**2019 IFNA Award Nomination: Distinguished Partner in Family Health Care Award**

**Chicago Center for Family Health**

The Chicago Center for Family Health (CCFH; [www.ccfhchicago.org)](http://www.ccfhchicago.org)) was co-founded in 1991 by Co-Directors, **John Rolland, MD, MPH** (<http://ccfhchicago.org/faculty/faculty-descrip/john-rolland/> and **Froma Walsh, PhD** (<http://ccfhchicago.org/faculty/faculty-descrip/froma-walsh/>) as a non-profit advanced training institute affiliated with the University of Chicago. Now in its 27th year, the primary mission is to advance family systems training and practice in health and mental healthcare. CCFH is guided by a strength-based, collaborative, systems orientation to practice, responsive to family diversity and committed to serve disadvantaged and marginalized populations and to address social justice concerns. CCFH is renowned for its innovative resilience-oriented practice approach to strengthen families at risk, in crisis, or facing persistent life challenges, particularly major health conditions. State-of-the-art post-graduate training in family systems-oriented health care and couple and family interventions are guided by Walsh’s family resilience framework (Walsh, 2016a, Walsh 2016b) and Rolland’s Family Systems Illness model (Rolland, 1994, 2018).

Building partnerships with community-based organizations and healthcare systems has been at the heart of CCFH’s mission to train and support healthcare, mental health, and human service professionals, particularly those who work with low-income and minority families, LGBTQ clients, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Over the years, community-based partnerships have addressed a wide range of adverse situations (Walsh, 2016a, Walsh, 2016b).

The Center is particularly renowned for its innovativeFamilies, Illness & Collaborative Healthcare (FICH) Program, dedicated to advancing family systems and integrated biopsychosocial approaches in healthcare (Rolland & Walsh, 2005). Rolland’s Family Systems Illness model (Rolland, 2018), has guided the design and implementation of numerous projects designed to meet the training and practice needs of health and mental health care professionals who work with couples and families facing serious illness, disability, and loss. Training is relevant to diverse professional disciplines, work settings, and levels of experience, and adaptable for brief consultation, more intensive therapy, and multi-family group formats.

The FICH Program has partnered with community-based health, mental health and social service organizations in numerous training and consultation projects and in promoting systemic change by incorporating resilience- and family-oriented practices in leadership development and program planning and implementation. Numerous consultation and training services over the years have included partnerships with the Kovler Diabetes Center and the Genetic Risk Screening Program at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine; Children’s Memorial Hospital/Lurie Children’s Hospital at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine; the End-of-Life Coalition and regional hospice programs; the Why Me? and Gilda’s Club cancer support programs; the NorthShore University Health System Integrative Medicine Program, and Center for Compassion in Medical Care.

Over more than two decades CCFH has collaborated with two family practice programs providing integrated primary care. As a lynchpin of these collaborations, CCFH has offered yearlong doctoral fellowships in Families, Illness and Collaborative Healthcare for post-doctoral mental health professionals and doctoral candidates specializing in medical family therapy.

CCFH has partnered with a number of healthcare systems and specialty care services to develop and provide family-oriented training and services, including cancer, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, genetic risk screening, multiple sclerosis, rehabilitation and integrative medicine, palliative care, and hospice. Other CCFH partnership programs have addressed a range of serious challenges, e.g.: 1) War & conflict related recovery in Kosovo (Kosovar Family Professional Education Collaborative) and with Bosnian and Kosovar refugees in Chicago; 2) Gang reduction and youth development (GRYD) with high-risk youth with the Mayor’s Office of Los Angeles; 3) Family – School Partnership Program with the Chicago School System (see Walsh, 2016a, Walsh, 2016b).

Over the years, Drs. Rolland and Walsh have also provided training and consultation nationally and internationally to advance family-centered collaborative care. Their amazing teamwork and prolific publications have resulted in an impressive contribution to knowledge development about how to be helpful to families experiencing illness, disability, death, and many other life challenges.

**A few key publications authored by Dr. John Rolland and Dr. Froma Walsh:**

Miller, S., McDaniel, S., Rolland, J., & Feetham, S. (2006). *Individuals, families, and the new era of genetics: Biopsychosocial perspectives.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton.

Rolland, J. S. (1994). *Families, illness and disability: An integrative treatment model.* New York, NY: Basic Books.

Rolland, J. S. (2012). Mastering family challenges: Coping with serious illness and disability. In F. Walsh (Ed.), *Normal family processes* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Guilford.

Rolland, J. S. (2016). Chronic illness and the life cycle. In M. McGoldrick, N. Garcia-Preto, & E. Carter (Eds.), *The expanded family life cycle: Family, and social perspectives* (5th ed.). Boston. MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Rolland, J. S. (2018). *Helping couples and families navigate illness and disability: An integrative practice approach*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Rolland, J. S. (2019). The family, chronic illness, and disability: An integrated practice model. In B. Fiese, M. Celano, K. Deater-Deckard, E. Jouriles, & M. Whisman (Eds.), *APA handbook of contemporary family psychology* (Vol. 2). Washington, DC: APA Publications.

Rolland, J. S., & Walsh, F. W. (2005). Systemic training for healthcare professionals: The Chicago Center for Family Health approach. *Family Process*, *44*, 283-301.  <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1545-5300.2005.00060.x>

Rolland, J. S., & Walsh, F. (2006). Facilitating family resilience with childhood illness and disability. *Current Opinion in Pediatrics*, *18*, 527-538. doi: 10.1097/01.mop.0000245354.83454.68

Rolland, J., & Williams, J. (2005). Toward a biopsychosocial model for 21st century genetics. *Family Process*, *44*, 3-24. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1545-5300.2005.00039.x>

Walsh, F. (Ed.). (2009). *Spiritual resources in family therapy*. (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Guilford.

Walsh, F. (2016a). Applying a family resilience framework in training, practice, and research: Mastering the art of the possible. *Family Process, 55*, 616-632. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12260>

Walsh, F. (2016b). *Strengthening family resilience* (3rd ed.)*.* New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Walsh, F., & McGoldrick, M. (2013). Bereavement: A family life cycle perspective. *Family Science,* *4*, 20-27. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19424620.2013.819228>

Walsh, F., & McGoldrick, M. (Eds.). (2004). *Living beyond loss: Death in the family* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Norton.

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