

Greetings! Sorry for a late sending of this letter. I've just returned from a glorious vacation out West, hiking and biking in the Beartooth Mountains in Montana, exploring Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, hanging out with friends in Park City, Utah, and enjoying family in Colorado. This was a much needed respite, a time to literally be unplugged from my computer and phone for 2.5 wks. It reminded me of how important it is for all of us to do "self-care", to rejuvenate ourselves, so that we can be better for others. I hope you found time to do the same for yourself, not only this summer but a little bit every day.

There are numerous conferences and trainings being held this fall that I wanted to bring your attention to. Thanks to Ellen Johnson, the manager of the Regions SANE program for a couple of these notices.

The National Child Protection Training Center will be sponsoring a conference on September 17 & 18th at the William Mitchell College of Law. It will focus on the investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment, primarily for prosecutors and law students. For more info go to: <http://www.ncptc.org/>

On September 25 and 26th the Wisconsin IAFN chapter will be holding their 9th annual conference in Fontana, WI. I have attended one of their previous conferences and was impressed. More info can be obtained from vickie.vanden.heuvel@aurorabaycare.com.

On Thursday evening, Sept. 27th, the MN chapter will be having a lecture on HIV and nPEP at Regions Hospital from 6:30-8:30pm. Register at our website: www.mnforensicnurses.org. A special thanks goes out to Kathryn Carver for hosting our lovely rooftop party in August with fabulous food and drink. All who attended had great conversations while meeting others, with the added bonus of a bird's eye view of seeing downtown Minneapolis!

There is still time to book for the IAFN conference in Puerto Rico, which will be on October 10-13th. Numerous individuals from MN are attending this year. Hence, the education group is discussing holding our October monthly event on the pearls of wisdom that this year's conference goes learn from the various sessions.

There will be a forensic conference at Bethel College the morning of Saturday, October 20th from 9a-12noon. Topics are sexual assault nursing, death investigations and correctional nursing. CEU's will be awarded for nurses, it is free for students or \$15 for non-students. If interested, the website is: <http://www.chi-at-large.org/>

Hennepin County Medical Examiner's will be holding their 29th annual conference on October 25-26th at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center. I have enjoyed attending this in the past. For more info go to: <http://home.earthlink.net/~mc-mea/> or contact Joan Jung at 612-215-6320.

MNCASA (MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault) will be having their final testimony institute on November 29- 30th in St. Paul. If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend any of them this past year, now is your last chance to do so. Cost is \$60 for prosecutors, \$50 for healthcare professionals, \$25 for MNCASA members and \$35 for advocates who are not MNCASA members. You may contact Melia at melia@mncasa.org or go to their website at: <http://www.mncasa.org/svji.html>

For those of you concerned about domestic violence, the Advocates for Human Rights is sponsoring a film called "Saving Face" to be held at the Hennepin County Central Library at 300 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis on

Tuesday, Sept. 18th at 7pm. This documents a particularly cruel act of domestic violence, when acid is thrown onto women to scar them. To register contact Mary O'Brien, at mobrien@advrights.org.

If you want to learn more or brush up on STD's, you can do online training at:

http://www.forensichealth.com/2012/08/21/online-learning-sexually-transmitted-infections/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+wordpress%2FqQK1+%28Forensic+Healthcare+Online%29

The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) highlighted recent reviews on an article regarding intimate partner violence and pregnancy. To access their comments: http://avahealth.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={19084675-8908-45FF-88BB-262B794E7E69}

Besides your mandatory credentialing to keep your RN license, please consider being pro-active in these various forums, to broaden your knowledge base, do networking and learn about other areas of forensics and how they can intersect, both personally and professionally.

Have a great fall!

Sincerely,

Paula Johns
President, MN-IAFN (2012)