



REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES'  
FOUNDATION INC.

## PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS MANITOBA AWARDS of EXCELLENCE

### SPECIAL EDITION

While this year, the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation Incorporated's (RPNF) annual scholarship and award reception is cancelled due to *Covid-19*, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the *2020 RPNF scholarship and award recipients*.

This year, the RPNF is allocating \$4,500.00 in scholarships and is awarding two Awards of Psychiatric Nursing Excellence in the areas of Leadership and Clinical Practice.

### 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

Scholarships are awarded to Students of Psychiatric Nursing and Registered Psychiatric Nurses who have met specified criteria and are enrolled in approved and appropriate under-graduate, or graduate education programs which advance the profession of psychiatric nursing;

#### Manitoba Scholarships

***John Kellie Scholarship - \$500:*** Awarded to a 3rd year student in the baccalaureate program at Brandon University, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

#### Joslin Mamuruc



Joslin is a third year BScPN student in Brandon, hails from the Philippines. She started work in Canada in retail where she developed excellent communication skills. Joslin has also been a research assistant for Health Studies and was cited as an Outstanding Female Student during International Women's Day. She participates in a number of volunteer activities related to mental health and hopes to work with the immigrant population.

***Kay Armstrong Scholarship - \$500:*** Awarded to a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in the baccalaureate program at Brandon University, with a GPA of 3.0:

Adefemi Aderounma



Adefemi, a fourth-year student in the BScPN at the Winnipeg site and received a Kay Armstrong Scholarship. Adefemi is from Nigeria where he had taught physics. Since coming to Canada, he has held positions as a security guard and health care aide. He is the student representative on the Health Studies policy committee. Adefemi volunteers at Misericordia Spiritual care centre where he works collaboratively with other team members. All these experiences will help him in his career as a psychiatric nurse. As well as clinical work he hopes to engage in policy development and continuing education.

Janaya Rieger



Janaya is a fourth-year student in the BScPN at the Winnipeg site. She describes herself as a mature student who worked in the restaurant industry where she developed leadership, coordination and decision-making skills which she feels will benefit her in psychiatric nursing practice. Janaya also volunteered on the Bike Ride for the MS Society and was a teaching and research assistant during her BA at U of W. Her career goals are to work in the field of addictions and to develop prevention programs.

***Marlene Fitzsimmons Scholarship - \$500:*** Awarded to a RPN registered in Manitoba who is enrolled in a relevant certificate course or, who is presenting a paper at a local, national or international conference.

Stephanie Lukin (with a colleague Niki Gagnon)



Presented a paper at the Early Psychosis Intervention Ontario Network conference in Toronto on Early Intervention needs of a rural region.

## National Scholarships

**Annette Osted Scholarship - \$500:** Awarded to a 3rd or 4th year student enrolled in a baccalaureate psychiatric nursing education program in Canada. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

### Janaya Rieger



Janaya is a fourth-year student in the BScPN at the Winnipeg site. She describes herself as a mature student who worked in the restaurant industry where she developed leadership, coordination and decision-making skills which she feels will benefit her in psychiatric nursing practice. Janaya also volunteered on the Bike Ride for the MS Society and was a teaching and research assistant during her BA at U of W. Her career goals are to work in the field of addictions and to develop prevention programs.

**John Crawford Graduate Scholarship - \$1000:** Awarded to a graduate psychiatric nurse, registered in Canada who is pursuing relevant studies at a masters or doctoral level.

### Stacy Hanson



Stacy is from Surrey, BC, is researching the experiences and perspectives of psychiatric nurses with patient deaths due to drug overdose. She will explore, through interviews, how patient death affect the professional and personal life of nurses. She hopes the thought-provoking conversations will affect education, leadership and policy changes to support nurses, and in turn improve patient care.

**McCormick-Henry Scholarship - \$1000:** Awarded to a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Canada who is taking further studies in seniors' mental health at a masters or doctoral level or through an accredited certificate program.

### Karla Wlock



Karla is researching the moral distress among psychiatric nurses working in acute psycho geriatric units. Her research will address the question "What are the Lived Experiences of Psychiatric Nurses working in Acute Psychogeriatric units?" She hopes to identify the resources psychiatric nurses use in confronting moral distress and influence education and policies on ways to support psychiatric nurses on psychogeriatric units experiencing moral distress.

## 2020 MANITOBA AWARDS of EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

The Awards of Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Practice are presented to Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) who are practising in Manitoba to acknowledge contributions of RPNs to the profession within the four domains of psychiatric nursing practice: leadership, clinical, education and research. This year we are presenting two awards; one in leadership and one in clinical.

### Leadership Award

#### \*Uzoma Asagwara



“Uzoma is an excellent Registered Psychiatric Nurse. They provided excellent front-line nursing services at Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, and the Selkirk Mental Health Centre (SMHC) for many years. Through informal leadership, in these organizations, Uzoma mentored entry to practice nurses, nursing students, and "roles in SMHC's ECT department, as well as providing training to nurses in assessment and intervention for substance use disorder. Although their frontline practice was exceptional, it is their advocacy and community development work that sets them apart from their peers.

