SNRS is pleased to announce a new award, the SNRS Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of an individual whose established program of research has enhanced the science and practice of geriatric nursing in the Southern region. Award criteria, nomination procedures, selection process and mailing instructions are all located on the SNRS web site at http://www.snrs.org

The deadline for receipt of nomination packets is October 15, 2002.
MESSAGE FROM THE SNRS PRESIDENT

I will be representing SNRS at the State of the Science conference in Washington, D.C. September 25-28, 2002. Each regional president will be providing a report of research activities and conferences during the meeting. I will also be exhibiting for SNRS at the conference. The Board authorized the purchase of a permanent exhibit board for SNRS so that we may promote our organization at major conferences in a professional manner. I would like to thank Dr. Debra Wallace for her work in designing and securing the permanent display.

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More information is found in the newsletter about the conference. The Planning Committee is hard at work to ensure another excellent conference. Brochures will be mailed later this fall. Remember to secure your airline tickets and room reservations as soon as possible since this is the same weekend as the Daytona 500.

As most of you are aware, SNRS has entered into an agreement with Research in Nursing and Health. SNRS will have four pages in each issue. All SNRS members will be eligible to receive a discount for subscriptions. If you did not receive your discount information, you may contact John Wiley and Son at 1-800-825-7500. You will need your SNRS membership number to receive the subscription discount.

Ballots will be mailed soon. There are several important Board positions to be filled such as President-Elect, Vice President, and Board members. Each of these positions is vital to the governing decisions and daily work running our organization, so please vote to exercise your right as a SNRS member.

As announced in the spring newsletter, a potential benefit change will also be on the ballot. As President, I feel it is extremely important to have members decide if they wish to continue to have the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research as a protected site that can only be accessed by SNRS membership numbers. For the present, the password protection remains in place.

This issue is being placed on the ballot as a direct response to member concerns. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, SNRS will continue to publish the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research. This vote is only to determine if the members want to continue the password protection as a benefit of membership. This vote does not influence the new member benefit of discount subscription rate for Research in Nursing and Health. Please vote in the upcoming election!

I look forward to seeing each of you in beautiful Orlando on February 13-15, 2003.

Jean McSweeney, President

SOUTHERN NURSING RESEARCH SOCIETY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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mmiles@email.unc.edu

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Sarah Torres, PhD, RN, FAAN
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FALL 2002 • VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 2

Southern Connections

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FALL 2002 • VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 2
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2. The Southern Nursing Research Society Mission is to advance nursing research, promote dissemination and utilization of research findings, facilitate the career development of nurses as researchers, enhance communication among members, and to promote the image of nursing as a scientific discipline. The Board of Directors developed a 5-year strategic plan to support that mission. As a result several services have been developed in different formats. Please indicate your support for these below.

A. I prefer to receive the Southern Connections Newsletter in:
   - Electronic Format
   - Paper Format
   - Both

B. The Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research is an important format in which to meet the Society goals related to the use of existing technology for dissemination of research and fosters the development of skills in research dissemination among the Society members.

   How likely would you be to use this service on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most likely:

   C. The Board is considering developing special conference sessions on specific research related topics.

   How likely would you be to use this service on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most likely:

   D. The Board is considering developing methods/growwriting workshops during the summer.

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**Meet the 2003 SNRS Conference Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cornelia Beck**

Cornelia Beck, PhD, RN, FAAN, is a Professor in the Department of Geriatrics and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). A past winner of SNRS’s Distinguished Researcher Award, Dr. Beck is the Director of Research for the Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence at UAMS College of Nursing. She also directs the UAMS Alzheimer’s Disease Center (ADC), established in 2001 with funding from the National Institute on Aging and National Institutes of Health (NIH). The 29 ADCs are spread across the country but few are in the south. Dr. Beck has the distinction of being the first Director of an ADC without a medical degree. She holds a doctoral degree in nursing from the Women’s University in Denton. Since 1984, the NIH and various foundations have provided funding for her research on strategies to improve best practices in long-term care settings and non-drug interventions to alleviate problem behavior and promote functional performance in persons with dementia. To support her research, Dr. Beck has obtained over $9 million in funding from NIH alone.

