



Dear IFNA Awards Committee Members,

It is with great admiration and enthusiasm that I nominate Janet Deatruck, PhD, RN, FAAN for the Excellence in Family Nursing Award. Over the course of her remarkable 40 year career Janet has devoted herself to understanding the intersection of family life and childhood chronic illness and factors that influence the wellbeing of children and families. Her research has further buttressed the evidence base for family-centered care; her mentorship has contributed to the career achievements of countless others; and her leadership has advanced the mission of IFNA. Her sustained achievements, on which I elaborate below, are singular in both their depth and breadth.

Janet launched her program of research focusing on the intersection of family life and youth chronic illness in the early 1980s when she was a PhD student at the University of Illinois-Chicago and director of nursing research at Shiner's Hospital for Children. She had been charged by the hospital's director to undertake research that would support the initiation of a program of family-centered care. Building on her background in pediatrics, family science, and child-psychiatric nursing, Janet took up the challenge and initiated a series studies aimed at capturing the experiences of families whose children were being cared at the hospital. From those early studies to her most recent research on caregivers of brain tumor survivors, Janet has been wholly committed to giving voice to families through her research. The results of her studies challenged those of earlier researchers who had focused on family dysfunction and the negative impact of illness on family life; Janet's research revealed how families actively manage the challenges they face and the ways health care professional support, and sometimes impede, their efforts.

Her most recent research on youth who are survivors of brain tumors and their families also forges new ground in the study of families in which a child has cancer. To date, few studies have focused on brain tumor survivors despite their comparatively poor developmental and functional outcomes. Janet's work in this area, which has been funded by both private and public sources, has mapped the relationships among child, family, and caregiver variables that contribute to overall quality of life and adaptation for both youth and their family members. Her interviews with this unique group of youth reveal fresh insights into their lives and the role of families and health care providers in supporting their long-term care needs, quality of life, and transition to adulthood. Building on the results of these studies as well as our joint efforts to develop the Family Management Style Framework (FMSF), Janet currently is collaborating with colleagues at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania to test a web-based family management intervention for caregivers of young adult survivors of brain tumors.

The quality and impact of Jan's research is reflected in the awards she has received (Distinguished Contributions to Research Awards from the Eastern Nursing Research Society, the International Family Nursing Conference, the Society of Pediatric Nurses), the wide array of funding sources (National Institutes of Health, Oncology Nursing Society, Oncology Nursing Foundation, Pediatrics Aids Foundation, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, Sigma Theta Tau, Shriners Hospitals), and the many research teams to which she has contributed. Jan's roughly 150 publications include research reports as well as methodological and conceptual papers. As lead editor for a special issue of the *Journal of Family Nursing*, she spearheaded the extension of the FMSF to new illness and cultural contexts. Through her intervention development work, she is extending the clinical applicability of the framework. Her publications on interviewing children, secondary analysis and the use of large national data bases in family research have made important contributions to the expansion of family research methods. She also has published articles on ethical issues related to the participation of minors in research as well as articles on strategies for interviewing children and adolescents. This work has contributed to the greater inclusion

of children in family research, enhancing investigators' ability to recruit children as well as adult family members in their research. Janet's work has appeared in top nursing research, specialty focused, and interdisciplinary. Three of her publications are on the *Journal of Family Nursing's* list of top cited articles.

Not only has Jan been principal investigator on 20 funded studies, she has participated as a co-investigator on 11 other research teams, bringing a family perspective to projects on topics ranging from decision-making aids for youth with cancer to endocrine function in children diagnosed with HIV. Jan's research collaborations have included colleagues in Brazil, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Japan. For 12 years, she lead or co-lead the Center for Health Equity Research at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also brought a family perspective to research aimed at understanding and addressing the nature and sources of health disparities. Through her intervention development work, Janet is taking the lead in expanding the clinical applicability of the FMSF.

Janet also is a premier educator who has played a leading role in developing advanced practice and doctoral programs focusing children with serious illness and their families. She was principal investigator on a federally funded grant to train advanced practice nurses in family-focused pediatric transitional care. From 1998 until she retired in 2016, she was the associate director of an Institutional Research Training grant (T32) that provided research training focusing on vulnerable women, children, and families.

Her leadership and interpersonal skills have contributed to her success as a research mentor for graduate students, young faculty, and visiting international scholars. At an event honoring her this past year at the University of Pennsylvania, a former student and colleague described Janet as "an academic fairy godmother to many". Over the years she has chaired 12 dissertation committees and has served as a member on 30 more. As with her own work, she has been tenacious in seeking funding for her student's research and supporting their career development. Not only does she include students and junior faculty on her research teams, but she works hard to make sure they will have a positive experience and an opportunity to take a major role in developing some of the presentations and publications that derive from the project. Twenty-five of her publications have been co-authored with students. She also has been highly successful in supporting students to obtain funding for their research training. It is not surprising that she has been honored with a multiple teaching and mentoring awards.

Janet also has been an active leader in the profession and I want to especially like to highlight her many contributions to IFNA. She is a charter member of the association. As co-chair of the Research Committee, she played a key role in developing a process for reviewing abstracts and organizing the program for the 11th IFNC. She co-chaired the conference planning committee for the highly successful 12th IFNC. Currently she is chairing the Resource Advancement Committee, where she is making tremendous strides she has made in developing materials and an infrastructure to enhance our fund raising capacity.

In sum, Janet is an accomplished researcher who is a well-known and highly respected family scholar and educator. She is an articulate, farsighted representative of family research at the regional, national, and international level. I appreciate this opportunity to share with the Awards Committee the many ways her contributions to family nursing deserve being honored with the Excellence in Family Nursing Award.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Knafel, PhD, FAAN