



From the President

Springing Ahead with Momentum!

What an exciting and energizing quarter it has been for the Academy of Forensic Nursing! As we leap into spring, I'm thrilled to report that our AFN Regional Conference: Southeast in Atlanta, GA is just about sold out—an incredible testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of our members. The lineup of speakers promises depth, expertise, and innovation in forensic nursing practice. I sincerely hope these incredible presenters will consider transforming their knowledge into manuscripts for submission to the *Journal of the Academy of Forensic Nursing* so that even more of us can benefit from their insights.

Can't make it to Atlanta? Don't worry! Mark your calendars for our upcoming **AFN Regional Conference: Midwest in Chicago this July**. It's another fantastic opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with your colleagues in the field.

As we move into April, my presidential focus shifts to something crucial for all of us: **certification**. I encourage every member to visit the Forensic Nursing Certification Board website at <https://goforensicncb.org> to see if you qualify for either the Generalist or Advanced Certified Forensic Nurse exam. The **Interpersonal Violence Strangulation Evaluation – Certified (IVSE-C)** credential is a micro-certification designed for licensed Registered Nurses (RNs) and **Advanced Practice Nurses** practicing in forensic nursing or its subspecialties. This certification focuses on equipping nurses with specialized knowledge and skills to care for individuals affected by interpersonal violence involving non-fatal strangulation.

Certification is more than a credential—it's a powerful validation of your expertise. It reinforces your role as a trusted expert witness, supports high standards in trauma-informed care, and elevates forensic nursing as a specialized, evidence-based profession. It also opens doors for career advancement and contributes to the standardization we need across our practice areas.

Lastly, don't forget—we have **incredibly active Committees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** just waiting for your energy and perspective. Whether you're interested in education, research, advocacy, or any of our specialty areas, there's a place for you to get involved and make a difference.

As we *spring ahead* as an Academy, make the most of your membership! Enjoy the *Journal*, tune in to our *Bell Work Talks* podcast and *bi-weekly webinars*, and stay tuned for **exciting new educational offerings** on the horizon.

Warmly,

Paul

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