Currently, she is serving as an investigator along with two professors from the University of Michigan on the first interactive project of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). The project investigates risk factors of aggression, wandering, and problematic vocalizations in nursing home residents with dementia. Dr. Beck has served on the Mental Disorders of the Elderly Study Section at NIH and on the National Advisory Council for the NINR. She currently serves on the Medical and Scientific Advisory Council of the Alzheimer’s Association.

A prolific writer, Dr. Beck has over 100 publications. She also has lectured extensively throughout the world. Dr. Beck has traveled to the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Greece, Soviet Union, Portugal, and Peoples’ Republic of China as an invited guest speaker. She has spoken at conferences sponsored by the International Society of Quality of Life Research, American Geriatrics Society, American Federation for Aging Research, Gerontological Society of America, Sigma Theta Tau International, American Nurses’ Association, and American Medical Directors Association.

Dr. Beck was honored by the American Nurses Foundation as a Distinguished Contributor to Nursing Science in 1998 and the same year, received the Doris Schwatz Gerontological Nursing Research Award from the Gerontological Society of America. More recently, she was awarded the 2001 Gerontological Nurse of the Year by the Arkansas Nurses Association. She has also been inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Her keynote address at the SNRS Annual Meeting will be an opportunity not to be missed!
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MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Communications Committee Chair (2002-2004) Jane Neese, PhD, RN, CS
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MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Research Interest Groups (2002-2004) Jerritt P. Charles, PhD, RN
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Southern Connections
CALL TO MEETING

The SNRS Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, to be held February 13 to 15, 2003 is shaping up into an exciting and stimulating event. The keynote address will be provided by Dr. Cornelia Beck, Professor in the Department of Geriatrics and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Following Dr. Beck’s presentation, there will be a panel focused on mentoring into research along the trajectory from undergraduate students to funded faculty. NIINR will be offering a pre-conference pilot workshop on Thursday morning designed to help researchers with RO1s move beyond the RO1 and into a program of research. Attendance at this workshop will be by application. Please watch for emails from SNRS and information on the web site (www.snrs.org) for more information about applying. Also on Thursday morning, doctoral students from a variety of programs within the region will be coordinating a pre-conference workshop for doctoral students and their faculty on writing an NRSA. The three-day conference in Orlando will include scientific papers, posters and symposia. There will be an opportunity for the Research Interest Groups to convene and a chance to browse through the exhibitions.

The Student Poster Session is always one of the conference highlights! Abstracts for the Student Poster Session are due October 1, 2002. Students include undergraduate to doctoral students. We urge faculty to remind and help students get their abstracts written. We encourage students to have abstracts reviewed by a faculty mentor or peers before submission. The student must be the first author but faculty can be co-investigators on the poster. Please note that there are new abstract submission guidelines posted on the SNRS home page. There are awards for the most outstanding posters announced at the conference.

The program committee for this year was approved by the SNRS Board and includes: Janice Peterson, University of Central Florida, Local Planning Chair; Elizabeth Reifsnider, University of Texas-San Antonio, past Local Planning Chair; Linda H. Freeman, University of Louisville, Local Planning Chair for 2004; Carolyn Yucha, University of Florida, member at large; Joe Burgue, University of Alabama Birmingham, member at large; Mona Newsome, Wicks University of Tennessee at Memphis, member at large; Martina Gallagher, University of Texas-San Antonio, doctoral student, and Buddy Harrington, Director of Continuing Nursing Education, University of Texas at Arlington, Margaret S. Miles, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, SNRS Vice President, is Chair. The Planning Committee and Board join me in inviting you to network with colleagues, enjoy the scientific sessions, and experience Orlando on February 13-15, 2003. We look forward to seeing you at the 2003 SNRS Annual Meeting.

Margaret Miles, PhD, RN, FAAN
Vice President