Celebrating Dr. Susan Johnson

Dr. Susan Johnson started her forty-year career and travels in nursing on the east coast in North Carolina. Dr. Johnson earned her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill in 1986, Master of Nursing from UW Tacoma in 2008, and a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Washington in 2013.

Dr. Johnson's interest in research began when she worked as a research assistant while in her BSN Program at UNC Chapel Hill. Susan worked as a hospital nurse in medical-surgical, oncology, and psychiatric floors in Arkansas for three years and then in medical-surgical and oncology for 20 years at Tacoma General Hospital while carrying out staff nurse and charge nurse duties.

After finishing her Master of Nursing at UW Tacoma in 2008, Dr. Johnson joined UW Tacoma's School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership (SNHCL) as a lecturer and became a doctoral student at UW Seattle. That was when Susan's interest in bullying, specifically among hospitalbased nurses, was taking root and growing which became the focus of her dissertation.

Dr. Johnson earned her PhD in 2013 and joined the SNHCL faculty as an Assistant Professor at that time, and began also to work with graduate students as she continued her research. She also was an Adjunct Assistant Professor of the Department of Psychosocial and Community Health in Seattle.

Susan's scholarly interests include occupational health, workplace bullying and incivility, environmental health, and leadership. Dr. Johnson has an extensive record in terms of presentations and publications, some of which were published in collaboration with several of her colleagues including Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew, Dr. Katie Haerling, and Dr. Weichao Yuwen. Dr. Johnson has reached national and international audience through 17 peer reviewed publications and eight book chapters and other works including over 50 peer reviewed paper/conference poster proceedings and invited lectures.

Dr. Johnson shared her expertise with SNHCL's Bachelor's, Master's and EdD students not only in her own courses but in other courses when she was invited to be an expert/guest lecturer in other professors' courses. She was always clear, focused, non-threatening, and responsive to any and all questions. Both students and faculty really appreciated her. Dr. Johnson jumped into the challenges of bullying in the work place with many presentations in regional and statewide health care organizations from Valley Medical Center to Swedish and in educational institutions like South Puget Sound Community College as well as Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA). Susan shared her expertise and commitment to addressing bullying and building compassion at all levels, from UW Tacoma's classroom to all over the world. Although Dr. Johnson was focused on research, teaching, and service in the South Puget Sound, her participation in conferences abroad enabled her to share her expertise in countries like Netherlands, France, Ireland, New Zealand, Italy, Wales, Italy, Israel, China, Canada as well as in many locations all across the United States.

Dr. Johnson was recognized for her work with the distinguished Dissertation Award from UW Seattle and the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award in the category of New Generation. She has received funding and awards for travel as well as a Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) award for academic achievement.

Susan's service to SNHCL and UW Tacoma is significant and consistent. Dr. Johnson also served at the UW system level, as a royalty research fund reviewer. Additionally, she shared her expertise with Sigma Theta Tau, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and International Association of Workplace Bullying and Harassment extending the research of her work.

When Dr. Johnson retires in June 2024, the next phase of her journey will take her to Alaska to be closer to her family. We wish her new adventures and many more ribbons to add to her collection of accomplishments in triathlons and races! Congratulations to Dr. Johnson on her retirement!