



# NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSES

# CONNECTIONS

Volume 8 Issue 3

September 2005 - December 2005

## ISPN Foundation

Beth Bonham, PhD, APRN, BC

**The ISPN Foundation** was established to support and encourage the activities and purposes of ISPN. Examples of activities include those with charitable and literary aims. Purposes include recognition of clinical practice, research and educational endeavors of psychiatric mental health nurses. Furthermore, the Foundation is committed to securing, maintaining, and awarding funds that facilitate the purposes of ISPN.

To that end, the Foundation maintains separate Bylaws, Board of Directors and Treasury. Current Board members are Elizabeth Bonham, President; Ann

Robinette, Secretary; Judith Coucouvanis, Treasurer; and Jeanne Clement, Past President and Member-at-Large.

Recently, the Foundation received a generous donation from the Hudson River NY Chapter of the ACAPN Division. This donation for child and adolescent research was donated in memory of Linda Wolff, a member of the chapter who passed away in June. She had been the Chapter's last co-chairperson and her colleagues honored her memory in this way.

Donating to the Foundation is as simple as checking the appropriate box on

your Membership Renewal Notice. Checks can be made to **ISPN FOUNDATION** and mailed to the attention of Bruce Wheeler at:

**ISPN**  
2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800  
Madison, WI 53718-7961

We look forward to seeing you at the next Foundation Fundraiser at the 2006 Conference in Denver! Curious as to what fun this will be? Remember, the dinner cruise in Pittsburgh? The Art Museum and Italian dinner in St. Louis? Carriage rides in Charleston? Stay tuned!

## ISPN Conference Update

Elizabeth Steinmiller, APRN, BC  
and Peggy Dulaney, APRN, BC

We are pleased to announce that we are in the process of finalizing the program for the April 2006 ISPN Conference. We were overwhelmed with the number of abstract submissions—over 100! Things are looking like we will have an exciting line-up of programs from all divisions. We hope to have the program out to all and up on the website by the first of the year. We will have Josepha Campinha-Bacote as our keynote speaker. She is a

well-known expert on cultural diversity. Carol Picard, president-elect of Sigma Theta Tau, will be our closing speaker. We will also have pre-and post-conference workshops that will offer psychopharmacology CEUs.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver, Colorado in April! Please refer to the ISPN website for more information about location, conference registration etc. **Thanks!**



# ISPN

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[www.ispn-psych.org](http://www.ispn-psych.org)



This past summer and early fall have been trying times for many living in areas devastated by the Gulf Coast hurricane and internationally, the earthquake in Pakistan and India. Both events have caused me to consider a number of issues that potentially influence the practice of ACAPN Division members. These include my personal response to these tragedies and the strong urge to “assist” with donations of money and goods. The second issue it raises for me is one of preparedness and consideration of the ways this would influence the people I practice with here in Connecticut. As the child of parents who had a fully working bomb shelter in the 1960’s, I don’t think we can ever be too prepared. I’m hoping that we discuss this further at the ISPN conference in Denver this coming spring. I’m sure many of you have thoughts and ideas about this important topic.

Speaking of Denver, the conference planning committee has shared that a record number of abstracts were submitted for presentation at the ISPN conference. As an abstract reviewer, I can tell you that there were numerous and excellent abstracts related to child/adolescent psychiatric nursing practice. Our specialty will be well represented at the conference and there should be many offerings of interest to ACAPN members. Please consider coming to this excellent conference.

I have started the process of inviting members to begin formulating and writing two white papers on the following topics:

- Psychiatric care of children in foster placement
- Psychiatric care of juvenile justice populations

Judith Hirsch (handsonnp1@aol.com), a private practitioner in New York, has generously agreed to coordinate the paper on foster care. I am in the process of identifying the leader of the group that writes the juvenile justice paper. Both should be in process or drafted by the spring conference. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of one of these two groups. I can be reached by email at pearsong@psychiatry.uchc.edu. I will forward your contact information. White papers have traditionally been used to influence political parameters around care and to form a benchmark around specific areas of practice. I urge any and all who are interested in this to email me.

