



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSES

CONNECTIONS

Volume 10 Issue 1

January 2007 - April 2007

President's Column - March 2007

As we prepare this column, the Board of Directors is planning for an exciting annual conference in Montreal. By now you have all received your conference brochures, and as you can see, there is a rich array of clinical topics around advanced practice psychiatric nursing combined with many forums to discuss issues. Right now, perhaps more than at any time, it seems as if advanced practice psychiatric nursing is in the midst of many unsettling issues.

Right now, perhaps more than at any time, it seems as if advanced practice psychiatric nursing is in the midst of many unsettling issues.

We want to alert you to a letter that we received in early January from **Mary Smolenski**, the Director of Certification for the ANCC. In this letter, she solicited

the ISPN's opinion about a proposed change in credentials for both specialized and advanced practice nursing categories. In the letter, she noted that the ANCC Commission on Certification (COC) made the decision "to change the APRN, BC credential for both nurse practitioners (NP) and clinical nurse specialists (CNS)." The letter further stated that: "This decision was based largely on the need to avoid confusion between certification and regulatory credentials, especially in light of movement by State Boards to adopt the APRN credential (if not already using the credential)." The ANCC has decided to change the APRN designation to CNS-BC

for clinical nurse specialists. Feedback was requested.

The ISPN Board of Directors discussed this issue extensively and a letter was sent back to Dr. Smolenski that summarized the following:

1. What prompted the need for the change?
2. What will be the designation for psychiatric nurse practitioners?
3. What does this change mean for patient consumers who are already struggling with understanding the advanced practice role of nurses who provide their care?
4. How will this change help us better define the complex and varied roles we assume in our practice?

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ISPN FOUNDATION NEWS

by Beth Bonham, PhD, APRN, BC

The ISPN Foundation will host its annual fundraising event at the ISPN Annual Conference in Montréal, Canada, on April 28, 2007. This year's annual event takes a different twist and includes a Silent Auction and dinner buffet at the hotel. We are excited about the event and the fun that we anticipate. Please think about items that you can bring or send to benefit ISPN.

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Three new members have been appointed to the ISPN Foundation Board of Directors: **Dr. Kathleen Scharer**, **Irva Faber-Bermudez**, and **Carolyn Castelli**. Kathy is from South Carolina, and is a member of ACAPN and SERPN Divisions. Irva is from Michigan and is a member of

AGPN and ISPCLN Divisions. Carolyn is from New York and is a new member of ISPN, belonging to the AGPN Division. We are excited about the assets each will bring to the Board. More about each new member will be in the next newsletter.

Two of the Boards' original appointed members will leave the Board in April after diligently serving five years each. **Dr. Jeanne Clement** served the Board as its first President. **Ann Robinnette** has kept the records with her astounding minute-taking abilities as Secretary. We will miss you and wish you all the best as you journey on to your next professional activities. THANK YOU!

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ISPN

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President's Column (continued from page 1)

ISPN remarks were discussed at a COC meeting. I have not had a return response to the letter. Both the initial query letter from Dr. Smolenski and the ISPN response sent from the presidents are on the ISPN website for you to review. We welcome your comments and questions. When a response is received from ANCC, this will also be posted.

On another note, **Susan Krupnick** received the following information about mental health issues in individuals who survived Hurricane Katrina. The mental illness rate in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina roughly doubled after the storm, according to initial results of a tracking survey reported this week in the Bulletin

of the World Health Organization. The study assessed before and after mental illness rates among adults living in impacted areas of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The estimated rate of serious mental illness rose to 11.3% from 6.1% before the storm, while the rate of mild-moderate mental illness rose to 19.9% from 9.7%, suggesting "a high and widely dispersed need for mental health treatment," the authors said. Suicidal thoughts were significantly lower among respondents in the post-Katrina survey, a finding not unprecedented in trauma studies.

The mental illness rate in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina roughly doubled after the storm...

Now, more than ever, it is essential that we remain politically active and involved in the forces that are shaping our practice. Many of these issues will be discussed at the annual conference in Montréal. I urge you all to try and attend in order to participate in the myriad of discussions planned to address the credentialing issues, the DNP issues, and the future directions of ISPN.

Sincerely,
Geri Pearson, PhD, APRN
Mary Jo Regan-Kubinski, PhD, RN

To view the survey go to:
http://www.who.int/bulletin/publish_ahead_of_print/en/index.html

Foundation News (continued from page 1)

This year the Foundation offered new scholarship awards to international members and to graduate students who were studying Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. There is one complimentary registration to the 2007 ISPN Conference awarded to an international member who resides in a country with a low to moderate economy as classified by the World Bank and who is a current ISPN member.

