



INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**Forensic  
Nurses**

**ForensicNurses.org**

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**Forensic Nursing Leaders Receive Prestigious International Awards**

*International Association of Forensic Nurses honors five individuals  
for exceptional contributions to forensic nursing and advocacy*

**ELKRIDGE, Md.** — The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) honored five forensic nursing leaders with its 2023 awards for their exceptional work advancing the field of forensic nursing during individual ceremonies this summer throughout the country.

Presentations were held to honor: Jennifer S. Sonsiadek, MSN-FN, BSN, BA, RN, SANE-A, who received the Association's highest award, the Virginia A. Lynch Pioneer Award in Forensic Nursing, at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, MO; Polly Campbell, R.N., B.S., B.A., who received the Kim Day Service Award at the University of New England (UNE) in Biddeford, Maine; Nancy A. Harris, NP-C, NYSAFE, SANE-A, SANE-P, who received Distinguished Fellow Award at Samaritan Hospital, St. Peter's Health Partners (SPHP) in Troy, N.Y.; Evangeline Barefoot, BSN, MCJ, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, who received the Front Line Forensic Nurse of the Year Award at a presentation held at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky.; and Barbara Scheaffer, who received the Patron Award during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) in Harrisburg, Pa.

"The nurses, educators and advocates we honor this year with our prestigious international awards reflect the very best of our profession. Day in and day out, they are devoted to providing trauma-informed care for patients who most likely are at one of the most frightening moments of their lives," said Ashley Stewart, M.S.N., BScPN, RPN, SANE-A, SANE-P, IAFN President. "They are also steadfast, critical components of the multidisciplinary work required in communities across the country to care for individuals as patients and advocate for them as victims."

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Sonsiadek is Clinical Forensic Program Manager at Saint Luke's Health System, as well as adjunct professor at Saint Luke's College of Health Science, Avila University and the University of Missouri Kansas City. She received the IAFN's highest honor in recognition of her exceptional contributions to forensic nursing, particularly her work advancing care for victims of violence and trauma, including human trafficking, as well her educational and clinical work advocating trauma-informed patient care. The award is named for Virginia Lynch, known globally as the "mother of forensic nursing."

Sonsiadek has made more than 250 presentations, including trainings, and has partnered with organizations within the criminal justice system, crime laboratories, police academies and numerous organizations supporting survivors of violence and trauma. She is a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) for adult and adolescent patients and President-Elect of the Missouri Chapter of IAFN. Sonsiadek has served the community and state in various capacities with organizations such as the Missouri Hospital Association, the KCMO Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Kansas City Police Department Victim Services, and more. Sonsiadek earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Saint Luke's College in Kansas City, Mo. and a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Forensic Nursing from Aspen University in Denver, Colo. She anticipates completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2024 at Aspen University.

Campbell is the Director of the Advanced Nursing Education Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (ANE-SANE) Program at UNE and received the Kim Day Service Award in recognition of her invaluable volunteer contributions to IAFN and forensic nursing. Prior to leading UNE's ANE-SANE program since its inception in 2019, Campbell was Director, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program, Maine Office of the Attorney General. Campbell initially volunteered with IAFN in 2007, when she began her three-year presidency of the IAFN Three Mountains Chapter (Maine, N.H., Vt.). Campbell's 20-year involvement with the international organization has included service as President, a member of the Board of Directors, and as chair of the Social Justice Committee.

Barefoot is the Forensic Healthcare Program Manager at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital and received the Front Line Forensic Nurse of the Year Award in recognition of her exceptional direct patient care. Barefoot first began working in forensic nursing in 1993, while working at a small, rural hospital emergency room in Texas. She attended the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at the University of Texas at the local district attorney's request. For 30 years, Barefoot has applied her expertise to develop best practices – particularly, in sexual assault, intimate partner violence, non-fatal strangulation and child abuse forensic examinations, now shared across the Military Health System. She is highly regarded as an expert clinician, a mentor and trainer.

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Harris is the SPJP manager for medical regional child advocacy. She received the Distinguished Fellow Award in recognition of the impact of the significant contributions and accomplishments she has achieved through her work advancing the profession of forensic nursing. Harris developed the robust TeleSAFE program of SPHP, which benefits participating New York hospitals and their communities by having expert SANE nurses guide the bedside emergency nurse in the care of sexual assault victims. She has co-authored a pediatric SANE training program and developed the didactic and clinical Adult/Adolescent SANE training program offered by St. Peter's. Harris has worked to increase access to SANEs in child advocacy centers throughout New York and has recruited SANEs to provide expert care to abused children in rural counties throughout the state.

Scheffer is the Medical Advocacy Coordinator at PCAR and received the Kim Day Service Award in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the development and success of community or educational programs that teach or promote forensic nursing. Scheaffer has served the field of forensic nursing through work in her community, throughout Pennsylvania and in various capacities for more than 20 years. She has served as a member of statewide, national and university workgroups, committees, and advisory councils – in particular, as a member of the Penn State University SAFE-T (Telehealth) Statewide Advisory Board. Scheaffer earned her Bachelor's Degree from Shippensburg University and a Master's Degree from The George Washington University. She is a member of IAFN and the IAFN Pennsylvania Chapter.

The International Association of Forensic Nurses is a professional organization of more than 6,000 nurses from 25 countries who provide specialized healthcare for patients impacted by violence and trauma. The Association establishes the standards of practice for forensic nursing; defines and advances the global research agenda to enhance forensic nursing's evidence-based response; develops, promotes, and disseminates information about forensic nursing science; and serves as a global network for forensic nurses to exchange ideas, serve as mentors, and enhance their practice. Additionally, the Association offers board certification for sexual assault nurse examiners who care for Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A®) and Pediatric/Adolescent (SANE-P®) patients. For more information, visit [www.forensicnurses.org](http://www.forensicnurses.org)

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