.edu](mailto:ck9m@virginia.edu)

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