



## Editorial

### Profiles in Family Nursing Leadership: Innovative Contributors

Good evening! We are grateful to Dr. Jinny Hayes, chairperson of this 7th International Family Nursing Conference, and members of the Planning Committee who were open to the idea of honoring those who have contributed to the growth and legacy of family nursing. At the 5th International Chicago conference in 2000, the conference chairpersons from previous conferences were recognized; tonight marks the first time that a formal awards celebration has occurred at an International Family Nursing Conference.

We are gathered here to honor nurses from around the world who have made a significant contribution to family nursing in two categories: Innovative Contribution and Distinguished Contribution. There are still many nurses, who have made equally substantial contributions, who have yet to be recognized. We are hopeful that this awards celebration tonight will, perhaps, begin a tradition of recognizing a variety of contributions in leadership in the areas of family nursing research, theory, education, policy, and practice at future International Family Nursing Conferences.

Tonight's award ceremony marks the 10th anniversary of the *Journal of Family Nursing* - a journal that has been supported by your important contributions as authors and reviewers, supported by the wisdom of a prestigious Editorial Board of family nursing leaders, and supported by Sage Publications who, in the 1990s, responded to intensive lobbying efforts by colleagues who called for the creation of a journal where family nursing theory, research, education, and practice might be gathered together in a focused way. Without a formal infrastructure or society of family nursing, the journal has also informally functioned as an unofficial voice and rallying point for the nursing of families. We are pleased that this awards ceremony is sponsored by the *Journal of Family Nursing*.

### INNOVATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY NURSING AWARD

This award recognizes persons who have provided leadership in innovatively disseminating and implementing family nursing theory, research, and practice in their countries and languages. Family nursing has become a worldwide movement because these nurses have provided leadership through their efforts to disseminate the ideas of family nursing in their countries and languages and have often created infrastructures to support and promote the scholarship of family nursing.

In addition to a framed certificate, each of these nurses will receive a silver letter opener which is symbolic of their contribution to family nursing. Letter openers release and reveal what was once sealed or closed. They open up things for access to all to read, to take notice. These nurses have opened up the ideas of family nursing in their universities, in their cultures, in their countries.

The inscription engraved on each letter opener is “To sow” which we discovered is connected to the etymologic root of the word “disseminate.” These nurses, as committed disseminators of family nursing, have taken the seeds of family nursing, carefully planted them in fertile soil, and tended them with the kind of nurturance and sustenance that seeds require to grow and flourish. In the sowing of these family nursing seeds, we have seen exponential growth in the discipline, and we continue to stand in awe of how family nursing is being “changed for good” because of these nurses.

### **Dr. Chieko Sugishita, Japan**

Dr. Chieko Sugishita is honored for her leadership and dedication in promoting family nursing in Japan. In the May 2005 issue of the *Journal of Family Nursing*, Drs. Nami Kobayashi and Janice Bell coauthored an editorial that highlights Dr. Sugishita’s efforts to disseminate family nursing in Japan.

Her primary work in family health began in 1971 as a research assistant at the University of Tokyo. For many years she taught family health care as a lecturer, and in 1992 she became a professor of the Department of Family Nursing at the University of Tokyo.

In her leadership role as professor of the Department of Family Nursing at Japan’s most prestigious university, Dr. Sugishita carefully developed a strategic plan for disseminating the ideas of family nursing. She launched the *Japanese Journal of Research in Family Nursing (JJRFN)* in 1994 in order to provide a forum for scholarship and spreading the seeds. She followed the peer-reviewed journal with the creation of a national association. On October 1, 1994 she organized and chaired the first national meeting of the Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing (JARFN). The 12th annual conference of this group was held in September 2004. This important association and annual meeting provided a national infrastructure for collaboration and scholarly exchange between family nurse researchers, educators, and practitioners. The association was recognized as one of the earliest nursing associations to be officially enrolled in the Japanese scientific academy. Current membership of the association is over 1,000 Japanese nurses and still growing.

Through her efforts, Dr. Sugishita has nurtured a large community of researchers and teachers and continues to meet with young academics to discuss the future

and share her dream of family nursing. Dr. Sugishita is unfortunately not able to be here at this conference. Here to accept the award on her behalf is the current president of the Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing, Dr. Kazuko Ishigaki, who is also Dean of School of Nursing at Chiba University.

