



M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE of NURSING

February 6, 2023

Dear IFNA Awards Committee:

It is our pleasure to nominate our colleague, Dr. June Andrews Horowitz, for the IFNA *Excellence in Family Nursing Award*. Dr. Horowitz's sustained contributions to family nursing practice, research, and education are extraordinary. For over four decades, she has been a champion for family nursing.

Dr. Horowitz has demonstrated a long history of engagement and visionary leadership in the International Family Nursing Association. She has served as co-chair of the Research Committee (2013-2016); member of the IFNA Conference Planning Committee (CPC) for the Denmark conference (2014-2015); Co-Chair of the CPC (2015-17) for the conference in Spain; Co-Chair of the CPC for the Washington, DC, U.S. conference (2017-2019), Co-Chair of the CPC for the virtual conference (2019-21), and is currently co-chair of IFNC16 (21-23) CPC for the conference planned in Dublin, 2023. Additionally, she has served as an IFNA-elected Board member (2017-2019), again as Board member (2021-23), and now as President Elect. Her service and leadership have been outstanding in IFNA and have undoubtedly had a profound impact on IFNA's development over time. Both of us have worked closely with Dr. Horowitz on many IFNA activities and witnessed first-hand her deep commitment to family nursing and the success of IFNA. In addition to her many contributions to IFNA, her work in advancing family nursing through other professional organizations has been remarkable. This includes her work with the American Academy of Nursing through participation and leadership in the Psychiatric-Mental Health and Substance Use Expert Panel (former co-chair) and the Maternal-Infant Expert Panel. She has also been a long-standing member and leader in the US Eastern Nursing Research Society as a member and Chair of the Family and Community-Based Participatory Research Interest Group.

Dr. Horowitz's contributions to family nursing began early in her career as a graduate student at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S., in the first clinical nurse specialist master's program in psychiatric-mental health nursing created by Dr. Hildegard Peplau—the “mother” of psychiatric nursing. Grounded in interpersonal psychiatric and family therapy models, Dr. Horowitz has used a family lens to shape her clinical, educational, and research work.

As a young nursing scholar, Dr. Horowitz was an early participant in family nursing conferences in Calgary, Canada; Portland, OR, U.S.; Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.; Valdivia, Chile; and Chicago, IL, U.S.—conferences that helped birth IFNA. An early publication, Horowitz et al., 1982. *Parenting Re-assessed: A Nursing Perspective*, Prentice-Hall, demonstrated her early ability to analyze the multiple factors that influence parenting and family health. In the late 1990s, Dr. Horowitz conducted a seminal study of interfaith couples that complemented her longstanding clinical work with couples. The study was reported in Horowitz, 1999. *Negotiating couplehood: The process of resolving the December dilemma among interfaith couples in Family Process*, an interdisciplinary journal. The study described the negotiation process about holiday practices among interfaith couples and also provided a roadmap for negotiating other challenging family life decisions. This study extended her knowledge contributions beyond family nursing to the wider community of scholars and clinicians of family health.

In subsequent decades as a faculty member, Dr. Horowitz continued to foster family nursing through preparing the next generation of family nurses and conducting cutting-edge research related to aspects of family health. Her extensive program of research has consisted of both qualitative and quantitative studies including randomized controlled trials. Her research has also used mixed methods; for example, in a current study, she is conducting multiple focus groups and interviews to inform the development of an app for postpartum depression (PPD).

Dr. Horowitz's program of research over the last three decades has focused primarily on family mental health, specifically PPD and mother-infant interaction. Her findings revealed that nursing/clinician support can promote the quality of mother-infant interaction and decrease depressive symptoms in mothers with PPD. Her research and publications addressing PPD screening of thousands of women provided compelling evidence to support PPD screening as the standard of perinatal care in the United States, thus showing the national impact of her work. Through her scholarship, Dr. Horowitz has deepened our understanding of: 1) PPD and influences of sub-optimal maternal-infant interaction on infant development, 2) the clinical care for depressed mothers and their infants, and 3) the research methodologies and measures utilized with postpartum mothers and their infants.

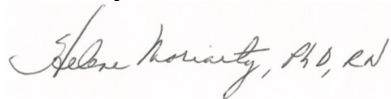
Dr. Horowitz has changed the landscape for treatment of perinatal mental health disorders as a co-founder in 2015 of Mother-Baby Connections (MBC), an intensive perinatal mental health out-patient service, in Philadelphia. MBC is housed within the Psychological Services Center at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, U.S. MBC serves childbearing women who experience perinatal mental health disorders and their infants and provides clinical training for mental health professionals. Dr. Horowitz continues to serve as an Executive Board member of MBC and active clinical supervisor on a volunteer basis.

In her current federally funded research with an interdisciplinary team (SBIR Phase I 1R43MD018236-01), Dr. Horowitz is developing and testing MommaConnect, an innovative mHealth app to support women with PPD and their infants in collaboration with a mental health clinician. In addition, she is now engaged with an IFNA colleague (Y. Jang) from Korea in comparing cross-cultural (i.e., Korea and the U.S.) family experiences when a family member has a chronic condition, specifically liver disease.

In conclusion, Dr. Horowitz has been and continues to be a tireless leader in family nursing. She has made extensive contributions to knowledge of family nursing. Her work has undoubtedly had national and international impact on family nursing. She has taught and mentored future generations of family nurses, and always generously shares her time and expertise with family nurses throughout the globe. She has devoted enormous time and talent to professional nursing organizations, particularly IFNA, to promote family nursing regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Thank you for considering this nomination. We are honored to nominate Dr. Horowitz for this prestigious IFNA award because of **her incredible and indelible impact on family nursing and IFNA**. Please contact us for additional information should it be helpful.

Sincerely,



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