**Nomination of Dr. Janice M Bell**

International Family Nursing Association (IFNA), **Excellence in Family Nursing Award**

February 8, 2023

It is my great pleasure and honour to nominate my colleague and friend **Dr. Janice M Bell** for the **IFNA Excellence in Family Nursing Award.** From my own personal knowledge and an enjoyable review and reflection of Janice’s academic career, she not only meets but exceeds the criteria for this recognition.

Janice is one of those unique academics who has made significant, outstanding contributions to family nursing in all three areas of clinical practice, research, and education for over 40 years in Canada and worldwide. Janice’s contributions on the global stage of family nursing are readily evidenced by her three sponsors, who enthusiastically supported this nomination, and who reside in Iceland, Spain, and Switzerland.

Dr Bell has provided sustained leadership in disseminating and implementing family nursing theory, research, and practice.

Janice’s abbreviated CV cites some of her educational and scholarly achievements. However, I would like to highlight, expand, and illuminate some of the significant **firsts** in her distinguished academic career:

1. First and foremost is being the **invited** **Founding and Continuing Editor of the Journal of Family Nursing (JFN) for 30 years.** Yes, **30 years!** Janice has continuously served as Editor with immense devotion and dedication. During this time, I have often been aware and witnessed Janice’s endless hours and efforts of establishing a new, fledgling journal and shepherding it through its evolution into a prestigious journal for the dissemination of family nursing knowledge. Countless colleagues can attest to the guidance, encouragement, and mentoring she so willingly offers to those who desire to have their manuscripts published. Colleagues whose first language is not English have also benefitted from her generous developmental editing.

The success of this journal is discernible with the following statistics: 2021 Impact Factor of the Journal of Family Nursing is 2.680. Ranking: Family Studies 16 out of 46/Nursing (SSCI) 26 out of 123/Nursing (SCIE) 27 out of 125.

1. Served from 1986-1988 as the **Chair of the Scientific Review Committee** for the **first** International Family Nursing Conference (IFNC) in Calgary, Canada. Following this conference, Janice spear headed a co-authored book to highlight the significant contributions of the first ever IFNC. This perhaps was the touchstone to the eventual launching of the JFN.
2. In her role as Editor of the Journal of Family Nursing (1993-present), she offered the **first**

**Family Nursing Awards in 2005.** Between 2005 and 2011 the *Journal of Family Nursing Awards* recognized significant contributions of 37 colleagues from 8 countries.This initiative by Janice demonstrates her self-less willingness to always bring forth and celebrate her colleagues who are making significant contributions to our specialty of family nursing. She is the first to celebrate and honor others’ contributions. The International Family Nursing Association assumed the nomination process for these awards in 2013.

1. Served on the **first Steering Committee** with four other family nursing scholars from 2007-2009 who created the framework to launch the current International Family Nursing Association (IFNA) (by-laws, membership, hiring of office support).
2. Serves tirelessly as the **Co-Chair of the IFNA Communications Committee** since the formal launch of the IFNA in 2009 with a vision to grow and unite a worldwide community of family nursing scholars. She has been involved in all aspects of this committee from social media channels and announcements on Twitter to the IFNA Newsletter highlighting colleagues’ activities and accomplishments. She remains devoted to her goal of growing and uniting a worldwide community of family nursing scholars through her daily work on behalf of the IFNA Communications committee
3. Dr Bell was a knowledgeable, committed and enthusiastic faculty colleague in the **first Family Nursing Unit** (1982-2007), a research and clinical practice unit at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Nursing. Graduate students and faculty were immersed in advancing knowledge, from a family systems perspective, of how to be helpful to families experiencing serious illness. It was a privilege to have had Janice’s unfailing and loyal colleagueship in the FNU for over 20 years as we provided supervision of Masters and Doctoral students clinical practice and conducted our practice-based research. She served as the Director from (2002-2007). Through our clinical research at the Family Nursing Unit, we developed the Illness Beliefs Model that has recently been published in a 3rd edition ***(Illness Beliefs: The heart of healing in families and illness, 2021).*** Thismodel has been taught to hundreds of health professionals worldwide through Family Nursing Externships, lectures, and keynotes.

In summary, Janice has given her all to family nursing and all who know her have experienced her passion and authenticity for family nursing first hand. Janice’s total dedication to the ongoing dissemination of family nursing knowledge through her own teaching and as Editor of JFN, plus her hard work and devoted service within the IFNA, have inspired clinicians, researchers and educators worldwide.

It is timely, and I believe long overdue, for IFNA to recognize Janice’s impressive and cumulative career contributions to family nursing theory, practice, education, and research for over 40 years by honouring her with the prestigious **Excellence in Family Nursing Award**.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this outstanding nominee.

**Dr Lorraine M Wright, C.M.**

IFNA member