

Congratulations to Kathleen A. Knafel, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill College of Nursing's Frances Hill Fox Distinguished Professor, who was honored this past month by her alma mater, the University of Illinois at Chicago, with their Alumni Achievement Award. She graduated with a PhD from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1977. What happened over the next 40 years in her career is truly miraculous. At the University of Illinois, she was a faculty member from 1971-2000 and her roles included both faculty and administrative positions. She is UIC College of Nursing Professor Emerita. As faculty she was an Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. She also provided service in administrative roles for the College as an Acting Department Head, Executive Associate Dean, Associate Dean for Research, and Director of Graduate Studies. In terms of administrative service to the University, she was Research Standard's Officer and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Of note is that she remained a productive scholar and researcher when she was in these demanding administrative roles. As a faculty member, Dr. Knafel taught in the PhD Program in Nursing when only a handful of PhD programs in nursing existed within the United States. Thus, she along with other faculty members who took both formal and informal leadership roles within these programs were true pioneers. In fact, as one of those pioneers, she initiated and led the Family Research Interest Group for students, faculty, alumni, and community members which lasted for over 20 years. The influence of that Group and its members soon spread throughout the Midwest to the Midwest Nursing Research Society and now is felt throughout the world including joining with other global leaders in what would eventually become the International Family Nursing Association (IFNA). Starting in those early years and moving forward, the influence of Dr. Knafel's mentorship and scholarship changed the lives of generations of nurse scientists including our own through training based on innovative, rigorous, and systematic cutting-edge science.

Dr. Knafel is a founding member of IFNA and has tirelessly advocated for this international nexus for family nurses. She was honored by IFNA with their Award for Excellence in Family Nursing in 2015. She has the distinction of being the only family scientist who has chaired three International Family Nursing Conferences in Chicago (2000), Minneapolis (2013) and Odense, Denmark (2015). Her involvement in the conferences is indicative of all her IFNA work, which is engaged, detail oriented, selfless, discerning, and responsive to the aims and purposes of the organization. Her contributions have, without understatement, enabled the successful conduct of these conferences based on her considerable personal sacrifice and skill in soliciting the help of other IFNA members. She is simply the *best* at these organizing activities. She was honored by IFNA with their Award for Excellence in Family Nursing in 2015 and by the *Journal of Family Nursing* in 2007 along with Janet Deatruck and Agatha Gallo for Distinguished Contributions to Family Nursing.

She also took the lead in developing successful summer family research intensives at both Yale University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She currently serves as treasurer of IFNA and Board Liaison to the Resource Advancement Committee.

Dr. Knafel is a consummate research scientist. Both junior to the senior faculty seek her out her expertise to collaborate on research, concept development and methods development. She has led diverse research teams or collaborated with co-investigators such as Drs. Ayres, Angst, Barakat, Deatruck, Gallo, Gilliss, Grey, Hinds, Sullivan-Bolyai, and Van Riper to name only a few. In projects too numerous to recount Dr. Knafel has made substantial contributions to the thinking of other nurse scientists and to the successful completion and dissemination of the

research they proposed. She is a thoughtful, generous and committed researcher. In addition, she has repeatedly collaborated or consulted with international colleagues including Dr. Swallow in England, Dr. Szyliet in Brazil, and Dr. Honda in Japan. Clearly, her research has resonance not only in the U.S. but tracks across cultural and national boundaries.

Her present involvement as co-investigator in two grants funded by the National Institutes of Health emphasizes her ability to collaborate and the *breadth of her contributions*. Dr. Connie Ulrich is the Principal Investigator in the first grant, "*Retention in Cancer Clinical Trials: Modeling Patient-Participants' Risk-Benefit*", funded by the National Cancer Institute, R01CA196131, 12/1/2014-12/1/2019. Dr. Pam Hinds is the Principal Investigator on the second grant, "*How Parent Constructs Affect Parent and Family Wellbeing after a Child's Death*" funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, R01NR015831, 9/29/15-6/30/19.

The *depth of her contributions* to family science, her achievements in developing and disseminating novel concepts and research is unparalleled. Her contributions to the theoretical, substantive, and methodological literatures are vast, having published 146 articles; 8 books; and, 28 book chapters. In collaboration with colleagues Janet Deatruck and Agatha Gallo she changed the face of what we know about family management of childhood chronic conditions as well as qualitative and quantitative empirical methods for understanding complex family processes. The core of her seminal work is based on the *Family Management Styles Framework* and articulates the varied patterns and processes that families undergo in adapting to a chronic condition in a child. With NIH funding, Dr. Knafel advanced the measurement of *family management* in the Family Management Measure (2011) which has been widely adopted in the field throughout the world.

A second seminal paper, also co-authored by Dr. Deatruck, was the concept analysis of normalization in families with a chronically ill child. This work again demonstrates Dr. Knafel's consistent working and reworking of concepts in the field to identify the *family perspective* on the concept. The original concept development of normalization was first published in 1988, and the concept has been through consistent revision and reframing (2002), ending with the most recent articulation using perspectives from families on the meaning of the concept (2010).

Throughout her career, Dr. Knafel has made groundbreaking contributions to the accretion of knowledge in family nursing via her syntheses of family nursing research. Such work is painstaking and requires a sophisticated gestalt of the field to produce a quality synthesis. Many of us have consistently relied upon and admired Dr. Knafel's syntheses and review papers, employing them in graduate student coursework. Dr. Knafel most recently was lead PI on an NIH-funded, major mixed method synthesis of recent studies on family research in childhood chronic conditions. Her publications are doing much to assist us in clarifying the state of the knowledge in the field and will have a substantial impact on research, clinical practice, methods, and theories about families and child well-being.