

CJNR Reviewer of the Year: Dr. Sally Thorne for the Year 2006

The time has come once again for us to choose, from among all our reviewers across Canada and the world, one for special recognition. As our editorials over the last few years have made clear, we are well aware that the quality of the articles in *CJNR* hinges on the time and energy that reviewers put into helping us and the authors get the right articles into print and making sure that those articles are as strong as they can be. In selecting a Reviewer of the Year, we look for someone who has consistently responded to our requests to read and comment on submitted papers, but also someone who has written particularly helpful, high-quality reviews over the preceding year and who has been supportive of *CJNR*'s mission over the long haul.

This year, we found all of those qualities in Sally Thorne, PhD, RN, FCAHS, Professor and Director of the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Dr. Thorne's research focuses on the human experience of chronic illness and cancer, especially as it intersects with the structural and ideological underpinnings of the health-care delivery system. Her active community involvement helps her scholarship to bridge the gap between the theoretical enterprise and social action and policy processes. Dr. Thorne is an expert in the application of qualitative research methodologies to health and health-care problems, and of late she has been analyzing the nature of knowledge claims in evidence-based health-care decision-making. She is both a longstanding contributor to Canadian nursing and a key figure in nursing knowledge internationally. For decades Dr. Thorne has been publishing articles and books that have been read by students and scholars around the world. Her productivity and her passion for nursing science are legendary. That this senior, very busy scholar and director of a leading nursing school continues to review for us speaks volumes about her commitment to scholars at all stages in their careers, to *CJNR*, and to the Canadian nursing research community. In fact, Dr. Thorne has twice served as Guest Editor for *CJNR*'s focus issue on Chronic Illness.

Our experience and the literature on peer review show that extensive research experience and a long track record in publishing are no guarantee that a reviewer will write complete, helpful reviews. Dr. Thorne, however, brings the full breadth of her expertise to the task of reviewing. Her reviews are detailed, thoughtful, scholarly, and unfailingly collegial. Here, in Dr. Thorne's own words, are her sources of satisfaction as a reviewer:

For me, reviewing is an opportunity to enter into a conversation with authors, helping them appreciate the effect that their arguments have on readers and encouraging them to strive toward higher levels of clarity and coherence. While the discovery of a truly wonderful submission is a reviewer's delight, some of the most satisfying experiences derive from finding the "teachable moment" within a struggling submission such that the critical review makes a genuine contribution to the development of a successful paper.

On behalf of the entire team at *CJNR*, I'd like to thank Dr. Thorne for her exemplary reviews, her support for our journal, and her willingness to fit us and our authors into her busy schedule and her exceptionally rich career.

Sean P. Clarke
Associate Editor