



In This Issue

Editor's Note

President's Pen

2014 Award Recipients

Research Interest Group
Corner

Doctoral Student Corner

Communications Committee

Donna Scott Tilley,
Chair

Southern Connections Subcommittee

Denise Linton, Editor

Editor's Note - Denise Linton, DNS, FNP-BC

It is the fourth month of the year and like me you are probably reflecting on where you are regarding the New Year's resolution(s) that you made in January. I have to admit that other things "got in the way" but I view spring as another opportunity to reorganize my priorities.

Therefore, I began the process for disseminating my pilot study result and analyzing my research data. And, I am researching grant and award opportunities because we can emulate the 2015 annual awards recipients and 2014 grant winners who are highlighted in this issue of our Society's Newsletter. If you are on track regarding your New Year's resolution(s), congratulations, and if you are not, use this season to reevaluate and reorganize yourselves.

Now that I have shared my thoughts, I bid you "so long" as Editor of the SNRS Newsletter, Southern Connections. Indeed, it has been a pleasure and honor to serve in our Society. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all my supporters and contributors; I could not have done it without your assistance. My journey, in this capacity, ends here and the journey of another begins in the upcoming issue. Thank you.



President's Pen

Cindy L. Munro, PhD, RN, ANP-BC,
FAANP, FAAN, FAAAS



As I embark on the second year of my term as President of SNRS, I continue to work toward SNRS members being engaged, enabled, and energized. The SNRS 29th Annual Conference, held in Tampa, Florida, February 25-28, 2015, offered a wonderful opportunity for members to become energized. Saddlebrook Resort provided a lovely venue that was perfectly in tune with the theme of the conference,

"Conducting Research in Difficult Times: Come Revitalize your Research Spirit." The warm weather and tropical setting provided some relief from the winter weather for members who traveled from colder climates. While we did have some precipitation, it was at least liquid instead of frozen!

The outstanding attendance at the annual conference is indicative of SNRS member engagement. More than half of the SNRS membership attended the conference, and there was active participation in all aspects of the conference, including the town hall meeting and the business meeting. The general sessions, scientific sessions, and networking events all provided occasions for attendees to engage with each other and ideas to enable growth of research. Research Interest Groups met during the meeting, and SNRS Board members visited the RIGs to elicit ideas for how we can strengthen and enable these vital member groups.

Periodic revitalization of your research spirit is important. In the beautiful setting of Saddlebrook, engaged with research colleagues from throughout the Southern region, it was easy to feel energized! I returned from the conference with enthusiasm, ready to incorporate what I had learned from others into my own research.

However, the SNRS conference happens only once a year. If we are to stay energized all year long, the annual conference is necessary but not sufficient. After returning home, I reflected on what aspects of the annual conference had been most energizing. For me, three key elements emerged: first, interaction with colleagues; second, exposure to new data and new ideas; and third, dedicated time to focus my thinking on research. I then thought about how incorporating those key elements into my work life throughout the year could keep me energized year round.

I treasure reconnecting with collaborators and meeting new colleagues at the SNRS annual conference. Prior to the conference, I arrange times to meet with old friends and mentees. I attend the formal networking events, and I make an effort to talk to people I don't already know. But there are

many ways to interact with SNRS colleagues throughout the year. Following up with contacts made at the conference, participating in the ongoing work of the RIGs, and using electronic communications (such as the SNRS Facebook page) are all ways to stay energized.

The science presented at the annual conference is exciting and energizing. I particularly appreciate the opportunity to hear about research that is tangential to - or very different from - my own work. Often, podium or poster presentations which seem to be unrelated to my areas of interest offer intriguing insights that benefit my research. In an effort to experience the energy that results from exposure to new ideas, I have resolved to read every issue of the official journal of SNRS, *Research in Nursing and Health (RINAH)*, from cover to cover this year!

The annual conference offers an occasion to step outside of our daily routine, which can revitalize our research spirits. The time to reflect about research is valuable. Although it is difficult to dedicate time during the daily work routine to just thinking (rather than doing), I believe it is energizing to find ways to pause periodically to permit contemplation.

Scheduling these pauses is important to making them happen. How will you plan to stay engaged, enabled, and energized between now and February 24-27, 2016, when the 30th Annual Conference will be held in Williamsburg Virginia?

