



## Editorial

### 10th Anniversary of the *Journal of Family Nursing*

This issue marks the 10th anniversary of the *Journal of Family Nursing (JFN)*! It is an important milestone in the development of family nursing that is worth celebrating. Significant lobbying efforts, led by a visionary group of family nursing academics in the early 1990s, resulted in a decision by Sage Publications to begin a new journal devoted exclusively to the nursing of families. Christine Smedley, who was then an acquisitions editor at Sage, boldly responded to the need for a new journal and was very influential in developing the foundational infrastructure, mission statement, and marketing plans. It was Christine who called, unexpectedly, on a summer afternoon in 1993 to offer the privilege of editorship of the new journal to me.

The premier issue of *JFN* was published in February 1995 and the rest, as they say, is history! Ten years of publications (40 issues) not only feature research but also address clinical practice, theory, and education about the nursing of families. The mission of *JFN* has remained focused on extending understanding about families in health and illness and improving care to families based on that understanding. Since 1988, at the First International Family Nursing Conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the world of family nurses, in the absence of a formal organizational infrastructure, has met every three years to discuss and disseminate knowledge about family nursing. *JFN* has been an intimate, informal link with these international meetings.

In this issue of *JFN*, LeGrow and Rossen (p. 39) highlight numerous significant developments in family nursing:

Given the attention that “family nursing” has received during the past 2 decades with the development of clinical practice settings (Anderson & Valentine, 1998; Wright, Watson, & Bell, 1990); educational programs (Bell, 1997; Deatricks, Feetham, Hayman, & Perkins, 1993; Hanson & Helms, 1992; Richards & Lansberry, 1995; Wright & Bell, 1989); six international family nursing conferences (Bell, 1996, 2000; Bell, Wright, Leahey, Watson, & Chengler, 1988; Feetham, Meister, Bell, & Gilliss, 1993; Krentz, 1991); publication of family nursing textbooks, several with revised editions (Bomar, 2004; Denham, 2003; Friedemann, 1995; Friedman, Bowden, & Jones, 2003; Hanson, 2001; Vaughan-Cole, Johnson, Malone, & Walker, 1998; Wright & Leahey, 2000); and the *Journal of Family Nursing* dedicated to family nursing research, practice, theory, and education, nurses are becoming more aware of the need to include families in nursing care.

Over the years there have been many informal discussions about the need for a more formalized organization. This topic has surfaced in many personal conversations I have had with family nurses and at several meetings of the editorial board of *JFN*. In a recent e-mail, a colleague asked again: “I am starting to wonder if it isn’t time that we move toward establishing a SOCIETY for Family

Nursing?” As we make plans to attend the 7th International Family Nursing Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in June 2005 and the 8th International Family Nursing Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2007, perhaps this idea is worth revisiting. We have a regularly occurring conference and a journal, so why not an international society?

A formal infrastructure can serve many purposes: promoting substantive knowledge about the nursing of families, forging international links between scholars of family nursing, promoting opportunities for collaborative research, and providing an organizational and financial infrastructure for future conferences. Your ideas about creating an international family nursing society are welcome and will be collated and presented at the editorial board meeting in June 2005 in Victoria. You are invited to offer your perspectives at [jfn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfn@ucalgary.ca).

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*Editor*

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In the “Acknowledgement of Reviewers for Volume 10 of the *Journal of Family Nursing*” published in the November 2004 (Volume 10, Number 4) issue, Nancy Feeley was inadvertently left off the list of reviewers, and we wish to acknowledge her contribution to the journal.