Southern Connections
SNRS Board Member
Contact Information

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President
D. Patricia (Patty) Gray
Email: dpgray@vcu.edu

Vice President
Linda Freeman
Email: lhfree01@louisville.edu

Secretary
Darlene Gilcreast
Email: gilcreast@uthscsa.edu

Treasurer
Marti Rice
Email: schauf@uab.edu

Membership Chair
Kathy Ellison
Email: elliskj@auburn.edu

Communications Chair
Cara Krulewitch
Email: krulewitch@son.umaryland.edu

RIGS Chair
Elaine J. Amella
Email: amellaej@musc.edu

Awards Chair
Patricia B. Crane
Email: pbcrane@uncg.edu

Executive Director
Davis L. Stumph
Email: dstumph@resoursecenter.com

Nominations Committee

Mary Grace Umlauf, Chair
Email: mgumlauf@uab.edu

Carrie Jo Braden
Email: bradenc@utscsa.edu

Haera Han
Email: mkim@son.jhmi.edu

Peggy O. Hewlett
Email: phewlett@son.umsmed.edu

Editor, SOJNR
Barbara Holtzclaw
bjholtzclaw@cox.net

Managing Editor, SOJNR
R. Craig Stotts
Email: craigstotts@sbcglobal.net

Southern Connections Editor
Joe Burrage, Jr.
Email: burragej@uab.edu

Archival Liaison:
Patrick Heyman
Email: PATRICK_HEYMAN@pba.edu
What a birthday celebration we had in Memphis! The challenges of moving the meeting from hurricane stricken New Orleans to Memphis demanded our best, and that's what was given. Thanks to each and every person who contributed to the success of our largest meeting ever—over 590 attendees! The host schools, LSU Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing; the SNRS Planning Committee, headed by Dr. Linda Freeman; the Local Planning Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Demetrius Porche and Dr. Yvonne Sterling from Louisiana and Dr. Cindy Russell from Memphis; our UT Arlington conference management team including Tanya Truitt, Lupita Martinez and Penny Jenkins; the local welcoming committee, the 35 exhibitors, the 15 sponsors, the 60 room monitors and on-site facilitators, the 100+ people who presented papers and symposia, the 68 participants who presented posters, the 105 graduate students who displayed posters; the pre-conference panelists and presenters; the keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth Anderson; the members and attendees who viewed posters, attended sessions, networked and mentored; the member volunteers who judged graduate posters; the award winners; the Board members of SNRS led by President Dr. Donna Hathaway; the staff at the Peabody Hotel…the list is long and "thank you" is simply not enough. The past few days will bring a smile and a warm feeling in my heart each time I think about this 20th birthday meeting (not to mention, it was great being 20 again!!).

Our organization is where it is today because of the decisions made by past Boards and members. I feel incredibly fortunate to serve as President of SNRS at a time when our foundation is strong and we are well positioned to move into the next 20 years and beyond. During the past year, the Board recommended that we hire a comprehensive management company. After an extensive search and review process, the Resource Center for Associations (RC) was selected as our new management firm. Our Executive Director, David Stumph, brings to us over 27 years of substantial experience in association management. The staff of RC offers expertise and resources that will facilitate and expedite the work of the organization and support our growth into the future. We express our thanks to the University of Alabama Center for Continuing Services and the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing for their support and service over the past several years.

The start date for the contract with RC was Feb. 1 for all operations of SNRS (membership, fiscal operations and communications, with meeting services to begin immediately following our Memphis meeting). We have been in a transition period since the beginning of the new year, with a major emphasis on membership and meeting services. One of the first differences you have seen is the online abstract submission process we will be using for the 2007 meeting to be held in Galveston, Texas Feb. 21-24. Please see the web site for the instructions and link to the submission process.

The transition in management firms and the occasion of our 20th anniversary provide us with many opportunities to review not only our current operations but our priorities and strategies for achieving those priorities in the coming years. The Board is committed to creating an organization that will assist in positioning our members to be at the leading edge of the nursing research enterprise. It’s an exciting time and one which will provide SNRS members with many opportunities for involvement. Please continue to check our web site and read the newsletter for more information about those opportunities.

I look forward to serving as the President of SNRS over the next two years. You have elected an excellent group of Board members and we will be active in ensuring an effective transition to RC, keeping you informed about what’s going on both within SNRS and nationally, and encouraging and facilitating your involvement with our organization. Thanks to each of you for your part in our past--let’s make the next 20 years just as awesome!