Scholarships for graduate students ranged from \$100 to \$900 for students who are enrolled in a masters' or doctoral nursing program and whose focus area shows an emphasis on psychiatric mental health nursing. Award winners will be announced at the ISPN Foundation Annual Event.

Please remember that your support is vital to the ongoing work that the Foundation does for ISPN. Remember, it is easy to donate. Donating is as simple as writing a check. Or you can check the appropriate box on your Membership Renewal Notice when you renew your ISPN membership. Donations can be sent to:

ISPN FOUNDATION

Attention: Bruce Wheeler
2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800
Madison, WI 53718-7961 USA

BY-LAWS

by Peggy Dulaney, MSN, RN, BC

During the 2006 ISPN Conference, there were many proposals agreed to in principle that would require bylaw changes. **Peggy Dulaney** and **Melinda Morrisette** have worked, with the assistance of **Bruce Wheeler**, to respond to those issues, which will allow the organization to be more flexible and able to respond to issues. During the Business Meeting at the 2007 Montréal Conference, we will be voting on those bylaw changes. A chart explaining the changes will be posted on the ISPN website before the conference.



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Awards Committee

by Rica O'Connor, PhD, RN
Awards Committee Chair

Honor an ISPN member whose professional accomplishments you admire!

It's time to put together a nomination for any of the 10 awards made annually by ISPN and the four constituent divisions. Nominations are due by **March 10**. Awards (engraved plaques) are presented at our annual conference – on Friday morning, April 27.

What's involved? Identify an individual with outstanding achievements that match requirements of one of the awards. It isn't always the most seasoned nominee who wins. Early career nominees whose achievements are notable for career stage have been selected. Award winners are invariably touched to be recognized by their peers.

Write a nomination letter explaining the individual's outstanding achievements and the positive effects of these contributions for clients/patients, families, society, or the profession. Show the relationship between the award description and your nominee's accomplishments. Be thorough and provide examples. Ask someone else who knows the accomplishments to write a letter supporting the nomination. Obtain a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae to include in the packet. Also, be sure your contact information and that of your nominee are in the packet.

For award descriptions, consult the official Award Call you received by e-mail or check it out on the ISPN Website.

The packet is due to Bruce Wheeler via e-mail or hard copy on or before **March 10**. Questions can be addressed to Bruce (bwheeler@reesgroupinc.com) or to Awards Committee Chair Rica O'Connor, via email at roc@u.washington.edu, or phone 1-206-543-8594 (work).

ISPN CONFERENCE 2007

by Karen Ragaisis, MSN, RN, APRN, CARN, BC

ISPN members will be receiving an e-blast regarding our April 2007 Conference in Montréal. The brochure has been printed and is in the mail as I write this. We have an outstanding group of presenters whose content ranges over a wide variety of issues and the populations we care for. Please consider sharing it and/or our website address with your colleagues. The conference committee is working on establishing connections with our Canadian colleagues and we hope to offer an opportunity for networking.

**We are looking forward
to seeing you in Montréal!**

Save the Date!

April 25-28, 2007

The 9th Annual Education Conference is Coming to Montréal, Quebec, Canada



Photos courtesy of Tourisme Montreal.

• Opportunity to Participate in the ISPCLN Division and IntNSA Collaboration

This is a call to all ISPCLN members to assist our division in collaborating with the International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA). I have been a long-term member of IntNSA and have served on some of their committees over the years. One thing that I noticed was that the ISPCLN organization was doing similar work on position statements and also projects. During the fall IntNSA conference in Philadelphia, I had the opportu-

nity to meet with their new president (**Carolyn Baird**), new president-elect (**William Lorman**) and treasurer (**Elizabeth Pace**) to discuss how IntNSA and ISPN might collaborate in projects and issues that intersect our organizations. One opportunity that has emerged is to have an ISPCLN Division member collaborate with their committee addressing peer assistance. I have certainly worked in that arena as a PCLN in

different organizations and I would like very much for the ISPCLN Division to be a part of this initiative. So, I am sounding the call to all of the division members to have anyone interested in working with a joint committee between IntNSA and the ISPCLN Division of ISPN to contact me, my contact information is below. The committee work is accomplished by conference calls and emails.