### **Dr. Michiko Moriyama, Japan**

Dr. Michiko Moriyama, is currently a Professor at Hiroshima University in Japan. While studying for her master's degree at California State University, Fresno, Michiko was introduced to the book, *Nurses and Families* by Wright and Leahey, and was assigned to interview five families and use the Calgary family assessment model to guide the interviews she conducted. She writes about this experience:

It was a challenge for me (because English is not my first language), but I tried and found out families were changing!! It was quite an experience for me. And I came back to Japan (Yamaguchi) and called nurses at Yamaguchi Prefectural Hospital, and we studied the book, videotapes, and applied the model to patients and families at the hospital. There were a lot of movings (emotional impression)!! Families changed dramatically, family's malcircular relationship resolved, and families started to ask us to have interviews for them. I thought this worked!! (the model was effective) and I wanted to introduce this model to nurses in Japan.

This early experience shaped Michiko's passion for disseminating ideas about family nursing practice. In Malcolm Gladwell's (2000) book, *Tipping Point*, he examines how social epidemics start. He argues that what is needed is a "maven." Maven is a person who has the knowledge and social skills and energy to start a word-of-mouth epidemic. I believe that Michiko is indeed a "maven" for family nursing in Japan. She fell in love with ideas of family nursing, and with her dynamic enthusiasm she became very convincing in sharing her opinions with others. Her strategy? Family nursing study groups for practicing nurses. Upon returning to Japan in 1994 after her graduate education (the same year that the United Nations declared 1994 as the International Year of the Family), Michiko started the Family Nursing Study group at Yamaguchi Prefectural Hospital. In this family nursing study group, practicing nurses meet to analyze their family nursing practice, apply family nursing theory, and receive case consultation from Michiko. She often joins the nurses in a family session, supervising their work and providing her input. She has worked tirelessly with Japanese nurses over the past 10 years, offering frequent classes and workshops and organizing a variety of study groups across Japan. Michiko has consulted and supervised the clinical work in over 100 family sessions. Most weekends find her on the road, presenting still another workshop to a nursing association or a group of nurses.

She has published her own books about applying the Calgary family assessment

and intervention models to nursing practice, has produced five videotapes, and currently serves as a board member of the Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing. Michiko is truly a maven of family nursing in Japan, sowing seeds about the importance of family nursing practice and theory in her country.

### **Dr. Britt-Inger Saveman and Dr. Eva Benzein, Sweden**

Dr. Britt-Inger Saveman is a professor in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Kalmar in Sweden. Her colleague, Dr. Eva Benzein, is an assistant professor in the same department at Kalmar. Together, these two are a dynamic team of nurse academics and researchers who are successfully realizing a brave vision for family focused nursing as a research, education, and clinical strategy within Kalmar University and within their country. In fact, they are so much of a team together that colleagues jokingly refer to them as a combination of their two names: Britt-Eva-Savezein!

In 2000, they were successful in lobbying their university to obtain grants for a full professor in family focused nursing, a position awarded to Britt-Inger. At the 5th International Family Nursing conference in Chicago, this team organized a symposium of six papers that reviewed the evolution of family focused nursing in Sweden, and that same year they established a Swedish national network for family focused nursing. They revised their entire undergraduate curriculum to include concepts of family nursing across all years and, in 2002, they hosted the First Scandinavian Conference in Family Focused Nursing in Kalmar. The second Scandinavian Conference is planned for 2006.

Britt-Inger and Eva were invited by The Scientific Advisory Council of The Swedish Society of Nursing to join a national project to investigate the state of the nursing research concerning families' and relatives' importance in nursing care. Their continuing work with this group to improve nursing care to families has resulted in the publication of their literature review and the presentation of their findings at this conference.

In 2004, their dream of providing a space where families could be seen for research and education purposes was realized with the opening of a brand new building that houses the Family Nursing Unit at Kalmar University. This unit provides a space to meet with families who are participating in their program of research that seeks to understand families' experience of illness in intensive care contexts, palliative care, psychiatric care, elderly care, and with adults experiencing learning disabilities. The research teams they have formed include senior researchers as well as doctoral students, master's students, and others faculties interested in family focused nursing. The dynamic synergy between Britt-Inger and Eva is contagious! They have spread the seeds of family nursing by dreaming big and persuasively influencing family nursing for the better in Sweden.

### **Dr. Margareth Angelo, Brazil**

Dr. Margareth Angelo is a professor in the School of Nursing at the University of São Paulo in Brazil where she teaches undergraduate courses in family nursing and family and research design at the graduate level.