Sincerely,

D. Patricia Gray
SNRS President 2006-2008
Chair, Department of Adult Health
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing
From the Editor

Welcome to our first edition of Southern Connections facilitated by our management firm, the Resource Center. Last year as we worked through the transition to develop an in-house template to guide our online publication of Southern Connections, I remember telling myself, "just get this transition done this one time and you won't have to do it again"! Needless to say, I was delighted to hear the news that we would have a management firm to support our efforts to disseminate information to our SNRS members. I admit that I was pensive about another transition, but Dave Stumph and the Resource Center have made this transition one of ease. Our work last year was not in vain since the Resource Center has been able to use our latest template and formatting for the newsletter. Thankfully, the Resource Center will now be facilitating the newsletter, making the process much smoother and less complicated.

This edition focuses on celebrating our members’ successes showcased at our annual meeting this past February in Memphis. SNRS scholars who were recognized for achievements in research and scholarship this past year deserve additional recognition. Hopefully, we will accomplish that in this edition of Southern Connections.

The support provided by our management firm will mean that Southern Connections can be expanded and refined with ease. Since we are fine tuning our formatting and content, please give us your creative suggestions (and literary contributions) so we can provide a newsletter that is useful and meaningful to you. By the way, guest editorials from our members are encouraged and welcomed! Please let me know of your interest.

I encourage you to call me at 205-934-0630 or email me at burragej@uab.edu. I look forward to working with and hearing from you in the upcoming months.

Joe Burrage, PhD, RN

Translational Research: Bridge or Destination

2007 Annual Conference
February 22-24
Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa, and Convention Center
Galveston, Texas
Thanks to a new service at SNRS, you can stay in touch with colleagues in your field of interest via special listservs. This is your opportunity to network with your peers about issues affecting you, your research and the healthcare field in general. See the list below for possible options. There is an array of areas from which to choose. You may join up to two RIGs as part of your SNRS membership. Because some RIGs are currently developing symposia for the 2007 Annual Conference, we want you to be able to get in on the ground floor of these preparations. We encourage you to respond by May 5 in order to join the list as soon as possible.

To join a list, click below on the RIG of your choice. This should automatically open an email window. To join, simply press send. There is no need to type any message. Make sure you send the email from the email account where you want posts delivered. You will receive a confirmation email that you have successfully been added to the list as well as an email with instructions on how to post to the list. If you experience any difficulty please email snrs@resourcenter.com. You may join at any time of the year by logging into the Members Only section of the website.

Keep in mind that you are limited to two lists.

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Research Interest Group Report
Elaine J. Amella Committee Chair: Research Interest Groups (RIGs), amellaej@musc.edu

Accomplishments since last Board Meeting:
1. Communicated with several chairs of RIGs regarding upcoming meeting: specifically, interest in dedicated symposia in 2007 and 2008 meetings.
2. Communicated with RC regarding need for list-serve of RIGs chairs/co-chairs and list-serves for each RIG.
3. Discussed (via email) with others idea of poster sessions organized by RIG with student and researcher posters clustered and shown at same time. Student posters would be so marked for judging.

Goals:
1. Short-term:
   1. Get list-serves up and running. Communicate with all chairs/co-chairs.
   2. Fill remaining three slots for chairs/co-chairs.
   3. Four states/territories not represented among this group: West Virginia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Puerto Rico/Caribbean Islands. Should this call go out through Communications committee?
2. Intermediate:
   Develop list for next three years of RIGs that will present at meetings.
3. Long-term:
   Make RIGs an active and solid part of membership with members viewing networking and collaboration as key benefit of membership.

Membership Report
Kathy Jo Ellison, DSN, RN, Membership, ellislkj@auburn.edu

Accomplishments since last Board Meeting:
1. Finalizing the state liaison list
2. Membership in SNRS totaled 1042 in January 2006; 1005 of these members reside in the region and 37 are outside of the region. Although membership has not returned to its highest level of over 1200, this represents an increase of 195 members (18.7%) in the last year. Membership continues to be comprised of about 1/3 students and 2/3 regular members with 7 retired members. States with the largest membership are Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee.
3. A new database system has been implemented with our new management firm that hopefully has improved communication with members regarding renewals and member status. The Board welcomes your input on membership issues – please be looking for and respond to the membership survey that will be distributed in late May.

