

Cynthia Thomas, Ph.D. (Nominee for INPEA Treasurer)

Statement: I strongly support INPEA's dedication to the prevention of elder abuse, and would welcome the opportunity to help strengthen the organization. I have been involved in helping to organize the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events for the last 3 years, beginning in Geneva, Switzerland, where I also chaired a panel on Witnessing Elder Abuse and Not Seeing a Thing.

I believe that a comprehensive and clear budget, including both expenditures and sources of income, should be submitted to the membership on a regular basis, and that procedures for deciding who can authorize expenditures need to be transparent.

I have had experience as treasurer of community groups (e.g., PTAs) as well as a professional organization.

Education: Ph.D. Political Science, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York
B.A. (cum laude), Political Science, Syracuse University
Certificat d'aptitudes linguistiques en francais, Organisation des Nations Unis

Professional Experience: Dr. Thomas is a Senior Study Director at Westat, an employee-owned research company in Rockville, MD. Westat conducts research for Federal, state, and local government agencies, private businesses, and foundations. Staff numbering over 2000 include social scientists in a variety of disciplines, evaluation methodologists, clinical research specialists, statisticians, and survey methodologists. Dr. Thomas directs projects involving complex sample designs, large data collection and training efforts, and quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Dr. Thomas has served as an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., and as visiting faculty or professorial lecturer at University College, the University of Maryland, and the University of Colorado. She has held senior positions at the National Opinion Research Center, Mathematica Policy Research, and the Urban Institute.

Dr. Thomas was responsible for sampling, data collection, and analysis for the First National Incidence Study of Elder Abuse and Neglect conducted in the United States. She directed work on the development of a public use tape (ensuring the confidentiality of the informants and others) so that other researchers could examine and study the findings. She is currently conducting a pilot study of elder abuse in Maryland nursing homes, exploring issues related to racial and ethnic differences between staff and residents.

She has completed over 75 published articles, book chapters and presentations on a wide variety of topics including elder abuse and health and aging.