

Highlights From the 7th International Family Nursing Conference

Editor's Note

The 7th International Family Nursing Conference took place June 1-4, 2005, in the beautiful and picturesque Canadian city of Victoria, British Columbia. Participants included 340 international colleagues from 21 countries. The theme of the conference was "Opening Spaces: Inviting Dialogue in Family Nursing". Hosted by the School of Nursing, University of Victoria, and the School of Nursing, University of British Columbia, the conference planning committee was chaired by Dr. Virginia E. Hayes, Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria, and Senior Practice Leader-Research (Nursing) Children's and Women's Health Centre of British Columbia. Members of the planning committee included Wendy Hall, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia; Gweneth Hartrick Doane, School of Nursing, University of Victoria; Helen Brown, School of Nursing, University of Victoria; Margaret Eastman, Vancouver Island Health Authority; and Helena Paivinen, School of Nursing, Thompson Rivers University.

A keynote panel of distinguished family nursing leaders opened the first day of meetings. They were asked to identify key issues that face family nursing today: What are the most important issues we need to address as a community? What will the challenges be during the next few years? What are the exciting possibilities facing family nursing? The thought-provoking ideas of each member of the keynote panel invited much dialogue between the panel members and the audience. The six keynote panel addresses are included in this issue of *Journal of Family Nursing* (Chesla, 2005; Feetham, 2005; Hanson, 2005; Hartrick Doane, 2005; O'Sullivan Burchard, 2005; Wright, 2005).

Four other plenary sessions were offered through the remainder of the conference. Two of the plenary speakers (O'Sullivan Burchard, 2005; Chesla, 2005) prepared their text for publication, and these are included in this issue of the journal. I am hoping that it will be possible to publish the plenary sessions (Hartrick Doane & Varcoe, 2005; Greenwood, Nielsen, & Wright, 2005) in a future issue of *JFN*.

Sage Publications, Schools of Nursing at University of Victoria and University of British Columbia, Xi Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, and the British Columbia Council for Families generously sponsored the 7th International Family Nursing Conference. The *Journal of Nursing* had a strong presence at the conference as an exhibitor and as sponsor of the first ever Family Nursing Awards ceremony that recognized 15 nurses for their contributions to dissemination and knowledge development through textbooks (see Bell, 2005).

One of the significant initiatives arising from the meeting was an open forum discussion about the possibility of forming a Society for Family Nursing. There

was considerable interest expressed in forming some type of professional organization for family nurses that would serve to facilitate discussion about family education, practice, research, and theory and promote the agenda of family nursing. A working group comprised of Kit Chesla, Kathy Knafel, and Donna Curry will explore options for financing, organizational structures, and development of a business plan.

Thanks to all who had a part in making the 7th International Family Nursing Conference a memorable meeting. The 8th International Family Nursing Conference will be held June 4-8, 2007, in Bangkok, Thailand, organized by the Faculty of Nursing, Burapha University, Chonburi, Thailand (see calendar in this issue for further details). Plans are already under way to host the 9th International Family Nursing Conference in 2009 by the Faculty of Nursing, University of Iceland in Reykjavik, Iceland.

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Editor

REFERENCES

Bell, J. M. (2005). Profiles in family nursing leadership: Honoring the authors of family nursing textbooks [Editorial]. *Journal of Family Nursing, 11*(3), 191-194.

Hartrick Doane, G., & Varcoe, C. (2005, June). *The hard spots of family nursing: Connecting across difference and diversity*. Plenary address presented at the meeting of the 7th International Family Nursing Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Greenwood, S., Nielsen, H., & Wright, T. (2005, June). *Conversations in context: Cultural safety and reflexivity in child and family health nursing*. Plenary address presented at the meeting of the 7th International Family Nursing Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.