Goals:
1. Short term: Complete list of new state liaisons.
2. Short term: Develop proposal for changing the membership date from anniversary to annual renewal.
3. Intermediate: Develop plan for state liaisons to use in welcoming and recruiting new members.
4. Intermediate: Develop plan to increase opportunities for membership through “institutional” membership for students and clinical agencies.
5. Long term: Increase membership by 10% per year.
Program Committee Report
Linda Freeman, Vice President, Chair, Program Committee, Linda.freeman@louisville.edu

Accomplishments since last Board Meeting:
2. Worked with LPC to clarify roles and responsibilities.
3. Worked with RC on clarification of roles and responsibilities of LPC, PC, and RC.
4. Worked with RC on changes to “Criteria for Selection of Host Schools.”
5. Evaluated proposed criteria for selection of papers, symposia, and posters.

Goals:
1. Request report from Planning Committee on progress toward Roundtables, Doctoral Student Marketplace.
2. Clarify roles and responsibilities of Board related to conference planning.
3. Propose criteria for selection of Host Schools.
4. Identify communication processes to simplify program planning.
5. Develop Vice President and Local Planning Committee handbooks.

Conference Planning Requiring Board Approval
• Keynote honorarium in excess of $1000.
• Preconference speaker honoraria in excess of $500 per preconference.
• Changes in Program Template.
• Changes in criteria for selection of posters, papers, and symposia.
• Selection of host schools.
• Policies relating to conference planning.
• Policies relating to vendors.
• Policies relating to publication of conference proceedings.
• Proposed conference program.
• Registration and other fees.
• Selection of program theme.

Treasury Report
Marti Rice, Treasurer, Chair of Finance Committee, schauf@uab.edu

Accomplishments since last Board Meeting:
1. All materials sent to accountant for review and preparation of tax materials for 2005
2. UA transition of finances and financial statements to RC proceeding

Goals:
1. Complete transition to RC from UA — all travel, newsletter and SOJNR invoices should be sent to RC
2. Obtain final annual conference financial statement
3. Diversify savings

SNRS Board Secretary Report
Darlene Gilcreast, Secretary, gilcreast@utscsa.edu

As Board Secretary, I was present at all of the Board Meetings and took minutes for those meetings. During this time period, the meetings included:
2005 Pre-Conference Board Meeting - Feb. 2, 2005
2005 SNRS Business Meeting — Feb. 4, 2005
2005 Post-Conference Board Meeting — Feb. 5, 2005
2005 Fall Board Meeting — August 26-27, 2005
2005 Fall Board Conference Call — October 5, 2005
2005 Fall Board Conference Call — December 1, 2005
2006 Pre-Conference Board Meeting — Feb. 1, 2006
I also represented the society displaying the SNRS poster at the Sigma Theta Tau Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN in November, 2005.
Over the past year, it became increasingly clear that members of the Board were spending greater and greater amounts of time in management activities rather than on providing organizational leadership. Management details are a bit like Maslow’s basic requirements for life—they are a priority need for the survival of the organization. In the life of a volunteer Board member, the amount of time required to attend to this level of detail may quickly consume the time one has to contribute to the organization. Thus, higher level functions of the organization are not able to be addressed. While an organization can survive for some time under such conditions, it becomes more and more difficult over time.

The Board reviewed our finances and current operations and determined in spring, 2005, that we would seek the services of a management company who could provide comprehensive services to us (membership, finances, communication, meetings, Board support). I was directed to prepare a request for proposals (RFP) that included the range of services that we wished to provide and the current state of our organization in terms of current management providers, current and past membership numbers, meeting information, financial status in terms of income and expenses, and services offered by the organization. Prior to distribution of the RFP, I solicited the names of management companies from Board members and from Presidents of other national nursing organizations.

After distributing our RFP to four professional management companies who had received positive recommendations from current clients, we received proposals from three organizational management firms. All addressed our needs in slightly different ways, and each had strengths in slightly different areas. The entire Board (8 members) reviewed the individual proposals and recommended that President Hathaway and I make site visits to each to assist in making a final selection. Our visits to each company yielded excellent observations about our current operations and many suggestions for enhancing our organization. The visits also enabled us to see some of the “insides” of their operations and gain a better understanding of their fit with our needs at this point in time. I provided a detailed comparison chart of the services and costs of each organization updated based on the data obtained during our site visits.

