

My thoughts are with any of you who have family and friends who have suffered from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The destruction is beyond comprehension and similar to the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it will take a long time for people to find some normalcy in their lives. You have my prayers.

On a happier note congratulations to all of those working in forensic nursing as we celebrate Forensic Nurses Week this year from Nov. 12-16! If you can, please wear **lilac** during that week to symbolize respect for forensic nurses. Forensic nurses work with those who have been subjected to child abuse, elder abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, sexual assaults, and/or domestic violence, as well as in legal nurse consulting, correctional nursing, and death investigation. Thank you to all of you who care for victims of crime - whether you are a nurse, advocate, law enforcement, healthcare provider, attorney, educator or a concerned citizen. Additional info at <http://www.iafn.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=381>

For those of you who are IAFN members please don't forget to also vote for IAFN elections this November. Dr. Carolyn Garcia, a nursing professor at the University of Minnesota and fellow SANE nurse and colleague is running as one of the Director at Large positions. You may read her and the other candidates bios at <http://www.iafn.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=291>

The past few weeks I've had the chance to enhance my knowledge while spending time with numerous individuals working in forensics, sexual abuse, and death investigations as I attended various trainings and conferences. In October I had the privilege to be on a panel with Jude Foster, from the Sexual Violence Center, Michael Wentzell, the Chief Deputy of the Carver County Attorneys, and several other people from the Twin Cities in a seminar sponsored by The ARC Greater Twin Cities. We discussed the challenges and triumphs when working with those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. If you are working with a victim who could benefit from some of the resources with this organization, please refer them or their guardian to <http://www.arcgreatertwincities.org/>

This week I attended the National Institute for SART Team Leaders, hosted by the Sexual Violence Justice Institute. Nearly 100 participants from throughout the US came to "connect, sustain, and lead". There were many take-away points during this 2.5 day program. One that hit me between the eyes was when a presenter talked about how others hear the word "SANE". If you were suffering from mental health illness or had a history of it, how would you feel if presenting to law enforcement or a healthcare facility and being told that you needed a SANE nurse? Would you possibly think that they felt as though you were insane? How would you feel? Would you want to disclose, fearing that you may be judged harshly for having

mental illness? My practice will change; I will now identify myself as a forensic nurse who specializes in sexual assaults. Let's keep our work victim-centered.

On Nov. 29th (the 5th Thursday) the MN IAFN chapter will host a child abuse prevention program at Regions Hospital. Maggie Carney, RN from MCRC (Midwest Children's Resource Center) will facilitate from "Darkness to Light". Please invite law enforcement, social workers, school officials, pediatric clinic staff, your clergy, attorneys, healthcare providers, emergency personnel to join us for this event. Visit our chapter website at <http://mnforensicnurses.org/> for more info and to RSVP. Our Chapter Board meeting will start at 5:45pm that evening prior to the program; all are welcome to attend.

On Dec. 3rd the National Institute of Justice will have Dr. Rebecca Campbell, PhD., professor of Psychology and Program Evaluation at Michigan State University presenting on "The Neurobiology of Sexual Assault: Implications for First Responders in Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and Victim Advocacy" in Washington DC. Since many of us will not be able to attend, a recording of this seminar will be available a few weeks after the event. Later in December you may access it at <http://www.nij.gov/events/research-real-world.htm>

The Department of Justice has partnered with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute to host the 13th National Indian Nations Conference "Strength from Within: Rekindling Tribal Traditions to Assist Victims of Crime". Dates are Dec. 6-8 in Coachella Valley, CA; costs are \$200 for the 2.5 day conference. More info at: <http://www.ovcinc.org/>

At two recent presentations it was highlighted that the IOM (Institute of Medicine) is encouraging nurses to engage in "lifelong learning". I believe all of us should embrace this philosophy and hope these newsletters support you in your learning. To read the IOM article click on <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health/Report-Brief-Education.aspx?page=2>

EVAWI (End Violence Against Women International) has online training that has free CEU's for those whose work with victims of sexual assault. Their website is <http://olti.evawintl.org/default.aspx>

The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) reviewed an article on "Screening Women for Intimate Partner Violence", http://avahealth.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={19084675-8908-45FF-88BB-262B794E7E69}

If you know RN's who are interested in becoming trained as a SANE, a course will be taught at Unity Hospital in Fridley next January 21-25th by Karine Zakroczymski, the manager of the Allina SANE program and Ellen Johnson, manager of the Regions SANE program. Our MN chapter website has more info (see paragraph 6).

Happy Thanksgiving to all! I hope you are able to spend time with your loved ones during this holiday.

Sincerely,

Paula Johns, RN, MA

President, MN-IAFN (2012)