

2015 IFNA Award Nomination: Rising Star in Family Nursing Award

Nomination of Carina Persson, R.P.T., Ph.D.

Dr. Carina Persson is a new family nursing scholar with a rare combination of seasoned clinical wisdom as a physiotherapist in early childhood intervention (1989-2002), a PhD in Caring Sciences (2008), and a strong commitment to grow the scholarship of practice with families experiencing illness. Following the completion of a postdoctoral position (2009-2011) in Family Focused Nursing at Linnaeus University in Sweden with Dr. Eva Benzein, she has shown exceptional early career efforts as a family nursing scholar by contributing to the implementation and dissemination of family nursing science and a clear desire to transform practice with families.

Dr. Persson currently holds a 50% position as a Senior lecturer in family focused nursing at the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Linnaeus University and a 50% researcher position at the new Center for Collaborative Palliative Care at Linnaeus University. She works closely with Dr. Eva Benzein. Since 2008, she has co-authored 15 peer-reviewed publications focused on families' experiences of illness or on the development and evaluation of a relational family-level intervention known as "*Family Health Conversations*" influenced by the foundational ideas of Calgary Family Assessment and Intervention Models (Wright & Leahey, 2013) and the Illness Beliefs Model (Wright & Bell, 2009) with attention to the unique cultural context of Sweden. Most notably, Dr. Persson and Dr. Ostlund, another postdoctoral scholar who studied with Dr. Britt-Inger Saveman at Umea University, co-published the first-ever research synthesis of Family Systems Nursing interventions by examining family responses to these family nursing interventions.

Dr. Persson is also currently serving as the co-supervisor of 4 doctoral students and anticipates serving as a co-supervisor for an additional 3 doctoral students. She serves as a reviewer for 5 journals and has presented papers at 5 national and international family nursing conferences since 2009. She has also been an invited participant at two meetings of family nursing scholars who have developed a research collaboration for knowledge translation of Family Systems Nursing theory to practice settings.

Already there is tangible evidence that Dr. Persson is emerging as a significant leader and "Rising Star" in family nursing in Sweden within 4 short years of completing her postdoctoral position. She has an impressive willingness to lean into the challenges of a new area of scholarship in which her ability to cross disciplinary boundaries may well work to her advantage as she continues to mentor and be mentored in the satisfying and important work of transforming practice with families and advancing family nursing knowledge.