• Opportunity to Participate in PCLN Focused Research

I often hear my PCLN colleagues wondering or discussing issues related to satisfaction associated with PCLN practice, either from the PCLN focused satisfaction or from the staff satisfaction with PCLN work. Research related to PCLN practice certainly is an integral part of the process of our work and it is exciting to offer you an opportunity to actively participate in one of our PCLN colleague's research. **Dr. Richard Yakimo** from the school of nursing at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois is conducting research related to the Staff Satisfaction Survey as it specifically relates to PCLN practice and their work. So, here is an opportunity to participate and I hope that everyone will. I will be sending out an e-blast also to remind you

of the survey. Additionally, the e-blast system will be used by Dr. Yakimo to send out the information pertaining to and describing the study. I hope that you will take the time to participate in this research study as the ISPCLN Division has endorsed the research study. Dr. Yakimo will be presenting the outcomes of this research at the ISPN conference.

I hope that each member will actively participate in the ISPCLN Division this year in some manner. You presently have a couple options and I certainly want to hear from you about other ideas or options that the ISPCLN Division should be considering for future partnerships or involvement. Please contact me at Skrupnick@charter.net; or phone 1-508-248-7108 or cell 1-508-826-6208 to let

me know if you are interested in participating in projects or on committees. I will continue to use the ISPN e-blast to communicate in a more rapid manner with each member when issues arise that need a more rapid response. The ISPN e-blast system can also be used to communicate issues that you may have and want to communicate with your PCLN colleagues.

I am looking forward to hearing from you, and hopefully meeting you at the 2007 ISPN conference.

Warmly,
Susan Krupnick MSN, APRN, BC, CARN
ISPCLN Division Director

Newsletter Editor's Note

This is my last issue as the newsletter editor. I want to thank all of the officers and leaders for their patience with the process and for their contributions. Being the editor has been a way I could feel that I have contributed toward this very important organization. I am not a person who is comfortable in public leadership work, nor do I have very much work flexibility so I really appreciate those of you who are able and willing to represent us. I admire the commitment, knowledge and energy from our leadership.

Being the editor has been rewarding in helping me to feel more connected to the organization and has lots of flexibility with the timing of the work. With an issue just quarterly, it is not a huge time commitment; the biggest requirements are keeping track of people, dates and contributions. The ISPN

management group, The Rees Group, Inc. has been very helpful with help in contacting others, help with editing and they are the ones who put it together for publication. The newsletter is a vital part of the organization as articles keep us up to date with important issues, share information, celebrates successes and connects our membership.

Please contact Geri Pearson (pearsong@psychiatry.uchc.edu) or Mary Jo Regan-Kubinski (mreganku@iusb.edu) if you are interested in being the newsletter editor.

Thanks,
Mimi Brittingham

ACAPN Division Update

by Kathleen R. Delaney, RN, PMH-NP, DNSc

Do we stand at an exciting juncture in child/adolescent psychiatric nursing? Or do we make our own junctures? I believe we are at one of those times where there is an avenue opening for us to grow our specialty. Not just grow for the sake of numbers. But to grow our science, practice and service efforts – simultaneously, the way they should prosper.

The springboard could be the current study of who treats children and how, conducted by an APNA/ISPN Task Force (See last month's column and ISPN web page). With these data we will have a better sense of how the specialty is currently operating. The survey will tap all Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) who treat children/adolescents. Thus, we will understand the current map of practice and service.

This year, I have focused each ACAPN column in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing* on particular themes, centered on topics presented at the 2006 conference. These themes have included adolescent depression, restraint reduction, and early intervention. We also have a group of experts that has formed around the issue of juvenile justice. There are, of course, many others in our organization that are experts in a particular substantive area, for instance, **Larry Scahill** in the study of autism and **Karen Schepp** in coping with early onset schizophrenia. We have leaders in service, again too numerous to mention. I think the Journal does an excellent job of capturing the work of these service leaders.

Now it is time to see how we can synchronize these efforts to help create efficient and effective service systems for troubled youth and their families. We will need to grow models that allow for the integration of science, particularly the neuroscience of particular symptom profiles. Most importantly, we need to go back to our roots of family centered-care and the relationship. The federal government seeks a mental health system built around the concept of recovery, and for children resiliency; this should be the third arm of any model.

Innovations in service, new insights from neuroscience and a new certification exam structure may be on the horizon. The members of ACAPN are leaders in child/adolescent psychiatric nursing. Of course not all the leaders are in our specialty, but the ones who are see the value of connecting through ISPN to create synergy. This past year I have attempted to form some of those connections around knowledge specialists. The ISPN research committee has attempted to forge those same connections around researchers and SERPN around educators. I believe we can use those connections, albeit now forming in internet hyperspace, to help build service systems that families value. Thank you to all the people who always answered via emails and phone calls this past year when I served as Division Director. Thanks to **Pamela Galehouse** who served as ACAPN division secretary. Pamela always does her work with a quiet focus; please thank her when you see her at the conference.