Finally, I want to share the experience I had this week, attending the following gala, titled “Nightengala.” Sponsored by the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research, this exciting evening was titled “Nursing Research: Advancing the Health of America.” The evening, attended by over 1200 nurse researchers and leaders nationwide, was intended to honor distinguished nurse researchers, promote national visibility of NINR, and generally support nursing research. I was included in a table jointly sponsored by ISPN and APNA (American Psychiatric Nurses Association). This joint sponsorship marks a formal beginning of our ongoing discussion about the two organizations and ways to join resources to strengthen the psychiatric nursing practice presence. You will undoubtedly hear more about this in Denver. Many of us belong to both organizations and it is a logical next step to begin discussing our groups and commonalities.

Again, please contact me if you have comments, questions, news for the ACAPN column, or ideas. I welcome all of these.

The SERPN Division is currently working on two projects that we hope will make participation in the organization easier and more efficient. SERPN Secretary, Debrynda Davey, EdD, RN, is currently updating and organizing our e-communication to formulate a listserv on Yahoo and she needs your assistance in this process. If you have changed your e-mail address or you have not been receiving our e-mails during the last three months, please contact her at ddavey@son.umsmed.edu with corrected information. As a division we hope to have an interactive flow of communication to grow, develop and better serve our member’s needs.

ISPN is in the process of evaluating our present organizational structure and the elected positions that are part of that structure. SERPN members have been asked to provide feedback regarding the proposed changes and to make suggestions about other options. I will be sharing all this information with you by e-mail in the near future (using our new listserv) and look forward to your comments and opinions.

Please take the time to look at the members section of the ISPN website. We now have posted the Psychiatric Mental Health Essentials in the BSN Curriculum and we are encouraging its use in the undergraduate setting. Please take the opportunity to review the document. We would appreciate your help in making it known to others involved in curriculum development. As an ISPN product, this document is a cost-free benefit for members. However, there will be nominal charge for non ISPN members.

Because of the extraordinary number of abstracts that were received for the upcoming conference, additional volunteers were needed as abstract reviewers. I would like to thank all the SERPN members who responded to the call for this task. In the next issue I will share a complete list of those who volunteered for this important work. We greatly appreciate your effort on behalf of the organization.

# Legislative Council Update

Noreen Thompson, MSN, RN, ARNP, CS  
nthomps2@kumc.edu

**K**eeping Families Together Act (H.R. 823.IH) was introduced into the House and Senate this past year. It addresses the problem that families have when they are forced to relinquish their children to state care in order to receive needed psychiatric services. This is due to a lack of ability to pay for the services. The Bill is an effort to amend this process to make it possible for the children to receive the care they need without leaving the parental home. The letter was drafted by Anne Toro from the American Psychological Association's public policy office for sign on by the National Consortium of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services member organizations. ISPN has signed this letter along with APNA and ACAPN organizations. We would like to thank Angela M. Oddone, Chair, National Consortium for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for getting this letter to us through Geri Pearson and Beth Bonham.

Go to  
<http://thomas.loc.gov>  
to check on  
current legislation...

Another important act which is supported by ISPN is (S.1152.IS. and H.R.1125.IH) Medicare Mental Health Co-Payment Equity Act of 2005. If this passes, it will reduce the current discriminatory coinsurance requirement from 50% to 20% for Medicare outpatient mental health visits.

The Children's Mental Health Workforce Bill has been endorsed also. This Bill aims to address the national shortage of children's mental health professionals by encouraging individuals to enter the field by creating educational incentives.

Remember to go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> to check on current legislation which apply to our psychiatric patient populations. As of October 2, 2005, if you search there you will find 50 bills that include the term Psychiatric.

Some of the Bills that might be of interest to our membership include:

- Eating Disorders Awareness, Prevention and Education Act of 2005 (Introduced in House as H.R.49.IH)
- Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act of 2005 (Introduced in the House and Senate as S.1152.IS and H.R. 1125.IH)
- Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Care Act of 2005 (Introduced in the Senate as S.1592.IS)

We invite all of our members to contact us if you see a legislative issue you would like ISPN to take action on or raise the voice of nursing in advocacy for persons with mental illness. Thank you to all of you for paying attention to these important issues. Let your voice be heard individually and contact us if you want a collective voice.

## ISPN Foundation Nursing Research Grant: Call for Proposals

One grant supporting psychiatric nursing research is available to ISPN members involved in psychiatric mental health nursing research. The amount of the grant is \$500.00.

### Investigators

1. Must be an ISPN member, and
2. Must have a Masters or a Doctorate in nursing, OR be a student in a nursing graduate program and an ISPN member.

Focus of Research: Qualitative or quantitative research is acceptable.