In 1995, she became the director of the Group of Studies on Family Nursing, established at the School of Nursing at the University of São Paulo. This is an integrated program and process of education, research, and clinical assistance to families. The purposes of the group are to develop concepts, theories, and nursing approaches to support and care for families experiencing illness and the events inherent in the development process. Her leadership of the Group of Family Studies is based on the assumptions that family interaction in illness develops a pattern in the family group that it is possible describe, and that family themes characterize the meaning of the experiences of the family in the illness situation. Symbolic interactionism and qualitative methodologies are used to understand the interactional process in the family.

She has planted the seeds of family nursing through her supervision of graduate students across several South American countries including Brazil, Chile, Columbia, and Peru. In addition to her publications, she has worked diligently with her colleague, Dr. Regina Boussa to disseminate family nursing in Brazil through courses, workshops, summer externships, and conferences.

Margareth's leadership and vision of integrating the processes of education and research through the Group of Studies on Family Nursing has been a successful strategic plan for promoting and disseminating the nursing of families in Brazil. The activities of the group have sensitized and motivated a growing number of Brazilian nurses to "think family" in their roles as teachers, researchers, and practicing nurses.

### **Dr. Erla Kolburn Svavarsdottir, Iceland**

In the small, very patriotic country of Iceland, with its population of only 250,000 people, studying abroad and then returning to contribute to the growth and development of the country is a vision shared by most Icelandic professionals. Erla is no exception.

After leaving her country for 7 years to receive a graduate education in nursing in the United States at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Erla completed her PhD in 1997 under the supervision of Dr. Marilyn McCubbin. For the last 8 years, Erla has held an academic appointment with the University of Iceland.

Her research with families experiencing chronic illness has developed from focusing on descriptive studies about family adaptation of Icelandic families with young children experiencing asthma to focusing on longitudinal design and on interventions for families of children and adolescents newly diagnosed with cancer, diabetics, and asthma. Concepts like quality of life, hardiness, resiliency, health, coping, adaptation, and well-being have been the focus of her research; and more recently she has begun developing family nursing interventions for families of children with chronic illness, where culture and traditions, as well as supporting and educating the families, is the focus of the intervention.

She teaches family nursing at the undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Iceland and is currently the dean of the Faculty of Nursing.

She has had the opportunity to spread the seeds of family nursing theory and research to many Icelandic nurses—her former graduate students include nurses who are now directly influencing practice with families in their leadership roles as the nurse director of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital, Landspítali-University Hospital and the nurse director of School Health in Iceland and many others.

Families in Iceland are being changed for the better because of Erla's leadership in family nursing.

### **Dr. Wannee Deoisres and Dr. Chintana Wacharasin, Thailand**

The work of Dr. Wannee and Dr. Chintana at Burapha University is recognized this evening as a major catalyst for family nursing in Thailand. Dr. Wannee is associate dean for Planning and Developmental Affairs at Burapha University. Dr. Chintana is currently associate dean, Graduate Program and International Affairs and Professor in Family and Pediatric Nursing. Together these two colleagues have worked to launch their Master of Science in Nursing program in family nursing which began in 1997 and have taught the family nursing theory and clinical courses for several years. As part of the developmental work to begin the master's program in family nursing, both Dr. Wannee and Dr. Chintana were selected and awarded scholarships from the Thai government to complete their graduate nursing education in family nursing in the United States: Dr. Wannee at Case Western Reserve University and Dr. Chintana at the University of Washington. Not only was the master's program successful, but they have since led the way in terms of offering a family nurse practitioner program where advanced theory and practice in family nursing will be a valued component of the curriculum.

A great deal of effort has been spent in explaining to other nursing colleagues what family nursing is. Therefore in 2002, these two colleagues decided to organize the First Family Nursing Conference in Thailand. Since then these two,

along with their dean, have organized many conferences and workshops on family nursing in order to increase the knowledge and skills of nurses. This team collaborated with school of nursing at Khon Kean University (this school offers MSN in family nursing) to develop the Family Nursing Association in Thailand which began in 2004. It should not come as surprise then that these two colleagues have willingly agreed to organize and host the 8th International Family Nursing Conference in Thailand as a way of spreading the seeds of family nursing, not only in Thailand, but across Asia.

