



INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**Forensic  
Nurses**

**ForensicNurses.org**

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**Forensic Nursing Leaders Receive International Awards**  
*International Association of Forensic Nurses honors  
scholars for excellence in research articles and presentations*

**August 20, 2025, ELKRIDGE, Md.** — The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) recognized research-focused excellence during its 2025 International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science & Practice, as three authors received *Journal of Forensic Nursing* (JFN) Articles of the Year Awards, and four researchers received Poster Awards. JFN is the official peer-reviewed research publication of IAFN.

“Forensic nursing is driven by evidence-based practice to ensure that our patients receive the best care possible, and recognizing these scholars, educators, and clinicians for their research-based work reflects IAFN’s commitment to the advancement of forensic nursing science,” said Karin Wickwire, DNP, CRNP, CPNP-AC, SANE-A®, SANE-P®, IAFN President. “We are thrilled to honor these individuals for producing the highest-quality work that contributes to patients’ receiving the highest quality of care.”

Forensic nurses are registered nurses or advanced practice nurses who have received specialized education and training to address the acute and long-term health consequences and criminal justice needs of patients impacted by violence. A forensic nurse is often one of the first professionals to provide medical care to a victim of violence and is trained to coordinate the resources necessary to address both the medical needs of the individual, and if appropriate, the evidentiary needs of the victim for potential use in the criminal justice system.

The JFN Editorial Board selected three articles that represent the best research it published in education, research, and practice in 2024.

- The JFN Practice Article of the Year was awarded to “Mindfulness-Based Self-Care for Forensic Nurses: A Professional Lifestyle Approach,” authored by Dr. Muna Bhattarai, Dr. Paul Thomas Clements, and Dr. Nancy R. Downing. Dr. Bhattarai is Assistant Professor at Texas Christian University.
- The JFN Education Article of the Year was awarded to “The Importance of Multidisciplinary Trauma-Informed Training in Addressing Campus-Based Sexual Violence,” authored by Dr. Candice Selwyn, Dr. Sarah Koon-Magnin, Victoria Dixon, and Dr. Alison Rudd. Dr. Selwyn is Research Assistant Professor, College of Nursing at the University of South Alabama.

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***Research. Educate. Lead.***

- The JFN Research Article of the Year was awarded to “Do Concerns About Police Reporting Vary by Assault Characteristics? Understanding the Non-Reporting Decisions of Sexual Assault Victims Who Utilize Alternative Reporting Options,” authored by Dr. Rachael Goodman-Williams, Dr. Jessica Volz, and Samantha Smith. Dr. Goodman-Williams is Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology at Wichita State University. “The work of these award-winning authors reflects their commitment to research and the Journal of Forensic Nursing’s mission of disseminating cutting-edge forensic nursing scholarship,” said JFN Editor-in-Chief Carolyn Porta, PhD, MPH, RN, SANE-A, FAAN, FNAP. “Each author exemplifies our goal to bring advances in science, practice, and policy that directly and positively impact the work and well-being every forensic nurse. Ultimately, that information will inspire questions, ideas, and solutions for our tomorrows.”

The IAFN Research Task Force selected Poster Awards among all research abstracts selected for poster presentations during the conference.

- First Place Poster Award was presented to Crystal Conner, MSN, RNC-OB, CA-CP and Nancy R Downing, PhD, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, FAAN for “Emergency Contraceptives: Are all Pills Alike?”. Conner is a clinical coach at Texas A&M and a nurse at Baylor Scott & White Health. Downing is a professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Nursing in Fort Worth.
- The Second Place Poster Award was presented to Lauren E. Orr, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN. for “Nursing Care for the Sexual Assault Patient using Trauma-Informed Care: Development of Simulation Curriculum.” She is a clinical nurse education at Children’s Health in Arlington, Tx.
- The Third Place Poster Award was presented to Adenike Gbadebo, DNP, FNP-C, SANE-A for “The Intersection of Brain Injury, Strangulation and Intimate Partner Violence.” She is a forensic nurse at the Aultman Health Foundation in Akron, Ohio.

The International Association of Forensic Nurses is a professional organization of 6,000 nurses who provide specialized healthcare for patients impacted by violence. 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. For more information, visit [forensicnurses.org](http://forensicnurses.org).

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