

Dear Members of the IFNA Nominating Committee:

Candidate of Innovative Contribution to Family Nursing Award

Noriko Yamamoto-Mitani, PhD, RN, FAAN

Role played by the nominee and the resulting positive outcomes in clinical practice, policy, education, and research.

In the highly contextual and individualized interpersonal practice of family nursing, it is important to learn from individual cases as well as developing theories that apply to multiple cases. Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani focused on this point and devised a case study method that enabled family nurse practitioners to make their own practices sharable with their colleagues: Case study to focus on the Meaning of Care (CMC). This is a novel research method based on existing qualitative research methods such as grounded theory methods, phenomenology, case studies and research on oneself (*Tojisha kenkyu*), and it is specialized in making good practice available to other practitioners.

Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani arrived at the CMC through a trial-and-error process to enable the sharing of good practice. This is a method of organizing and visualizing an inherently complex network of practices by means of metaphor-implanted headings that make the details of individual cases conscious, verbal and shareable. Although there have been similar attempts of case study research in clinical or developmental psychology, CMC is different from these methods in that it targets nursing and other caring practices. A unique feature of the CMC is its focus on 'what were key meanings and knacks in practice', with headings that are informed by metaphors, making it easy for busy practitioners to read in a short time, grasp the key points and use them in their subsequent practice.

CMC can be used to study examples of any 'care' practice, but this research method appears to be particularly powerful in elucidating family nursing practice. Family nursing practice is different from other fields of nursing and difficult to do research on because it deals with families, which are diverse in their constitution as an organizational entity. This is why case studies are necessary for the scholarly inquiry of family nursing.

Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani worked with a group of practitioners to develop CMC, and CMC has been highly regarded and used since its inception. Through reflection, awareness and verbalization of their practice, which they do not often do due to their busy schedules, practitioners can uncover fundamental meanings for their own acts of care, reconfirm them, and gain recognition from others by communicating them to others. In this sense, the CMC is a unique and useful research method that empowers and encourages practitioners as well as develop new family nursing knowledge.

Evidence that the innovative contributions of the nominee have made a sustained and positive impact for family nursing.

The development of CMC has led to an expansion of research using this method. Since its development, Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani and her research group have been invited to give over 70 lectures at conferences, nursing associations and universities. Ten published research papers have emanated from her work. In March 2025 a book on the CMC method will be published by a major Japanese medical publisher.

Evidence that the nominee's portfolio of work and resulting successes demonstrate a leadership role in the field of family nursing.

Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani has been a member of JARFN since its inception and has contributed to the development of family nursing science by assisting Dr. Chieko Sugishita, the founder, and Dr. Kazuko Ishigaki, who subsequently became President. She has served as a board member of JARFN for many years. She has published numerous research papers in English on the experiences of family caregivers of older people and family nursing practices for them, and the activities of the CMC are an extension of these. Its research group is promoting CMC by organizing an annual CMC workshop, weekly reading groups (study groups) and monthly case studies. Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani also advises on case studies conducted by JARFN members.

In 2023, Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani presented the CMC method in a keynote speech at the 16th International Family Nursing Conference (IFNC16) held in Ireland. The presentation was well received by the attendees, many of whom expressed strong support for the method. The CMC approach was recognized as a groundbreaking method for making family nursing practice more visible and accessible to practitioners worldwide. This international recognition has contributed to further discussions on how family nursing practice can be systematically documented and shared beyond national borders.

Significant and sustained innovation, uniqueness, and impact of the nominee's contributions.

Dr. Yamamoto-Mitani's research activities have been summarized in 146 original papers in English and 96 original papers in Japanese. Research funding has been continuously obtained mainly from the Japan Society for Promotion of Sciences Science Research Fund and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Science Research Fund. In education, she is in charge of teaching nursing for older adults and their family at the undergraduate and graduate level. In the past 18 years since her appointment as a full professor, she has served as a primary supervisor for 25 PhD dissertations (including students from China, Indonesia and Egypt) and 53 master's theses.

She has also worked in leadership roles in organizations, such as the president of Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities (JANPU), vice president of Japan Nursing Association, Japan Association of Nursing Academies, the Japan Academy of Nursing Science, and served as the members of numerous governmental committees at the Ministries of Health, Labor and Welfare and Education. Recently she started working for the International Council of Nurses as a member of the education advisory committee; she was also invited to give a presentation at the ICN meeting on the influence of COVID-19 to nurses in Japan.