



February 2, 2017

Awards Committee  
International Family Nursing Association

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Dr. Regina Bouso for the *Innovative Contribution to Family Nursing Award* based on her efforts to advance nursing research, education and practice related to improving nursing care for families experiencing death. Dr. Bouso's innovative contributions to nursing and her international recognition as a leading scholar in the field of death and dying make her highly deserving of this award.

An associate professor at the University of Sao Paulo and Director of the Department of Maternal, Child and Psychiatric Nursing, Dr. Bouso's research is highly innovative in its focus and approach. Palliative and end-of-life care for children and their families is a relatively new and highly challenging area of inquiry. Regina has been a true pathfinder in the field. Through a series of studies focusing on families in which there is a gravely ill child, she has advanced our understanding of grief as a family experience. Dr. Bouso's research also has addressed nurses' experiences caring for these families and their role in supporting end-of-life decision making. The results of her program of research provide a foundational evidence base for end-of-life nursing care. The significance and quality of her work is reflected in both her funding success and awards for excellence. Since 2009, she has had sustained funding support from the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development and the Sao Paulo Research Foundation. Her curriculum vitae lists multiple awards, including best abstract at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society (2014) and best poster at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Children's Palliative Care Network Conference (2016).

Her current research on how grieving family members use and benefit from social media and new technologies is especially innovative and is providing new insights about families' experiences as well developing new methods for revealing the nature of those experiences. As noted above, her presentation on families' Facebook postings related to a significant loss was recognized as the best abstract at an international conference on grief and bereavement. Her use of virtual ethnography, a novel research approach that adapts ethnographic research methods for online data collection, to study this topic is another example of Dr. Bouso's contributions to methods development in her field of inquiry. Also noteworthy, is her invited membership in the International Work Group on Dying and Bereavement. Membership in this group, which recommends research, practice, and education agendas and initiatives, is highly selective, by invitation only, and provides further evidence of the significance of Dr. Bouso's work.

Dr. Bousso has been highly successful in disseminating the results of her innovative program of research. Her 94 publications include data-based manuscripts as well as manuscripts proposing methodological and conceptual advances in end-of-life research. For the 12<sup>th</sup> IFNC, she took the lead in developing a pre-conference workshop to share these advances with family researchers from around the world.

Dr. Bousso has championed innovations in her school's undergraduate and graduate programs to expand palliative care content in the curriculum. She also mentors students, both in Brazil and internationally, in their research efforts, having served as chair or member of over 100 master's or PhD research projects. She invests considerable effort in working with her students to transform their research project into conference presentations and publishable manuscripts. In practice, she has worked to advance care for grieving families by presenting new care models that focus on grief as a normal part of life. Her practice efforts are grounded in the results of her research and incorporate novel care strategies such as therapeutic letter writing and family interviews.

Dr. Bousso has had sustained contributions to IFNA since its founding. She served on the Planning Committee for 12<sup>th</sup> International Family Nursing Conference, where she played a leading role in developing an international network of Country Liaisons for promoting IFNA conferences. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Directors and the Resource Advancement Committee.

In sum, Dr. Bousso's research has focused on family life in the context of death and grieving. The scope of her accomplishments encompasses empirical studies, the advance of theoretical thinking about families and palliative care, and development of innovative methodological approaches and data collection strategies. In addition to being a premier family/nursing scientist, Dr. Bousso also is an accomplished teacher and mentor and prominent leader in end-of-life and family nursing research. Her work is innovative, of exemplary quality, and significant. With the strong support of the sponsors listed on the nomination form, I enthusiastically submit this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen A. Knafl". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathleen A. Knafl, PhD, FAAN