Uzoma is a founding member of the organization Queer People of Colour (QPOC). QPOC is a community activist group that strives to create safer spaces for where Queer and Trans People of Colour feel represented, respected and inspired. Uzoma is a leader in the 2SLGBTQI+ community, and is a shining example of respectful, assertive, and effective activism.

Uzoma was recently elected the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding of Union Station, in downtown Winnipeg, and Health Critic in the shadow cabinet of the Manitoba NDP opposition. They are among the first 3 black people to hold the office of MLA in Manitoba. They are one of the first few RPNs to hold provincial office in Manitoba's history. In their role as MLA and Health Critic, Uzoma works daily to ensure that government is accountable to the patients in Manitoba hospitals, clinics, and other health services, and ensures that the government keeps patient safety and quality care as priorities. As part of this work, Uzoma has tabled bill 205, which seeks to ensure that health authorities are transparent about the use of mandatory overtime for nurses, ensures that mandatory overtime is used only as a last resort, rather than a routine staffing tool, and seeks to prevent repercussions for nurses who prioritize patient safety by refusing to work unsafe overtime. In addition, Uzoma understands that crime, poverty, and substance use are public health issues, and is a vocal proponent of investments in housing, social services, harm reduction, and other interventions that seek to create fair, equitable, and just care for all Manitobans. They have spoken at length in the legislative assembly about the importance of a coordinated government response to the upswing in methamphetamine use in Manitoba and are a strong voice in the opposition's push for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) to be included in the provincial formulary and available to everyone who needs it.”

(Source: Nominator's Submission)

## Clinical Award

### Wendy Bancescu



“Wendy graduated from Brandon Mental Health Center (BMHC) Psychiatric Nursing program in 1984. Initially and briefly she worked in a geriatric setting at which time she solidly declared her goal of working with children and youth. This came to fruition in 1985 when she began at the Adolescent Day Treatment Program at BMHC. Her clinical skills developed early and she was recognized as a gifted clinician by children, families, and colleagues.

Her commitment to ongoing development leads her to the role of working in Health Promotion as a Community Mental Health Worker. At which time she successfully completed her Provincial Community Mental Health Modules.

Leaving the security of the Provincial Government, Wendy took the risk and joined fellow RPN’s in private practice at Foster Counselling. At Foster counselling she delivered a variety of individual and family counselling services. In her role there she was instrumental in developing a social skills program for Fort la Bosse.

Through her passion and skill of working with children, and her pride of profession she promoted herself and was then hired as the first RPN counsellor with the Fort la Bosse School Division in 2007 ( possibly first in the province) Wendy, as a member of the student support team provides direct service to students, and their families. In addition to her large case load she is an active participant and leader in the division’s social justice committee, mental health and wellness committee, trauma team, and is the trainer of Non Violent Crisis Intervention .She is recognized as a key consultant within the division and is always a strong advocate for students. This includes being a significant resource in linking the student to external resources. Additionally, she organizes wellness days, breakfast program, and supports all areas of mental wellness with in the schools.

A quote from her current supervisor summarizes it best. “Wendy is an asset to our Fort la Bosse team and has developed the student support worker role to one that is both respected and admired throughout the division. She promotes effective interpersonal development and supports/facilitates specialized programs. Wendy has developed and implemented training and /or provided support to staff to meet the needs of the children. She is a great team member and a pleasure to work with. Always positive, makes authentic connections with staff and students, mindful and respectful. Excellent collaboration with staff, excellent rapport with students. She actively pursues mental health supports for all students, willing to adjust her schedule to meet needs, respectful of family dynamics across many cultures. She participates in professional development, is professionally discreet, and has an uplifting presence”



Wendy demonstrates exemplary commitment to ethical practice. She finds the balance in her role as a clinician where she is delivering service in the same community where she lives and where she and her husband have raised their three daughters.

She has skillfully developed her ability to maintain her own mental health which includes practising many of the same methods of self-care she promotes with others. "She walks the talk"

Wendy is a visionary, always enthusiastic, and creative in her ability to build rapport with children, families, peers and the community at large. Through trust building, confidentiality, and empowerment she promotes positive thinking and self-esteem. Through humor, genuine caring, and ability to engage in a respectful manner, she has developed great skill in bringing out the very best in all that she interacts with. No challenge is too great.

She is a pioneer in promoting the role of an RPN in a school environment. She has remained loyal to and proud of her Psychiatric Nursing profession."

(Source: Nominator's Submission)

**We are so very proud of the scholarship and award recipients'  
accomplishments!!!**

**Join us in congratulating the winners through Facebook or check out our  
website [rpnf.ca](http://rpnf.ca)**