Based on the results of the site visits, Dr. Hathaway and I recommended to the Board that we select Resource Center for Associations (known as RC) based on the depth of their on-site personnel dedicated to each service area (fiscal, meeting management, membership management, communications), the background and expertise of the proposed Executive Director (David Stumph), and their management activities with another regional nursing research association for the past four years, MNRS. RC also provided us with the most cost-effective rate of services of the three proposals. The Board concurred with this recommendation and a three year initial contract was signed, with a contingency clause for failure to perform.

The offices of RC are located in Denver, Colorado, which is in the Mountain Time Zone. Mr. Stumph will attend our meeting in Memphis and will introduce RC to the members at that time.

I served as the SNRS representative to the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science’s (CANS) fall board meeting in Washington, DC (see Southern Connections, Fall 2005 for a full report and a description of CANS), and on two conference calls of the CANS Board. I will represent SNRS at the CANS spring board meeting in March, followed by the NINR/AONE sponsored National Nursing Research Roundtable, both in Washington, DC. CANS also had an exhibit at the SNRS Memphis meeting, so that SNRS members could learn more about this national nursing research organization.

As immediate past editor of Southern Connections, I facilitated the transition of newsletter editor responsibilities to Dr. Joe Burrage (UAB) during spring 2005. Two newsletters have been produced under Dr. Burrage’s attentive stewardship.

During fall, 2005, I worked with members of the Board to update the SNRS display prior to the Sigma Theta Tau International meeting (Darlene Gilcreast was responsible for the display at that meeting). Members had an opportunity to see the current SNRS display during the exhibits in Memphis.
Attention Members: In early March 2006, each SNRS member received a user name and password allowing them to access their individual membership record and to conduct membership directory search functions. If you experience difficulties accessing these services, please contact us at snrs@resourcenter.com or call 303-327-7548.

Just as a reminder, full abstracts of all presentations at the February 2006 SNRS conference are available on our website at www.snrs.org.

CANS-Sponsored Keynote Speaker for the SNRS 2007 Conference Announced

Lauren S. Aaronson, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, former president of MNRS and currently a Professor at the University of Kansas, will be the keynote speaker for the SNRS 2007 Conference. She recently returned to her faculty role after spending two years as the senior adviser to the Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at NIH. Her responsibilities while at NIH primarily focused on the trans-NIH Roadmap for Research, particularly those initiatives with an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary focus and those within the re-engineering the clinical research enterprise theme of the NIH Roadmap.

A well known speaker, Dr. Aaronson is exceptionally qualified to provide the 2007 keynote address: “Translational Research: Bridge or Destination?” Make plans now to join us in Galveston, Feb. 22-24, 2007 at the Moody Gardens Resort. Be sure to watch for program updates on the SNRS website at www.snrs.org.

Submitted by Dr. L. H. Freeman, Professor, School of Nursing, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
SNRS Looks to Its Future

By David L. Stumph, IOM, CAE
Executive Director

On behalf of The Resource Center for Associations (RC), we are pleased to have been selected to serve as the management partner for SNRS. February 1, 2006 was our first official day on the job, the date of the pre-conference Board of Directors meeting. You might say that we “hit the ground running.”

Introductions:

RC was founded in 1982 by Francine Butler, PhD, CAE, CMP, and Jerry Bowman, CAE, with the sole purpose of serving professional societies like SNRS. Dr. Butler remains active in the company and serves as RC’s President. Mr. Bowman, while serving in a reduced capacity, is RC’s Chairman of the Board. Recently, Kristi Klinke, Member Services Director; and I joined in partnership with Dr. Butler and Mr. Bowman to form the complete ownership team of RC.

In addition to Kristi and I, other people on our staff with whom SNRS will work most directly include: Talissa Koziol, Meeting Manager, Ruth Gleason, Director of Information Services, Chris Ruppert, Director of Finance, and Annette Rogers, Director of Communications.

RC has a staff of 20 association specialists in all, many of whom will assist those listed above in meeting the day-to-day needs of SNRS.

RC’s Priorities for SNRS

The primary goal that we have for SNRS is to consolidate your overall operations. Over the past few years, the day-to-day management of membership services, financial operations, the annual meeting, and the website have all been provided by separate services. While great strides have been made in advancing SNRS’ strategic directions, we believe that a coordinated approach that will be gained by consolidating these services will provide even greater advancements.

Other priorities can best be categorized in three areas: membership, meetings, and communication services.

