

February 3, 2023

Drs Whitehead and Krumwiede and members of the IFNA Nominating Committee:

I am writing to nominate Camille Brown, PhD, RN for the IFNA Rising Star Award. As a nursing scholar in her first 5 years as an early career professional in the field of family nursing, Dr. Brown has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong career trajectory in family nursing. Her contributions to the field in the three years since completing her PhD have been innovative, impactful, and fill a critical need in family nursing research, education, and practice. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Brown practiced as a public school nurse in settings with a high proportion of economically disadvantaged students and students with developmental and behavioral challenges. After she earned her PhD in nursing, she completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship on Interdisciplinary Research Training in Child and Adolescent Primary Care. Dr. Brown is an IFNA member and is currently in her second year as a tenure track assistant professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota. Her work as an early career family nursing scholar demonstrates exceptional early achievements resulting in potential and actual positive outcomes in clinical practice, policy, education, and research.

Dr. Brown's research uses family strengths approach to understanding the protective role of family relationships for the health of transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) young people. As a minority group, TGD youth experience more chronic mental health issues and have poorer general health than cisgender youth, and there is evidence that TGD young people may be less likely to have strong family relationships compared to cisgender youth. Despite the importance of this issue for family nursing, literature on the impact of family relationships on health and well-being among TGD youth is sparse. Dr. Brown's program of research to date has been focused on building a foundation of translatable evidence to address this gap. Her dissertation work showed that positive family relationships may buffer youth against stress related to stigma associated with TGD identity, and that parent connectedness promotes sexual health among TGD youth as a potential point of family-oriented intervention. She has conducted qualitative research with TGD youth to understand their perceptions of parental messages regarding sexuality and sexual/romantic relationships and how those messages impact feelings and decisions about their sexual health, and has recently been focused on sibling relationships as a health-promoting factor for TGD youth. Implications of this work include guidance for working within families to counteract stigma and to de-center cisgender perspectives in messaging, and the inclusion of family members in the care of TGD youth.

Dr. Brown's expertise on family-oriented care of TGD youth is influencing the education of nurses and other healthcare providers within and outside her current institution. In the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Dr. Brown is a sought-after guest speaker in prelicensure and graduate nursing courses where faculty seek an expert on family systems care of LGBTQ+ individuals. She received high ratings from students in my Family Health Theory course for DNP students, where she engaged students interactively in a case-based discussion about using a family systems lens in the care of families that include a transgender member. She was invited by the University of Minnesota Medical School's Institute for Sexual and Gender Health to speak about sibling relationships as a health promoting factor among LGBTQ+ individuals, an area where she has unique expertise. Beyond our institution, Dr. Brown's published work has already begun to inform educational programs nationally and internationally. A few examples of this broad reach and impact are a project at Yale University to train pediatricians in using a family-oriented approach to the care of LGBTQ youth (Tice, 2021), and an online educational toolkit on nursing care of TGD youth for use in nursing education in Brazil (Ziegler et al., 2021). Her research has also informed the report, "*Talk about Bodies*" - Recommendations for Using Transgender-Inclusive Language in Sex Education Curricula (Tardoff et al., 2021), which provides recommendations for sex education curricula in schools.

Dr. Brown's publications on family systems care of TGD youth are also demonstrating rapid impact on practice by informing national and international guidelines. In the time since beginning her PhD program, Dr. Brown has published 16 peer-reviewed articles and six data briefs and technical reports, nine of these as first or second author. As demonstrated in her CV, her first-authored publications are uniquely focused on the role of family relationships in the health of TGD youth. One example of the impact of this early work on practice guidelines is citations of her critical review, “*Family Relationships and the Health and Well-Being of Transgender and Gender-Diverse Youth*” (Brown, Porta, Eisenberg et al., 2020). This work has been recently cited as a source for practice guidelines promoting family engagement in the health care of TGD individuals, including a report in *Pediatrics* by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), “*Developing Parenting Guidelines to Support Transgender and Gender Diverse Children’s Well-being*” (Katz-Wise et al., 2022). The AAP cited Brown’s work as evidence that TGD young people are at increased risk for adverse mental health outcomes when parents and caregivers are unsupportive of a TGD child’s gender identity. Brown’s work was also cited as evidence to recommend family inclusion in the management of TGD patients at risk for cancer in a report on best practices and resources to inform national guidelines and international research (Coad et al., 2021). As another example, her work on the use of gender pronouns was cited as evidence for the International Nurses Society on Addictions’ position paper on the care of individuals who identify as LGBTQQIA+ (“*Use of correct pronouns aids transgender or nonbinary individuals in feeling supported and validated*”). These citations in guidelines are the kind of impact that all family nursing scholars aim to achieve, where evidence has the highest likelihood of rapid translation into practice.

These examples are clear evidence that Dr. Brown’s early contributions are having positive impact for family nursing in education, research, and practice. Her early career trajectory in family nursing suggests that this impact has a high likelihood of sustained positive impact in the future. Her commitment and passion for improving outcomes for TGD youth and their families are consistent in her everyday interactions, her scholarship, and her intentional approach to including youth and family voices in her work. I am confident that this work will continue to make a positive impact on families and family nursing. Through this nomination for an IFNA Rising Star Award, I hope that this excellence might be recognized and acknowledged as an exemplar for others.

Sincerely,



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