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Dr. Barbara Simmons is the director of the new Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing (APFN) Certificate Program at the UIC College of Nursing. The program is funded by a 3-year grant from the Department of Health & Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program seeks to prepare advanced practice nurses to assist victims of crime in urban, rural and all medically underserved areas by offering a new specialty concentration in forensics for advanced practice nurses.

In addition to being director of the APFN Certificate Program, Dr. Simmons is also the coordinator for the Graduate Entry Program (GEP). She teaches a number of courses, including Pathophysiology and Applied Pharmacology, to both GEP and undergraduate students, and she is a clinical instructor for GEP students.

Outside of UIC, Dr. Simmons spends her time helping her dad, gardening, and babysitting her beautiful new granddaughter, who is already walking!

APFN Certificate Program Completes First Course

The APFN Certificate is an online graduate program sponsored by the UIC College of Nursing. The program's courses allow current and future advanced practice nurses to build on their individual specialties and interests with a forensic focus. Knowledge gained from the program enables students to better deal with the physical, psychological and legal implications of violence.

Students who complete the 4-course series (3 online courses and 1 practicum component for a total of 12 credits) will have earned a certificate from the UIC College of Nursing.

The program offered its first course (NUSC 536: Forensic Nursing Science) during the Spring 2008 semester to 14 graduate students in a range of specialties, including mental health, women's health, school nursing, and nursing education.

The course's instructor, Dr. Jenifer Markowitz (see Spotlight article, p. 2), is a visiting professor from Cleveland, Ohio.

Topics covered in the first course included elder abuse, child abuse, domestic and intimate partner violence, human trafficking, correctional nursing, and ethical concerns in forensic nursing, just to name a few.

Each online course in the certificate program requires participation in two on-campus seminar days, during which the students interact with each other, Dr. Markowitz, and guest speakers to enhance the learning process of such a diverse field of nurses.

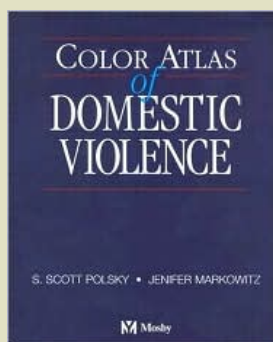
If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Melissa Hernandez (pmhern@uic.edu or 312-355-2605).



APFN Program's first cohort

Spotlight

Jenifer Markowitz, ND, RNC, WHNP, SANE-A, comes to UIC College of Nursing from Ohio, where she is currently a forensic consultant. She taught the APFN program's first certificate course (NUSC 536: Forensic Nursing Science) in the Spring while continuing her other roles as Project Manager for the National Sexual Violence SANE Sustainability Resource Center, Project Director for the International Association of Sexual Violence Primary Forensic Nurses Prevention Grant, Consultant for The DOVE Program Development & Clinical Education, and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University of Nursing (Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing).



Dr. Markowitz's 2004 publication was the first text to comprehensively look at injuries resulting from domestic violence.

Prior to teaching at UIC, Dr. Markowitz wore many more hats, including Coordinator of The DOVE Program-Victim Services, and Coordinator of The DOVE Program-Domestic Violence Program.

In 2004, Dr. Markowitz was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow by the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

Dr. Markowitz presented all three of the Forensic Nursing Grand Rounds last fall, as an introduction to forensic nursing, assessing for and addressing domestic violence in the healthcare setting, and addressing sexual assault and abuse of the elderly.

When she is not busy teaching or consulting, Dr. Markowitz enjoys dining out and writing about her experiences on her food blog.

Forensic Grand Rounds: A Recap

Last Spring, the APFN Certificate Program sponsored a series of Grand Rounds on various areas of health care in which nursing and forensics intersect. The following is a brief overview of what was presented.

- Carl Bell, MD
 - * Historical perspective of mental health care for underserved populations.
 - * Stagnant nature of health disparities in the last few decades.
 - * Structural and social forces that continue to drive poor health care for underserved populations.
 - * Future of health disparities.



Dr. Carl Bell with Grand Rounds attendees.