• We have a specialized database system that allows us to manage your membership data and meeting registration through one system. As some of you have already experienced, you have the ability to access your record, make address updates, change your password, and view the other information that we have on record for you.
• Meeting management is a service that consumes a major portion of all services provided by RC. Nearly 45% of all time spent in client service is related to meeting management. We will work with the annual meeting planning committee in coordinating all hotel and event provider services and help the committee in the development of the program, the schedule of events, speaker arrangements, audiovisual services, marketing, and onsite management.
• Communications encompasses responsiveness to inquiries, managing the website content, setting up appropriate listserv service, and timely dissemination of information about SNRS services and activities. Our systems are designed to accommodate each of these needs and we are continuously searching for new ways to address these needs.

Conclusion:

Until now, your board has carried the burden of providing the management services for SNRS. And until now, they have had to balance administrative management with strategic management for the Society. It is not hard to imagine how easily it might be for strategic issues to get buried in all the “administrivia” that can consume the day-to-day operations of SNRS.

Our goal is to release the board from the everyday tasks associated with the administrative services by providing our expertise in this area and allow your board to focus its efforts on the strategic business of SNRS.

We are excited and eager to be working with SNRS and look forward to a future focused on growth and success.
Launched in January of 1999, the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR) is the official peer-reviewed electronic research journal of the Southern Nursing Research Society. SOJNR has a national editorial board and welcomes manuscripts from the international scientific community. The editorial purposes of SOJNR are to report completed research that contributes to the knowledge base of nursing; present scientific evidence that improves the practice of nursing; and provide educational discussion of research methodology and findings. The electronic format encourages and stimulates online commentary to reader questions and comments. Selection of articles for publication is based on their contribution to knowledge, strength and logic of methodology, adequacy of design, statistical and/or analytical sufficiency, editorial presentation and readability.

Information for Authors

Suggested citation format

Editorial Staff & Advisory Board

for any problems accessing the articles below, please contact the Managing Editor

Suggested citation format

If using APA format, citations should use the following format, using our first article as an example.


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Editor-in-Chief
Barbara J. Holtzclaw, RN, PhD, FAAN
Professor Emeritus
Univ. of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Phone: (405) 321-8543
Fax: (405) 321-8543
bjholtzclaw@cox.net
holtzclaw@uthscsa.edu

Managing Editor
R. Craig Stotts RN, DrPH
Professor
College of Nursing
Univ. of Tennessee Health Science Center (Memphis)
Phone: 501-753-7098
Fax: 501-771-1636
cstotts@utmem.edu
SNRS Awardees – 2006 Conference

Distinguished Researcher Award – 2006
Judith McFarlane, RN, DrPH, FAAN
Texas Women’s University

Leadership in Research Award – 2006
Martha Alligood, Ph.D., RN
East Carolina University

Hartford Geriatric Institute Research Award – 2006
Elaine J. Amella, Ph.D., APRN, BC, FAANP, FGSA
Medical University of South Carolina

Research in Minority Health Award – 2006
Susan J. Appel, Ph.D., APRN, BC, CCRN
University of Alabama, Birmingham

D. Jean Wood Award – 2006
Robin Bartlett, Ph.D., RN
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

SNRS Small Grant Recipients – 2005
1. Diane Randall Andrews, MS, RN
University of Central Florida
2. Catherine Robichaux, Ph.D., RN, CCRN
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio

American Nurses’ Foundation/SNRS Scholar Grant – 2005
Victoria Menzies, Ph.D., APRN, BC
Florida International University

Graduate Student Poster Session

Winners – 2006
1st Place: Hyeon Joo Lee, MSN, RN – University of Maryland
Cardiovascular Risk Factors in HIV-1 Positive Patients on HAART
2nd Place: Mohannad E. Abu Ruz, MSN, RN – University of Kentucky
The Brief Symptom Inventory is a Quick, Reliable Way to Measure Anxiety in Patients Hospitalized with Acute Myocardial Infarction
3rd Place: Zoila Vochot Sanchez, Ph.D., RN – University of TN, Memphis
Perceived Barriers and Facilitators to Physical Activity in Kidney Pancreas Transplant Recipients

Honorable Mention
Dawn Garrett, MSN, RN – Vanderbilt University
Maternal Characteristics, Child Physiologic Measurements and Incidence of Hypercholesterolemia in School-Aged Children
Brigit Maria Carter, MSN, RN – University of NC – Chapel Hill
Identification of Race and Gender as Risk Factors Associated with Necrotizing Enterocolitis in Premature Infants
Patricia Anzolone, MSN, RN – University of Central Florida – Orlando
Equivalence of Earlobe Site Blood Glucose testing with Fingerstick in the Hospitalized Adult Diabetic
“Are women abused during pregnancy?” This question was asked by a student in 1985 at the conclusion of a lecture on domestic violence. I responded “yes”, “How often?” My response, “I do not know. Let’s search the literature and return to class in a week with the answer”. We did return to class but without an answer. In 1985, we identified no references, books, or published articles on the occurrence or consequences of abuse during pregnancy.

