**Pat Wright – Nomination Statement**

**Nominated by: Margreet de Pater**

**Seconded by: Julie Kipp**

I heard about ISPS in 2011 when I was searching for resources because my son had been hospitalized for psychosis in 2009. I was shocked since he’d been in gifted programs, played sports and was well liked by friends and teachers. I was thrilled to find people who could give me hope that life could be meaningful with (maybe because of) experiencing extreme states. I contacted our ISPS-US chapter director and inquired about having a meeting at the Chicago conference fall 2012. Our first family meeting happened and I became excited about the possibilities. Next I contacted the International coordinator, Antonia, to ask about establishing an email loop to network with International families. Before the International ISPS conference in NY in 2015, a professor, Lois Oppenhiem, contacted me after reading my newsletter article on families. We created a family panel with 3 others. During the conference I was asked to help build a family network for ISPS-US. I felt honored-and overwhelmed - and 4 years later I’m amazed at the incredible people I’ve met from around the world who could discuss not only medications (including disadvantages) and hospitalization but alternative forms of healing.

I’m glad ISPS is prioritizing people with family background; for so long families have felt either blamed for problems (especially Mothers) or neglected. Family members met informally at the 2017 Liverpool Conference to discuss our concerns about; how we can be supportive of each other, take care of ourselves, and insure our loved ones are treated with dignity while voicing their wishes. In my vision of what’s important to establish an ISPS family focus, here are 3 goals I propose: first would be establishing partnerships with others on the Executive Committee to help integrate a family perspective within the organisation. Secondly contacting established chapters of ISPS to build a family network. Lastly, we’d create a family plan of action.

Historically family members haven’t been included, in our loved ones care although many of us have discovered how strong we really are once we assert our voices. Identifying “successful” models, (being family inclusive with both loved ones and providers) would be highlighted at conferences, in articles, and possibly webinars. Discovering other organizations we could partner with would help accomplish this goal.

On an ending note, my several years experience setting up and administering three school programs; doing outreach, taking surveys and identifying goals and strategies has provided me with many skills I would utilize in this position. Also, my living abroad for nearly two years, meeting folks from all over the world in my Airbnb and student hosting, as well as teaching families in 2 urban school districts for over 25, years have given me an appreciation of diversity in working with others from all over the world.

Jen Kilyon from the UK, and I have agreed that if one of us gets elected we’ll work together on the family agenda. I look forward to this amazing opportunity.