### Requirements

Institutional Review Board approval must be obtained before the release of funds.

### Proposals, limited to five pages, must include:

1. Title and Purpose
2. Background and Significance
3. Hypotheses or Research Question(s) (if applicable)
4. Methods (subjects/participants, setting, instruments, procedures, data analysis)
5. Appendices (not included in five page limit)
  - Budget with justification
  - Time line
  - Status of IRB approval
  - References
6. Do not exceed five single spaced pages. Submit one electronic version (Word or .pdf files) of the proposal with no identifying information. At the end of this file include a cover page with your name, address, phone number and email. Also include your ISPN division. Provide the same information for all co-investigators (however, only the PI needs to be a member of ISPN). If students, please list faculty advisor(s).

### Recipients are expected to submit:

1. A written summary of completed research to the ISPN Research Council
  2. An abstract to the ISPN Conference and be willing to present within the next two years
  3. A manuscript to one of ISPN's professional journals
  4. Acknowledge the support of ISPN in all presentations or publications
- Deadline: received by **January 1, 2006**
  - If you have questions, call ISPN: 1-866-330-7227
  - Web site: [www.ispnpsych.org](http://www.ispnpsych.org)
  - Notification of award will be made at the annual conference.
  - Email proposals to: Dr. Kathleen Scharer at [kathleen.scharer@sc.edu](mailto:kathleen.scharer@sc.edu)



## Research Council Update

Kathleen Scharer  
Research Council Chair

The Research Council is collecting data about research interests of ISPN members to develop a database to allow members to connect with others who have similar interests. If you have not yet completed the database, please contact Sarah Farrell at [spf2j@virginia.edu](mailto:spf2j@virginia.edu) to request access to the survey.

Also, it is time to consider applying for a research grant from the ISPN Foundation. Please see the Call for Proposals included in this issue of Connections.

### Editor's note:

This newsletter is published three times a year. The next three deadlines for article submission are as follows:

**Winter:** January 22, 2006

**Summer:** May 31, 2006

**Fall:** September 24, 2006

In each issue, we ask for updates from the various Divisions, Councils and Committees. We are interested in member professional activities and news. Please contact your division leaders with ideas for articles. Submit your articles to: Mimi Brittingham, email: [mypcbritt@aol.com](mailto:mypcbritt@aol.com)

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## Updating ISPN's Membership Database

Bruce Wheeler, Executive Director

Staff is in the process of updating member information in its database. We're particularly interested in making sure we have your most recent e-mail address as ISPN looks to more electronic communication with members in the future.

Please help us update your records by visiting the ISPN website ([ispn-psych.org](http://ispn-psych.org)), clicking on the "Membership" heading on the left side of the page, then clicking on the link under "Member Benefits" that says "Online Searchable Membership Directory." This will take you to the members-only section, where you can look up your information and verify that what we have for you on file is correct. If you don't recall the user ID or password necessary to give you access to the members-only section, please give me a call at 1-608-443-2463, ext. 143 or 1-866-330-7227 and I'll be glad to help you.

Thank you for helping us to ensure the information we have is both current and accurate!

 [ispn-psych.org](http://ispn-psych.org)  
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### Psychiatric Nursing Conferences

Update your skills and knowledge in the ever-changing environment of psychiatric nursing

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# ISPN

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Committee members and Council Members and the division they represent can be found at <http://www.ispn-psych.org>. Click on "ISPN Leaders Identified"

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## Now you can visibly support ISPN wherever you go!

Official Lapel Pins are now available from ISPN for \$15.00 + \$4.00 shipping and handling. Contact the ISPN National Office 1-866-330-7227 and place your order today.

# Save the Date!

## The 8th Annual Education Conference is coming to Denver!



**April 5-8, 2006**

Selected photos of Denver courtesy of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

## ISPN Connections

**ISPN Connections** the Newsletter of the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses (ISPN) is published 3x/year.

**Editor:** Mimi Brittingham, MSN, RN, CS

### Advertising Opportunities:

1/8 page:	(3 5/8 X 2 3/8)	\$100
1/4 page:	(3 5/8 X 4 3/4)	\$200
1/2 page:	(7 1/2 X 4 3/7)	\$300
Full page:	(7 1/2 X 9 7/8)	\$500

**ISPN thanks Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for their support in producing this newsletter**

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**[www.ispn-psych.org](http://www.ispn-psych.org)**



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