ISPCLN Division Update

by Susan Krupnick, MSN, APRN, BC, CARN

Hello, ISPCLN Division Colleagues,

I hope that you all had some joyous times throughout the holiday season! Winter seems finally to have emerged in the northeast area and the snow is falling and the arctic winter winds are blowing steadily. I am hoping that you all are safe and have not been adversely affected by the stormy weather, whether it be snow or tornadoes! During the full force of winter in Massachusetts I always begin to think about the ISPN conference in April. It always seems to keep me a little warmer as I think of reconnecting face to face with long term PCLN friends and colleagues, and having an opportunity to meet new ones. I hope that you are planning to attend the conference, as it certainly is an exciting event taken international this year. The

conference itself is well planned and there will be wonderful opportunities to network and also have some fun in an international city. One of the pre-conference events is being presented by two of our ISPCLN colleagues, **Karen Stanley** from Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and **Peggy Dulaney**, a PCLN nurse entrepreneur also from South Carolina. The topic is Lateral Violence and certainly psychiatric consultation nurses have led the way on this very important issue. So I certainly encourage you to check out the ISPN website for the conference related materials. I certainly hope to see you there in Montreal for the ISPN conference, April 25-28.

Hello and welcome to the SERPN Division! The time is rapidly approaching for our next annual conference and the members of SERPN have been very active since over the last three months. Our members have assumed several new positions in the organization, as well as making significant progress on an important initiative.

First, I would like to congratulate **Meredith Flood** on her election as the SERPN representative on the Nominating Committee. Thanks Meredith, we greatly appreciate your commitment to professional service and your assumption of this important role. I would also like to express appreciation to **Kathy Scharer** on her appointment to the ISPN Foundation Board. Kathy has been a consistently hard working member of SERPN and we applaud her assumption of this responsibility.

Many of you who attended the business meeting at the last ISPN conference may remember the lively discussion of graduate education and advanced practice in mental health nursing. Some of the important areas that were a focus of discussion were finalization of the graduate education competencies, the evolving view of advanced practice and SERPN's desire to be influential in development of advanced practice in the future. Subsequent to that meeting **Catherine Kane** and **Margaret Brackley** offered to lead a group of SERPN members to address these important areas.

As part of their interest in this area and the work that was already underway, Catherine and Margaret identified an opportunity to maximize their efforts. And as a result of their leadership, ISPN and the American Academy of Nursing has joined forces in establishing the *PMH/Behavioral Health Competencies for non-PMH/Behavioral Health RN's and APRN's Task Force*. Catherine Kane and Margaret Brackley are the co-chairs of the taskforce and the purpose of this taskforce is to establish and publish nationally, the definitive competencies for PMH APN practice. This inter-organizational effort directly mirrors the concerns discussed at the last conference but extends that effort to include not only AAN and ISPN but also members of APNA.

The Taskforce will collect all extant PMH competencies and use a model similar to the Hartford Foundation model in geriatric nursing to develop competencies specifically for non-PMH RNs and APRNs. Once this step is completed, work will begin on the development of competency-based curriculum modules and tool kits with the PMH content for faculty development and use to infuse PMH/Behavioral Health content in BS, MS, and DNP curricula. Resources from ISPN, the Annapolis Coalition, and AHRQ Behavioral Health in Primary Care Competencies will be utilized and the taskforce is currently seeking funding for development of this project. Other members of ISPN who make up the 10 person task force are **Jeanne Clement** and **Liz Poster**. Let's congratulate all our members for their forward thinking approach. We will keep you posted on the developments of the taskforce at the SERPN business meeting in Montreal.

I would like to have SERPN members identify if they have interest in contributing an idea or information for the SERPN column of *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*. SERPN reaches a large audience through our journal and your ideas are encouraged. There are many opportunities for publication with columns on issues and opinions, culture, a proposed book review column as well as a special issue on global concerns planned for October 2007. Let me know if you have something in mind.

Finally, I would like to make sure that SERPN stays abreast of the important accomplishments of all its division members. In preparation for the upcoming conference, I would like for division member who have professional accomplishments that they would like to share, to forward that information for compilation to our secretary, **DeBrynda Davey** at ddavey@son.umsmc.edu or to the ISPN office. I will be sharing that information at the conference. Looking forward to seeing you in Montreal.

-Vicki Hines-Martin PhD, RN, SERPN Division Chair



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