- Colleen O'Brien, RN, MS, SANE-A, SANE-P
 - * History and defining moments of forensic nursing.
 - * Subspecialties in forensic nursing.
- Julie Garner-Teno, RN, BSN, TNS, SANE-A
 - * History and definition of sexual assault nurse examiners.
 - * Process of certification by the International Association of Forensic Nurses.
- Mary Muse, RN, MS, CCHP-A
 - * History of correctional health care.
 - * Evolvement of correctional nursing practice.
 - * Current research in correctional nursing.

Many people from the CON community and beyond attended these lectures. We are looking forward to another wonderful series next semester. Please look for the Fall Grand Rounds schedule on our Web site in September.

Student Corner

By Jennifer Baxter, RN, BSN
Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing Certificate Student



Jen and her photographs at last year's Arts Day at the College of Nursing.

I joined the UIC College of Nursing community last year. Moving from my hometown of New York City was difficult at first, but I quickly met some wonderful people that made my transition much easier. After a year here, I can comfortably call Chicago my new home.

Nursing was a second career for me. My first degree was a bachelor's in Art History and Photography from Princeton University in New Jersey. After working in the very fast-paced world of commercial photography in NY, I felt a need to do something a little different with my career and life. I attended New York University and graduated in 2005 with a BSN.

I am currently in the BSN-PhD program here at UIC. Initially, having a concentration in Maternal-Child Health was as much as I could commit to as the focus of my research. However, last Spring, after attending the Forensic Grand Rounds, I quickly realized the need for violence prevention and that I needed to do my part by researching how to incorporate it into nursing for better patient outcomes. I joined the Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing Certificate Program as both a student and a research assistant. The program has helped me identify a more specific direction for my research. Currently, I hope to look at the issues of violence against women during pregnancy and methods to prevent it. The forensic courses will give me the tools of this nursing specialty that I will need for my dissertation and for my future career in research.

Activism: UIC Marches to End Violence

A group of APFN certificate program participants took part in the national Take Back the Night march in April. We joined Feminists United and Men Against Violence (two campus student organizations) for the night of awareness and activism.

The candlelight vigil, empowering chants, and march from UIC's East to West Campus were intended to reclaim the night from violence and fear and to memorialize those who have had their rights violated. The march marked the final UIC event for Sexual Assault Awareness month (April).



Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A) certification course this summer 2008 at UIC College of Nursing

The UIC College of Nursing and the Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing certificate program will be offering a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner for Adults and Adolescents (SANE-A) course August 18-22, 2008. The overwhelming need for this program in Chicago came to the attention of Dr. Barbara Simmons when one of her former students had to travel to Indiana for the closest available course.

A SANE-A is an RN that has been specially trained to provide comprehensive care to the sexual assault patient, demonstrates competency in conducting a medical forensic examination, and has the training to be an expert witness.

The course will be offered free of charge to the 50 participants. SANE-A certification is offered by the International Association of Forensic Nurses (www.iafn.org).



APFN Certificate Program 2008 Conferences

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Next Issue:

- **IAFN conference highlights:**
Students and faculty from the APFN certificate program will be attending the International Association of Forensic Nurses Scientific Assembly in Dallas, Texas, in September. Drs. Simmons and Markowitz will be presenting a poster, and Dr. Markowitz will also be a speaker.
- **IAFN Illinois chapter formation progress:**
We plan on forming the first Illinois chapter of the IAFN this summer. More details to come!
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month:**
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The APFN certificate program will be sponsoring various events on UIC's East and West campuses.

National Association of
Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Nashville, TN
April 14-17



American College of
Nurse-Midwives
Boston, MA
May 23-29



American Academy of
Nurse Practitioners
National Harbor, MD
June 26-July 1



National Association of
Hispanic Nurses
Boston, MA
July 15-18



National Black
Nurses Association
Las Vegas, NV
August 4-8



International Association of
Forensic Nurses
Dallas, TX
September 17-20



Emergency Nurses Association
Minneapolis, MN
September 25-27



National Commission on
Correctional Health Care
Chicago, IL
October 18-22



Advanced Practice Forensic Nurse Certificate Program

UIC COLLEGE OF
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO NURSING



The goal of this online certificate program is to educate and prepare advanced practice nurses to assist victims of violent crime across the lifespan

Ranked Top 10

Consistently ranked nationally among top 10 colleges of nursing by *U.S. News & World Report*.

For More Information

www.uic.edu/nursing/forensics