### **Dr. Dorothy Whyte, United Kingdom**

Dorothy Whyte writes that her personal journey in family nursing began in 1988:

Family nursing first came to my awareness when a flyer arrived in the Department of Nursing Studies, Edinburgh University, announcing the first Family Nursing Conference in Calgary, Alberta, in 1988. I was lecturing and working on my PhD thesis at the time. My topic was the experience of families caring for a child with cystic fibrosis, so I took out data from one of my cases and sent off an abstract, which was accepted. Attending that conference was a landmark for me. Apart from the great panache with which the conference was organized, just getting together with so many nurses talking about their work with families was for me quite thrilling. Getting to grips with the family nursing literature helped to guide my thesis to successful completion in 1990.

Arising from my doctoral work was a wish to investigate chronic illness in childhood more fully, and I have been involved in several projects with colleagues that examined chronic illness and changed practice as a result. In the early 1990s, I drew on my doctoral work to develop a course unit for the master's program called Families in Transition. Later we bit the bullet and renamed the course Family Nursing, and it is still offered as one of six units comprising the MSc/Diploma in Nursing at Edinburgh University, led by Sarah Baggaley. It was encouraging, even exciting, to find that students from a wide range of nursing contexts found that the ideas of family nursing resonated with their experience. We decided to make use of their work, and in 1997 an edited volume called *Explorations in Family Nursing* was published, with several students presenting case studies from their own clinical experience. The purpose was to demonstrate the relevance and importance of family nursing in the U.K. health care context.

Following on from this, a few of us got together to form the Family Nursing Network Scotland [FNNS], with the aims of supporting nursing work with families in clinical nursing, education, and research. We have held a number of workshops, produced a couple of articles together, and carried out a collaborative piece of research looking at the knowledge base of lecturers preparing preregistration students for their role in working with families. Sarah has also been involved in a study of families from ethnic minorities caring for their elderly relatives which she is presenting at this conference. Two of the FNNS members are working on their PhD theses in areas of family nursing: Dorothee O'Sullivan Burchard and Susanne Kean are both presenting papers at this conference. Being almost retired now, I have great pleasure in

watching their work develop in my role as supervisor. It would have been lovely to be able to join you at the conference, but my “family” responsibilities for dog, horse, and 98-year-old Mum made it too difficult. My very best wishes for a great conference. I hope it will widen horizons for many, as earlier ones have done for me.

Family Nursing in the UK and Scotland, in particular, has been changed for the better because of Dorothy’s efforts. Here to receive her award is her colleague Sarah Baggaley.

### **Dr. Fable Duhamel, Canada**

Dr. Fabie Duhamel was raised in bilingual Canada within a French-speaking family and community in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She is currently a professor at the University of Montreal where French is the primary language spoken. Fabie wanted to improve her English and go west for an adventure, so she decided to apply to the University of Calgary to the brand new master of nursing program that began in 1981. While studying at the University of Calgary, she was taught by Lorraine Wright who introduced Fabie to family systems nursing. As Fabie writes “That is when I got smitten by this systems approach of working with families,” and this became the foundation for a life’s work that has been devoted to disseminating the theory, practice, and research of family nursing both within Canada and to other countries where French is the predominant language.

In 1990, Fabie was hired by the Faculty of Nursing, University of Montreal. She participated in the development of family nursing courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Having experienced the value of a clinical setting like the Family Nursing Unit at the University of Calgary, she implemented a similar format using a one-way mirror—first in hospital settings in Montreal, and then was successful in creating the Denise Latourelle Family Nursing Unit within the Faculty of Nursing in 1993. All of the clinical sessions within this unit are conducted in French. In 1995, Fabie published an edited textbook in French about family systems nursing, and this textbook is now being revised into a second edition. Since 1998 she has offered a one-week family nursing workshop in French to nurses who come from different parts of Quebec and from French-speaking European countries, including France, Belgium, and Switzerland. She has been invited to present workshops to nursing schools in Spain, France, Switzerland, and Andorra. Her program of research as well as the research of her students is focused on the evaluation of family nursing interventions in various clinical settings.

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## REFERENCE

Gladwell, M. (2000). *The tipping point: How little things can make a big difference*. Boston: Little, Brown.

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On the evening of June 2, 2005, at the 7th International Family Nursing Conference, the banquet was followed by an awards ceremony, cochaired by Dr. Janice Bell and her colleague, Dr. Nancy Moules (University of Calgary), and sponsored by the *Journal of Family Nursing*. The introduction of the 10 family nurses who were awarded the Innovative Contribution to Family Nursing Award is offered here for the benefit of the family nursing community. Thank you to Marlene Baier, Cyd Stroud, and Lorraine Thirsk, RN, MN (University of Calgary) for their help in organizing this awards ceremony for the 7th International Family Nursing Conference.