

**Nomination of Dr Nancy J. Moules**  
Excellence in Family Nursing Award  
International Family Nursing Association

March 3, 2015

Dear IFNA Awards Committee:

It is a delight and privilege to nominate my colleague/friend **Dr Nancy Moules**, a Full Professor at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada for the **Excellence in Family Nursing Award** being offered by the International Family Nursing Association.

***Stellar Graduate Student***

I have had the pleasure of knowing Nancy for some 20 years since she was a Graduate student (Masters and Doctoral) specializing in Family Systems Nursing at the University of Calgary. It was early in her graduate work at the Masters level that Nancy distinguished herself as an exceptional student in all areas and therefore was encouraged to pursue doctoral studies. She did so with continued rigor, enthusiasm and passion. Once again she excelled in all areas of her doctoral studies (clinical practice, research and teaching). Her thesis and resultant publications that evolved from her graduate work revealed that Nancy is also a gifted writer.

Nancy's doctoral thesis research focused on examining advanced clinical practice in family nursing. She was the first to research the family nursing intervention of writing therapeutic letters. It was during her doctoral studies that she immersed herself in the study of hermeneutics and hermeneutic research. It has remained her chosen research preference to understanding families and their relational experiences with illness.

***Rising Star***

Dr Moules joined the Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary in 2000 and quickly fell into the rank of a young academic who was unquestionably a "rising star". She swiftly and impressively began her family nursing research program with an emphasis on family nursing interventions, grief/bereavement in the familial context, and pediatric oncology. Her publications and research grants (see her attached abbreviated CV) during her early academic years give credence to her ability to advance family nursing knowledge.

***Superb Scholar***

Dr Moules is now a seasoned scholar of some 15 years. Most recently she has built a career as a research scientist with a local, national, and international reputation. She holds a research professorship in Child and Family centered cancer care, through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. Her professorship has benefited the Faculty of Nursing, the Alberta Children's Hospital community and the lives of children and their families.

Nancy is internationally recognized for her work using interpretive methodologies. She is also one of the founders of the Canadian Hermeneutic Institute and the creator and current editor of the Journal of Applied Hermeneutics <http://jah.journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/>. Her expertise as a renowned hermeneutic scholar is well known at the University of Calgary, nationally, and internationally.

These years of conducting hermeneutic research with and about families suffering with illness has culminated in her co-authored (first author) text entitled: *Conducting Hermeneutic Research: From Philosophy to Practice* to be published in May, 2015. This book will offer family nursing students/colleagues and hermeneutic scholars alike greater understanding of the philosophy behind hermeneutics as it is applied to understanding families' encounters with illness. This book is a first of its kind. No other book offers a sophisticated explication of the science and *practice* of hermeneutics with families. I have been privileged to read a pre-publication draft of her book and it has marvelous descriptions of clinical practice and research interviews with families from a hermeneutic perspective.

Dr. Moules has offered her expertise and knowledge of family nursing to numerous students. She has supervised a total of 39 graduate students (master's and doctoral combined); served on 38 supervisory committees and has sat on over 200 exams (including comprehensive, candidacy, and thesis).

A superb scholar always has an impressive list of publications to disseminate knowledge. Dr. Moules again does not disappoint as she has consistently published in refereed journals, including the Journal of Family Nursing, with high impact ratings as first or second author for an average of 11-13 publications per annual report. Several of these publications are with her former and current students and research teams. A quick review of the publications cited in her attached CV will clearly indicate how she is advancing knowledge in the area of family nursing.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> International Family Nursing Conference in Odense, Denmark, Nancy will present one of the Expert Lectures entitled: "The Attraction of Hermeneutic for Advancing Family Nursing Research". She is indeed an expert in all things hermeneutic and is making her mark to further our understandings and knowledge about families in their illness journeys. Our colleagues will be very fortunate to hear her deliver this timely lecture.

***Concluding Thought:***

I hope that I have presented a compelling description of this first-class family nursing scholar. My sincere desire is that the committee will agree that Dr Nancy Moules is exactly the kind of colleague that we wish to honor with a prestigious Excellence in Family Nursing Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine M Wright, RN, PhD  
Professor Emeritus of Nursing  
University of Calgary