Beginning in 1985 and continuing to the present, I have researched the frequency, severity, and health consequences of intimate partner violence against women and designed, tested, and disseminated evidence-based interventions to interrupt violence and promote women’s health. My research has been funded by the March of Dimes and W.K. Kellogg Foundation as well as government agencies including the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC), the Agency for Health Research & Quality, the National Institute of Justice, and the National Institutes of Health. My research findings have been presented to congressional committees, included in the national health objectives, and used by clinicians in the U.S. and abroad to set standards of care for pregnant women.

To disseminate the skills of abuse assessment and intervention, I directed a national perceptorship, funded by the March of Dimes, that sponsored teams of health care providers from the US, Canada, and Mexico to come to Houston for a 5 day practicum on how-to apply the research findings on abuse during pregnancy toward establishing interventions programs in their clinical practice. I crafted the curriculum of the perceptorship program into a March of Dimes Nursing Module entitled “Abuse During Pregnancy: A Protocol for Prevention and Intervention”. The third edition of the module will be published in 2006 and includes assessment and interventions protocols for abuse in English and Spanish. The module has been disseminated to thousands of nurses over the last 10 years and used to direct care for abused women. To chronicle my research findings on abuse during pregnancy and intervention strategies, an award winning documentary, Crime Against the Future, introduced by the Surgeon General and excerpted on national news media, was produced and widely disseminated by the March of Dimes.

The national influence of my research findings has been witnessed by the addition of abuse assessment questions on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments which surveys maternal experiences before, during and after pregnancy. The analysis of this data offers direction for statewide planning efforts toward abuse assessment and intervention.

To increase early access to prenatal care and integrate abuse interventions into community programs for high-risk populations, I created, tested, and disseminated a health care delivery model entitled “De Madres a Madres”. This grassroots community empowerment initiative, featured in TIME Magazine and excerpted on NBC “TODAY” show demonstrated how to effectively integrate culturally sensitive abuse interventions into a community owned and managed health program. To disseminate this effective model for women’s health, an international preceptorship was funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation that brought teams of health providers from 27 states in the US, two Canadian provinices, large and small cities of Mexico, several sites in Brazil, Katmandu, Nepal and three Maori first people communities of New Zealand to Houston to experience the model and derive strategies for application to their clinical site.

To document the unique contribution of intimate partner sexual assault on women’s health, separate from intimate partner physical abuse, I partnered with criminal justice agencies and received funding from the National Institute of Justice. My research established the added health consequences of post traumatic stress syndrome experienced by women sexually assaulted and the age-specific effects on child functioning associated with sexual assault of the mother. In addition to peer reviewed publications of these findings, the research is being used by law enforcement and criminal justice personnel to instruct prosecutors and judges to the heretofore unknown effects of
Martha Raile Alligood was the 2006 recipient of the Leadership in Nursing Research Award presented on February 3, by the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) at their 20th anniversary conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Currently, Dr. Alligood is Professor and Director of the PhD Program in the School of Nursing at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

Her research has two main focus areas: developing and testing middle-range theories of adult human development and developing and testing theories of nursing empathy. The human development studies were guided by Rogers’ Science of Unitary Human Beings using quantitative methods. They primarily include studies designed to test relationships among creativity, actualization and empathy in adults 18-60 and 61-92 years of age; the relationship of creativity and health in persons 63-96 years of age; and a theory of sleep patterns, perception of time and activity in older adults 55-94 years of age. Publications of these works are in Western Journal of Nursing Research (1991), Visions: The Journal of Rogerian Nursing Science (1995; 1999; and 2000), Theoria: The Journal of Nursing Theory (2001), The International Journal for Human Caring, 2002 as well as book chapters.


Dr. Alligood’s most recent research used an action research approach for a project to implement theory based practice using on Modeling and Role-Modeling (Erickson, Tomlin & Swain) at a major university medical center. In addition to her own research she has supervised 7 theory testing dissertations with quantitative methods and 5 theory development dissertations with qualitative methods. She served on ten other dissertation committees in nursing and related disciplines and has had eight refereed publications with graduate students.


