

Message from your Outgoing President

It has been quite a year –full of challenges, new experiences, surprises, hard work and collaborations with some of the smartest people I have ever had the fortune to meet. What a unique opportunity!

I have witnessed many ISPN members invest their time, talent and treasure in support of our organization and their commitment was inspiring. Each of you who have served on committees that kept the organization moving forward, know that I thank you and appreciate the work you have done and continue to do. Those of you who have stepped up to assume leadership of committees, special interest groups, subgroups and taskforces, I recognize that you carved out time from your busy lives to use your special skills to lead the organization toward its best future. Our board, learned, investigated, brainstormed, laughed, problem solved, celebrated and sometimes commiserated together as we met the next task or challenge or responsibility that our membership trusted us to address. There were many who helped me during this past year; some of whom were new or continuing board members – Julie Bertram, Shawn Gallagher, Ukamaka Oruche and Andrea Kwasky. Our collaborations were ones that always uplifted and energized me and helped me strive to do my best knowing that these individuals were my supports and together we would keep moving forward.

During this year, our board has worked closely with the ISPN foundation to support our educational mission. The Foundation has a laser focus not only on meeting the educational needs of our

members and students, it also cares deeply about sustainability and the ethics inherent in its role as our foundation. The foundation and its leadership under Peggy Delaney have been exemplars of diligence and commitment.

As I became the new President, I had the benefit of support and insights from ISPN Past President, Steven Pryjmachuk. I don't think he fully realized how much support he was. Thank you Steven.

Although we were both learning along the way, Jessica Retzlaff, ISPN Executive Director, was energetic, knowledgeable and a delight to work with. Jessica was always willing to investigate, organize and adapt which was invaluable as the board and I navigated through this year.

As President I placed emphasis on communication with our membership and those who do (or might wish to) collaborate with our organization. I hope those communications informed, enlightened and engaged. Lastly, I wanted to highlight the uniqueness of our organization's focus on diversity and internationality and resulting social justice responsibility. We have accomplished much in these areas during the past year as a result of the commitment of our membership. I am so proud of their efforts.

ISPN is now under the leadership of our new President, Dr. Deborah Johnson. I hope to maintain the same tradition of support for her as was provided to me. Again we move forward. Thank you for this once in a lifetime experience. I am forever grateful.