

2017 ELECTIONS

Director Biographies

June Andrews Horowitz, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN (USA)

Current Position: *Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research & Professor, University of MA, Dartmouth*

Previous experience in IFNA: *Co-Chair, Research Committee: 2013-2016, Conference Committee member 2014-2015
Co-Chair, Conference Committee 2015-2017, Conference attendee and presenter*

Please explain your prior experience in Family Nursing that is relevant to the position you seek in IFNA.

I have been engaged in family nursing for over 40 years. As a young nurse preparing to be a psychiatric-mental health clinical nurse specialist (advanced practice nurse) in a master's degree program in the 1970s, I had the privilege of learning about family therapy as the emergent approach and new paradigm for understanding/treating mental health problems from interdisciplinary experts in the field. I became a family nurse. Never again could I examine a problem outside of a family context. A family nursing perspective has informed my subsequent practice, teaching and research/scholarship. In my teaching, I have imbued students with an appreciation of the vital importance of family in our formulation of problems and solutions/interventions. My research focus became postpartum depression (PPD) and maternal-infant interaction. Specifically, I have tested nurse-coaching behavioral interventions with women with PPD and their infants to improve the quality of their interaction and thereby promote infant healthy development. Without a family nursing perspective, my research, like most research in the field, would have remained at the individual level. My current research with an interdisciplinary team focuses on neurologic hemodynamic responses of mothers (with and without PPD) and infants during interaction. Such research is innovative with no prior published work. My primary contribution centers on moving this novel research from an individual focus on mothers to a family/dyadic focus on the interplay of neurologic responses between mothers and infants during real-time interaction. Thus, I have a longstanding commitment to family nursing and promoting it internationally through IFNA.

Please explain your interest in serving in this position and list three priorities for IFNA that you would address if elected.

My interest in serving IFNA as a Director springs from my serious commitment to family nursing and my progressive experience and leadership in IFNA as Co-Chair of the Research Committee, Conference Committee member, and currently as Co-Chair of the Conference Committee. I have attended many conferences of the family nursing community even before IFNA formed. Now I want to pass on the legacy by nurturing emerging family nurse leaders internationally. Serving as a Director for IFNA is an ideal way to realize this goal. I have worked with many IFNA leaders in my various roles. Therefore, I am confident that I can bring a wealth of experience to the work of the Board of Directors and committees. I have participated actively on IFNA committees as a member and Co-chair. Moreover, I will promote IFNA's three missions by:

- 1. collaborating with our members to unify our efforts and voice in promoting family nursing globally;*
- 2. sharing my knowledge about family nursing in the areas of education, practice and research with a goal of partnership with nurse experts in their home environments; and*
- 3. providing leadership based in my extensive nursing experience to promote family nursing internationally. It would be a privilege to serve IFNA as a Director.*

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Director Biographies

Wendy Looman, PhD, APRN, PNP (USA)

Current Position: *Associate Professor and Chair, Child and Family Health Cooperative Unit, University of Minnesota*

Previous experience in IFNA: *Communications Committee (2010-present), Board of Directors (2013-2016)*

Please explain your prior experience in Family Nursing that is relevant to the position you seek in IFNA.

Since 2003 I have taught and conducted research in the area of family nursing as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. My research focus is the health of families raising children with chronic conditions. Specifically, my work focuses on the role of social connections in family well-being. I developed the Social Capital Scale for Families, which has been used in several research studies and translated into four languages. I teach Family Health Theory for nurses at the graduate level, and I am active in the Center for Children with Special Health Care Needs at the University of Minnesota. My clinical practice on a multidisciplinary team in a craniofacial clinic allows me to work directly with children and families as an advanced practice nurse, where I promote the care of families in health and illness. I have been an active participant of IFNA as a member of the communications committee since 2010, as a member of the 11th IFNC conference planning committee and coordinator of the conference country liaisons in 2012 and 2013, and as a member of the IFNA Board of Directors from 2013-2016.

Please explain your interest in serving in this position and list three priorities for IFNA that you would address if elected.

As a member of the Board of Directors, my goal will be to support the mission of IFNA, which is to foster the individual and collective development of nurses involved in the promotion of health care to families. Family nursing is my passion, my priority, and my focus for professional service. I aim to support the development of the science and practice of family nursing through leadership in IFNA. I believe IFNA should provide an international forum of shared responsibility for the advancement of family nursing.

The three priorities for the IFNA that I would address if elected to a Director position are:

- 1. Strengthen member-to-member collaboration through effective IFNA-to-member communication strategies*
- 2. Increase IFNA membership, with a focus on sustaining current member commitment to IFNA and reaching out to family nurses in under-represented countries*
- 3. Support IFNA in leading an international conversation about the scope and standards of family nursing practice*

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Director Biographies

Birte Østergaard, PhD (Denmark)

Current Position: *Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark*

Previous experience in IFNA: *Board of Director 2015 – 2017, IFNC12 and IFNC 13 Conference Committee, IFNA Research Committee, International Research Collaboration Sub-Committee*

Please explain your prior experience in Family Nursing that is relevant to the position you seek in IFNA.

I have served as director of board for two periods. During that time I have also been active involved in the Conference Committee planning the 12th and 13th International Family Nursing Conferences. Besides, I have served as Board liaison for the Research Committee and am actively involved in the work of the IFNA International Collaboration Subcommittee of the IFNA Family Research Committee.

I am founder and president of the Danish Society of Family Nursing in the effort to grow a strong family nursing community in Denmark within organization, teaching, research and clinical practice.

The primary focus of my program of research is Chronic Illness and the Family. Currently, I lead a large scale randomized multicenter trial that aims to evaluate the effect of Family Focused Nursing intervention among families suffering from heart failure. Furthermore, my interests of research are focusing on elderly patients and their families suffering from cancer and having major acute surgery.

Please explain your interest in serving in this position and list three priorities for IFNA that you would address if elected.

I would like to continue the work which I have already been involved in and its further development taking the mission and vision of IFNA into consideration.

As my three top priorities, I would like to focus on:

- 1. Continuing the work of the Research Committee*
- 2. Continuing the work of the International Collaboration Subcommittee*
- 3. Continuing the work of the Conference Committee*