Advertising through SNRS can reach nurse researchers and prospective students who are interested in entering degree programs, pre and post-doctoral opportunities, and new faculty and research positions. For more advertising information please visit our section on advertising or contact SNRS at snrs@resourcenter.com.
I began my career in geriatric research while a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Gerontology at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. My responsibilities included managing skin and wound care issues; I came to believe that many of the patients I was treating were experiencing pain from their pressure ulcers.

At that time the thinking was that pressure ulcers that extended into deeper tissue were not painful as there were no “pain sensors” in that area. With a team of nurse clinicians, my colleagues and I studied this phenomenon with institutional support and found that indeed, these patients were experiencing high levels of untreated pain. My colleagues and I presented these data at a conference at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in 1993; the manuscript of our findings was published and received the Journal of Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing - 1995 Manuscript of the Year award. By that time, I was a doctoral student at New York University and teaching in a HRSA/BrPH Advanced Nurse Education program grant to prepare a “blended role” geriatric CNS/NP. During that time, I received funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation with Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Hunter School of Social Work to develop a geriatric interdisciplinary team training national demonstration project to prepare providers to older adults. I was also part of the collaborating team that received a Geriatric Education Center grant from the Bureau of Health Professions.

My years as a clinician fueled the question for my doctoral research, which was funded by the New York State, Division of Long Term Care. Using a quantitative observational design, I examined the interaction between certified nursing assistants in nursing homes and persons with late-stage dementia at mealtime. I knew that some caregivers were much better at promoting intake among these residents, and I wanted to explore what those qualities were. Using 53 resident-caregiver dyads, research assistants observed breakfast interactions and discovered that ability to share control and the quality of the reciprocal relationship positively influenced portion of food consumed. At this point in my clinical career, I became a nurse practitioner, was seeing clients in the community and became aware that perhaps the nature of the relationship between family members and persons with dementia living in their home might be fertile ground for further exploration of mealtime issues.

While at the University of Arizona, College of Nursing and then at the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Nursing, I received intramural university funding to conduct pilot studies regarding issues facing family caregivers concerning meals. These qualitative studies examined how families managed mealtimes, behavioral problems, the support they received, and what they thought about the ethical issues surrounding non-eating (e.g., tube feeding). I used the findings from these studies to develop a proposal currently funded by the NIH/NINR “Meals at Home for Persons with Late-Stage Dementia.” This study uses a 2 x 4 (treatment x time) repeated measures controlled group design with random assignment to receive either a mealtime intervention – a DVD/video and brochure for family caregivers concerning ways to maintain food intake and decrease problematic mealtime behaviors, or other support. I hope to translate these findings into a treatment that could be used by homecare, adult daycare and hospice staff. While studying mealtimes and advocating for thoughtful assistance based on a thorough assessment, I have studied and written about the use of enteral (tube) feedings in persons with late-stage dementia. I continue to be deeply concerned about nutritional problems among the old-old, those 85+, and will continue with research in that area.
American Nurses' Foundation/SNRS Scholar Grant – 2005
Victoria Menzies, PhD, APRN, BC

Research Title: Exploring the Effects of Relaxation and Guided Imagery on Outcomes of Pain, Distress, Functional Status and Self-Efficacy in Hispanic Persons Diagnosed with Fibromyalgia

Abstract
Purpose: The purpose of this pilot study is to test the effects of a 10-week relaxation and guided imagery intervention on pain, functional status, self-efficacy (belief that one can cope) and distress in Hispanic adults diagnosed with fibromyalgia. This pilot study is an essential preliminary step in obtaining the necessary data to submit an NIH AREA grant application (R15) for a full-scale randomized clinical trial.

Methods: Quasi-experimental design, pre-post with repeated measures. Participant sample is 28 Hispanic adults with fibromyalgia. The intervention consists of 3 relaxation and guided imagery audiotapes used in a proscribed order for 6 weeks and used in any order for weeks 7 through 10. Pain, functional status, self-efficacy and distress will be measured baseline (pre-intervention), 6- and 10 weeks post-baseline.

Instruments: Pain is measured using the Short-Form McGill Pain Questionnaire; functional status, the Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire; self-efficacy, the Arthritis Self-Efficacy Scale; and distress, the 17-item Mental Health Inventory. Pain is also measured daily using the Visual Analogue Scale. All instruments are available in English and Spanish.