Serving SNRS, Cindy L. Munro, President

SNRS Awards Committee
Outgoing Director Robin Bartlett, PhD, RN and Incoming Director
Patricia Kinser, PhD, WHNP-BC



Robin Bartlett,
PhD, RN

The Southern Nursing Research Society offers a number of annual award opportunities to its members. The recipients of the 2015 awards, presented at the annual meeting in Tampa, Florida in February are depicted below. An award offered by the society, not listed below, is the SNRS/John A. Hartford Foundation Geriatric Research Award. Consider nominating yourself or a colleague for the 2016 awards. The deadline for applying is October 1, 2015. To learn more about the awards please click [here](#).



Patrica Kinser,
PhD, WHNP-
BC

2015 Award Recipients

SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award

The 2015 recipient of the **SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award** is **Elizabeth J. Corwin, PhD, RN, FAAN** from Emory University. 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.



SNRS Leadership in Research Award



The 2015 recipient of the **SNRS Leadership in Research Award** is **Marti Rice, PhD, RN** from University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Nursing. The purpose of the Leadership in Research Award is to recognize outstanding leadership, contribution, or promotion of nursing and health care research. This award is bestowed by the SNRS Board of Directors.

SNRS Research In Minority Health Award

The 2015 recipient of the SNRS Award for **Research in Minority Health** is **Jane Dimmitt Champion, PhD, DNP, RN, FNP, FAANP, FAAN** from University of Texas at Austin. 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.



SNRS Mid-Career Researcher Award



The 2015 recipient of the **SNRS Mid-Career Researcher Award** is **Ann L. Horgas, PhD, RN** from University of Florida. The purpose of the Mid-Career Award is to recognize the contribution of a member whose scholarly work influences outcomes in nursing practice, nursing education, health policy, or population health and who has demonstrated progress in a program of research following doctoral education completed at least 10 years earlier.

Early Science Investigator Award

The 2015 recipient of the **SNRS Early Science Investigator Award** is **Jeanne Alhusen, PhD, CRNP, RN** from Johns Hopkins University. The purpose of the SNRS Early Science Investigator Award is to seek to recognize the contributions of a nurse scientist early in her/his research career who shows potential to develop a sustained program of research to enhance nursing science and practice.



Clinical Researcher Award



The 2015 recipient of the **SNRS Clinical Researcher Award** is **Karen Rice, APRN, ACNS-BC, ANP** from Oschner Health Systems. The purpose of the SNRS Clinical Researcher Award is to recognize the contribution of an individual (with greater than 50% of their appointment working as a researcher in a clinical setting) whose established program of research has enhanced the science and practice of nursing in the Southern Region.

RINAH Authorship Award

The 2015 recipient of the **RINAH Authorship Award** is **Bonnie Mowinski Jennings, PhD, RN** from Emory University for the publication she co-authored entitled "Turning over patient turnover: An ethnographic study of admissions, discharges, and transfers." The purpose of the Research in Nursing & Health (RINAH) Authorship Award is to recognize a SNRS member who disseminated research findings, or important theoretical, or methodological advances in the official SNRS journal, RINAH, within the past year. The SNRS member may have served as sole author or first author of a team-based paper during the designated time period.



The award acknowledges the partnership between SNRS and RINAH to support high quality, peer-reviewed research/scholarship that covers a broad range of research and theory that impacts nursing practice/science and other health disciplines. The award also supports the SNRS mission to "promote the image of nursing as a scientific discipline" and recognizes a SNRS member's contribution to research dissemination, facilitation of career development of nurses and nursing students, and enhancement of science and nursing practice in the Southern Region.

D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award



The 2015 recipient of the **SNRS D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship Award** is **Valerie Lander McCarthy, PhD, RN** from University of Louisville for her paper entitled "Promoting self-transcendence and well-being in community-dwelling older adults: A pilot study of a psychoeducational intervention." 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

Grant Award Recipients

SNRS Dissertation Award

Mary Kutash from the University of South Florida, College of Nursing was the recipient of the **2014 SNRS Dissertation Grant Award**. The title of her dissertation was *The Relationship Between Nurse's Emotional Intelligence and Patient Outcomes*.

