



Ruth Downing,
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Forensic Healthcare Consulting Services:

- **Education/Seminars** — all are multi-disciplinary and customizable to any setting or need
- **Consulting** — Assist in: initiating, evaluating, and developing SANE & Forensic programs/services
- **Expert Testimony** — screen, identify, and prepare vital case facts

Meet Ruth!

Currently she's a family nurse practitioner in an urgent care, but has been an RN for over 30 years, and a forensic nurse since '99. Ruth has a vision of augmenting communication between the healthcare and legal communities to improve the response to victims of violence. She is very active in local & national efforts.

Upcoming Seminars!

- **May 6 & 7** (Topics Include: Identify/Documentation, Elder Abuse, Courtroom Testimony, Stalking, Vicarious Trauma)
Register online at our website!



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It has been an exciting few months here at Forensic Healthcare Consulting. Ruth presented at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence in New Orleans. This was a workshop on strangulation with amazing co-presenters Gael Strack from San Diego's Family Justice Center, and Dr. Jacqueline Campbell from John Hopkins University. She also spoke on Female Genital Mutilation at the 17th Annual International

Preparing for Peru 2010!

Plans for Peru 2010 are very exciting. We are currently making arrangements to bring child sexual abuse experts with us to accelerate the trainings. More to come on this exciting collaborative effort to address child maltreatment in Huánuco, Peru.

By the way, we are looking for interpreters to accompany us to Peru. If you know anyone fluent in Latin American Spanish, send them my way! Fundraising efforts are underway and information is available on our website at www.forensichealthcare.com. Another way to be a part of this exciting work in Peru is through giving monetary contributions.

The pace is exhilarating, but it is so important to share this with other healthcare professionals who can really make a difference addressing the medical and legal issues of our patients. **Healthcare is truly the missing link in seeking justice for our patients!**



Welcome!

Many of you have been waiting for our first newsletter, so here it is!

New Seminars - Update On FHC Preparing For Peru 2010

Association of Forensic Nurses' Scientific Assembly in Atlanta, the 20th Annual Facets of Critical Care Nursing Conference, Ohio Association of Free Clinics 10th Annual Conference and family nurse practitioner students at The Ohio State University. Ruth will be providing SANE training in February and a strangulation training in Missoula, Montana in April (is there snow in Montana in April? Drop an email and let her know).

Why Attend FHC Seminars

When caring for a patient with medical/legal issues, do you wonder if there is more you should do for them? Do you worry about their safety when they return to an abusive environment? Are you uncertain how to document their history and assessment? Who can you refer them to? Does the idea of testifying in court make you sweat?!?

Our seminars address your fears; explain the importance of testimony from healthcare providers; and provide the tools needed to testify in court with confidence. Most importantly we address the hard questions head on, and clarify the healthcare provider's legal responsibilities of screening, documenting and reporting.

New Seminars Forming

Visit the FHC Website for all details at www.forensichealthcare.com

It's wonderful to see the positive responses from nurses who've wanted to address these difficult issues with their patients, but were just not sure how. Knowledge of these forensic issues is very powerful, and provides those on the frontlines with the tools needed to address these difficult issues confidently. (It also calms the fears of testifying in court.) For those who've enjoyed our seminars, send us your feedback - we'll post them on the FHC website!

Pass this newsletter on to your fellow nurses, physicians, EMTs, social workers and advocates. Also, send to your education directors. In order to continue to provide quality seminars and educational opportunities we need your help spreading the word (we are not grant funded). Together, let's improve the healthcare response to victim of violence in our communities!