Analysis: Descriptive statistics will be calculated for all variables. Repeated measures ANOVA will be used to determine change in the dependent variables (SF-MPQ; FIQ; PSE; OSE; MHI) from baseline through 10 weeks. Daily pain measures will be categorized relative to baseline and number of daily measures less than and greater than/equal to baseline will be compared at 2, 4, 6, and 10 weeks with Chi square tests.

Southern Nursing Research Society Award Criteria

D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award
The purpose of the D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award is to recognize the contributions of a researcher who has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern region. The award is named in honor of the first SNRS President, D. Jean Wood, whose leadership set the course for the positive growth and development of the Society.

Distinguished Researcher Award
The purpose of the SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award is to recognize the contribution of an individual whose established program of research has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern region.

Leadership in Research Award
The Leadership in Research Award is to recognize outstanding leadership, contribution, or promotion of nursing and health care research. The Award will be bestowed on an intermittent basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Award for Research in Minority Health
The purpose of the SNRS Award for Research in Minority Health is to recognize the contributions of an individual or group conducting and/or promoting research that has significance for improving the health care of minorities and other under-represented groups in the Southern region.

Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Award
The purpose of the SNRS Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing 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.
The focus of Dr. Appel's program of research is the elucidation of cardiometabolic risk factors for development of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease (CVD) among African-American women. African-American women experience some of the highest prevalences among women for the following: coronary heart disease (CHD), myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, angina pectoris, hypertension, obesity and type 2 diabetes. These health disparities may be related to the findings that African-American women typically have higher levels of body mass index (BMI), elevated levels of circulating insulin and lower levels of insulin sensitivity compared to Caucasian women. Both obesity and hyperinsulinemia have been strongly associated with fostering an inflammatory state leading to release of excess biomarkers of inflammation and dysfibrinolysis. Similarly, African-American women seem to be more predisposed to an assortment of cardiometabolic risk factors for type 2 diabetes and atherosclerosis that are believed to act in a synergistic manner through inflammatory pathways. Generally, preceding the development of either type 2 diabetes and/or CVD, there is a well-described pathway known as metabolic syndrome that in certain individuals may lead the downward spiral toward vascular inflammation and injury.

The secondary focus of Dr. Appel's program of research has been to the formulation of a theory related to the impact of the contextual aspects faced on a daily basis by low-income African-American women residing in the Southeastern United States and their ability to modify cardiovascular risk (Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, 2005; 20, 315-24). The theory is based on the interrelationships between contextual risk factors, rational choice theory, and opportunity cost. Conceivably, this model may serve as a foundation to ground conceptual thought, and drive theory-based interventions to reduce the disparities in the cardiovascular health of low-income Southern African-American women. The theory of Opportunity Cost as applied to Southern low-income African-American women is unique as it offers an explanation as to why health disparities occur and is presented in an attempt to provide guidance for advanced practice nurses who must struggle with addressing the critical need to reduce ethnic, and race-associated cardiovascular health disparities.

intimate partner sexual assault on women and children. My present research is documenting the health consequences to women and children of pregnancy related rape.

My research findings are cited regularly by public media sources. Within the last year my research on abuse of women was featured in “O” The Oprah Magazine, described in the featured Washington Post series on intimate partner murder of women during pregnancy, and cited by Cable News Network (CNN). I work with the Pan American Health Association (PAHO), the Latin arm of World Health Organization (WHO), toward the design and analysis of research studies in the Americas on intimate partner violence assessment and interventions. I act locally to integrate research findings into the care of abused women by volunteering weekly on the domestic violence and sexual assault crisis hotline, offering in-service programs to health professionals and presenting to legal, civic, and faith communities. I’m an elected board member of the domestic violence coordinating council for Houston and serve on the intimate partner violence death review committee for Harris County, a metropolis of 4 million citizens.

My research on abuse of women and evidence-based nursing interventions has been chronicled in more than 130 peer reviewed publications and is used as a standard for clinical practice in the US and abroad. I greatly appreciate the recognition of SNRS.
SNRS members enjoy networking during the poster sessions.

From left, Barbara Habermann, Joe Burrage, Barbara Smith, and Marti Rice.

SNRS and other hotel guests are entertained by the famous march of the Peabody Hotel ducks

From left, Joe Burrage, Mary Umlauf, Marti Rice, Anne Taylor-Henson, and Barbara Habermann

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