CANS/SNRS Dissertation Award

Marcy C. Purnell, MSN, FNP-C, PhD(c) from University of Tennessee Health Science Center was the **2014 CANS/SNRS Dissertation Grant Award recipient** for *Modulation of Bioelectrodynamics in Cancerous and Noncancerous Cells*

SNRS Research Grant Award

Debra Whisenant PhD, MSN, MSPH from University of Alabama was the recipient of the **2014 SNRS Research Grant Award** for her research, *Adapting a community-based participatory health promotion model implemented in Haiti and Jamaica to effectively engage poor, rural, southern residents of a medically underserved community in Appalachia*

SNRS/ANF Scholar Award

Karen Wickersham, PhD, RN from University of Maryland, Baltimore was the recipient of the **2014 SNRS/ANF Scholar Award** for *Transcriptional Expression Profiles of Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Taking Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors*

SNRS Membership Committee Membership Committee Chair - Willie Mae Abel, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC



It is a pleasure to serve as the new Director of Membership on the SNRS Board and Chair of the Membership Committee which is comprised of State Liaisons. I applaud our State Liaisons for their invaluable work and service to this Society.

Our primary goal is to increase and maintain the membership growth of nurse researchers in our region. To accomplish this goal, State Liaisons recruit new members from their respective states, recruit researchers for presentations at the annual conference, and recruit members for participation in the Research Interest Groups. In addition, State Liaisons collect information from members on issues or items of concern and play a pivotal role in maintaining communication between the Board and members.

Our future goal is to foster a connection between academia and clinical practice. To achieve this goal, State Liaisons will identify all PhD programs and Magnet hospitals in their states to promote the mission of SNRS. Working with PhD programs (and students) along with nurse researchers in Magnet hospitals will enhance the dissemination and utilization of research findings and create collaboration between nurse scientist in academia and clinical practice.

For SNRS, our core strength is nursing research, and I believe that the membership of SNRS reflects some of the best nurse researchers/scientists in the United States.

Doctoral Student Corner Lori Vick, BSN MAT, RN, PhD Student

Hello Everyone!

I was an attendee at the Southern Nursing Research Society's (SNRS) 29th Annual Conference: 'Conducting Research in Difficult Times: Come Revitalize Your Research Spirit!' I want to extend my thanks to Denise Linton and the team at Southern Connections for the opportunity to share a first-time-attendee-new member's experience.

I am completing my PhD coursework at the end of this spring term in the on-line program at the Medical University of South Carolina. My research proposal is entitled, *Depression and Self-Efficacy in a Sample of Adults with Sickle Cell Disease: A Secondary Analysis*. I am inspired by social justice and caring in the Jean Watson sense of the word, individuals I have served in my various work capacities as a nurse, educator, and researcher and by my nurse and research mentors. I felt it important to attend the conference in the region of my educational institution and to acquaint myself with the regional researchers.



Lori Vick, BSN MAT,
RN, PhD Student

The conference cultivated my research aspirations by highlighting excellence through various mediums. It was particularly meaningful and inspirational to me to witness the support for new researchers and the honoring of nurse leaders! The conference provided an opportunity to make connections with researchers that share common interests and promoted a sense of community. I am grateful to the MUSC faculty who welcomed and mentored me during our time together. My thanks to the dedicated nurse leaders throughout the SNRS organization, we aspire to emulate!

It was surreal for this native Iowan to see and smell the blooming flowers, large palms, and ferns. It was truly a lovely, ecological environment for spirit revitalization. I look forward to attending and presenting next year in Williamsburg, Virginia; the opportunities are absolutely worth it!

Warm regards to all! Lori

Doctoral Student Poster Award Recipients

1st Place

N. Edward Damron from the University of Alabama was the **First place recipient** for his poster presentation, *Analyzing the Presence of Bacterial Colonies within a Neonatal Suctioning Device: The Blue-Bulb Syringe*

2nd Place

Hanzhang Xu from Duke University was the **Second Place recipient** for her poster presentation, *Self-Reported Diabetes Education among Chinese Middle-Aged and Older Adults with Diabetes: Comparison of Urban Residents, Migrants in Urban Settings, and Rural.*

3rd Place

Alexandra Milam from University of Kentucky was the **Third Place recipient** for her poster presentation, *Implications of Tooth Loss for Increased Cardiovascular Disease.*

