

## COUPN Awards 2011

### Message from the Chair

Welcome to the fourth annual Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing Awards Ceremony. We are gathered to celebrate the hard work, innovation and passion of faculty members, students and those who support Ontario's university programs in nursing.

COUPN is pleased to honor ten award recipients in the areas of teaching excellence, teaching innovation, student excellence, and contribution to nursing education.

Thank you for taking the time to join us today to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of nursing educators, students and supporters and to recognize the achievements of these leaders in nursing education.



Catherine Tompkins  
Chair, COUPN

*The COUPN Awards Selection Committee would like to thank those who submitted nominations; the level of excellence demonstrated by all the nominees was exemplary.*

COUNCIL OF  
**ONTARIO UNIVERSITY  
PROGRAMS IN NURSING**

*An Affiliate of the Council of Ontario Universities*

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**ONTARIO UNIVERSITY  
PROGRAMS IN NURSING**

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*Fourth Annual*  
**COUPN Awards  
Ceremony**

**April 28, 2011  
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**



**Celebrating Excellence  
in Nursing Education  
and Scholarship**

### Agency Recognition Award

**Women's College Hospital**, Ontario's first and only ambulatory care hospital whose main focus is women's health, has consistently demonstrated a passion for the nursing profession. As a teaching hospital, it is taking a leading role in training future healthcare providers within an ambulatory setting. Clinical placements within nursing is no exception, with student placements occurring in clinics for environmental health, family practice, wound care, and cardiac rehabilitation to name a few. The preceptors involved with the placements are knowledgeable, supportive, caring role models who are dedicated to providing a positive experience for students entering the nursing profession.

### Doctoral Dissertation Award

**Joy Noël-Weiss'** thesis work explores the relationship between fluids given to women during parturition and weight loss in the neonate for the first two weeks. Her research presented several challenges which, in overcoming, further exemplify her excellent academic abilities and passion for the subject matter. Her findings have significant implications for nursing science, knowledge and practice, and will facilitate improved maternal and newborn health.

### Award for Excellence in Collaborative Education

**Diane Alain** has made a significant contribution to the University of Ottawa's francophone collaborative program with La Cité collégiale. First becoming involved with collaborative efforts in the 1990s, she has been the only La Cité professor teaching in the BScN program at the university for the past decade. She is also involved with the University of Ottawa's English collaborative program with Algonquin College. She is described as an inspiring instructor, teaching both theory and clinical courses, who is compassionate and mindful of the needs of her students and coworkers.

### Award for Excellence in Professional Nursing Practice at the Undergraduate Student Level

**Margaret Saari** has demonstrated excellence in nursing practice through her medical-surgical placement through the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. She is consistently proving herself to be a caring, dedicated nurse who engages her patients in their own health and recovery and is willing to go the

extra mile. This commitment also extends to her fellow classmates and coworkers, as she never hesitates to offer assistance where needed. Margaret is also actively involved within the nursing community at her university. She is the official delegate for the Canadian Nursing Students' Association as well as the liaison for the University of Toronto Chapter of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

### Excellence in Teaching Award

**Christine Jonas-Simpson**, Assistant Professor at the York University School of Nursing, is a nurse educator, professor, coach, and mentor whose teaching philosophy begins with four simple words: "I love to teach." Her desire to create a safe, fun learning space in which she engages her students in teaching-learning through use of dialogue, discussion and the arts is clearly evident in their evaluations of her. She is praised for creating a personal connection with her lectures, and for her enthusiasm in wanting her students to succeed. She is an approachable educator who challenges her students to broaden their way of thinking, expects the best of them, and in return gives the best of herself in everything she does.

### Master's Student Award of Excellence

**Jeannette Lindenbach's** research project for the MScN program at Laurentian University's School of Nursing tackles an issue that is a growing concern in society, yet remains difficult to detect. As a clinician with experience dealing with the care of the elderly, she discovered a need to identify and validate an instrument that would aid nurses in detecting elder mistreatment risk. Her research looked at nursing practice, education research and administration opportunities, and has resulted in the "Risk Factors of Elder Mistreatment" screen tool (RFEM). This important instrument will have substantial, positive implications for the nursing profession.

### New Tenure Stream Faculty Contribution Award

**Marilou Gagnon**, new to her position as Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa, has already demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to her students. She encourages learners to be actively involved in the learning process, and takes value in all feedback they provide. As a

researcher she is dedicated and meticulous, and encourages these principles in her students. She never misses an opportunity to familiarize her students with the research process, often engaging them in her own projects, and providing guidance in defining their own goals.

### Preceptor Recognition Award

**Sunita Coelho**, Charge Nurse at the Wound Care Centre at Women's College Hospital in Toronto, is an experienced preceptor who employs her skills and knowledge to encourage student learning. She engages the students in patient care planning, challenging them to expand their thinking and assumptions and providing them with helpful feedback, creating a positive learning experience. She is an excellent role model, and is passionate about her work.

### Award for Strategic Contribution to Nursing Education

This year's Award for Strategic Contribution to Nursing Education is being given to **Sandra MacDonald-Rencz and the Office of Nursing Policy, Health Canada**. As the principle nurse within the federal government, Sandra works closely with members of the nursing community to ensure that accurate and current information is used to inform health policy related to nursing education and scholarship. She acts as a mentor for nursing students, ensuring learning opportunities and practicum placements for those wishing to obtain a better understanding of the role of nursing in health care policy development.

### Teaching Innovation Award

**Patricia Bradley**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Internationally Educated Nurses Program at York University's School of Nursing, has demonstrated an innovative approach to teaching throughout her career. Incorporating popular culture such as film in her graduate courses on education, utilizing technology such as large-group conference calls, and employing experiential learning techniques such as reality-based games and art expression, she creates a rich learning experience that engages students and pushes them to strive for excellence.