

## IAFN's Spotlight-on-a-Member



**Michelle Gorman**

**LOCATION:** Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom

**WORK SETTING:** A Children's Center

**FORENSIC NURSING EXPERIENCE:** 9 years as an on call support nurse within a sexual assault referral centre. 6 months as an examiner.

**YEARS OF IAFN MEMBERSHIP:** One-year

### **Tell us more about your forensic nursing role:**

In August I relocated from Glasgow to Norfolk in order to commence a role for a one year pilot as a paediatric sexual assault nurse examiner. My professional qualifications include: PgC, BA(Hons), BSc, BSc, Dip He Adult Nursing, Di He Midwifery, SCPHN, Independent Nurse Prescriber. I am also currently studying for my PgD.

### **Why did they become a forensic nurse or decided to work with forensic nurses?**

In Scotland, nurses cannot examiner adults or pediatrics so after working as a support nurse for a number of years and loving it, I decided to find out how I could begin to do the work myself.

### **What do they enjoy most about forensic nursing, or why they continue to work in the forensic nursing field?**

Forensic nursing in a sexual assault setting utilises every single skill we have as nurses. I get an immense amount of satisfaction from knowing that everyone leaves my care knowing I have done the best I possible can for them. It both challenges and interests me. It is knowing we as nurses can have such a huge positive impact that keeps me going, especially when the odds are stacked against nurses doing this role in Scotland.

### **Sheila Early shares her reasoning behind "Spotlighting" Michelle:**

I connected with Michelle when she inquired about forensic nursing via IAFN website and encouraged her to apply for the Conference Grant in 2015 which she did and was one recipient of a grant. So I got to meet her in Orlando. Why I chose to Spotlight her is that she has impressed me so much with her determination to become a pediatric examiner despite obstacles in her way. She also traveled from the UK to North America to learn more about forensic nursing and connect with other forensic nurses who share her desire to make a difference in the lives of the children she cares for. Michelle also has a wonderful sense of humor which I am sure keeps her grounded as she continues her journey in forensic nursing!! She is a very special young woman and I am so glad to have met her.

