



# Southern Connections

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## Newsletter of the Southern Nursing Research Society

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### Communications Committee

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**Jo Azzarello**

**Carol Boswell**

**Judy Lewis**, Editor- *SOJNR*  
(ex-officio)

**Alison Jones Montpetit**  
Editor-*Doctoral Student Web  
Pages*

**Leanne Lefler**

**Lenora Smith**

Editor-*Southern Connections*

**Nan Smith-Blair**

## Thoughts from the Editor

### *Southern Connections New Editor*

Greetings everyone! Let me introduce myself. My name is Lenora Smith and I am the editor for Southern Connections, the newsletter for the Southern Nursing Research Society. I am so proud to have been chosen as the editor and look forward to providing you with news of what is happening in our esteemed organization. I hold a masters degree in nursing and work at Gaston Memorial Hospital as a case manager. I also teach undergraduate and graduate online classes for the University of Phoenix in the nursing and health care programs. I am currently enrolled at the University of Alabama Birmingham in the Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner program.

We would like to hear from you! If you are a member who has received recognition for your research, or you have information that you would like to disseminate to other members, please let us know. If you would like to help others with authoring short articles, such as information regarding abstracts or dissertations, please contact me or anyone on the communication committee.

We love hearing from our members-you are the reason for our newsletter! Keep us informed of what you are doing so we can excite others about research!

**Lenora Smith, MSN, RN**

Editor, Southern Connections

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## From the President

### *A Time of Change All Around!*

Our country recently participated in an amazing process of changing national administration thereby setting a new and hopeful future for the upcoming years. Our very astute Nominating Committee tied the SNRS election to the national election complete with a closing time on November 4 and regular emails encouraging voter turnout. Thanks to their initiative and your participation, 564 members voted this year-43%-an amazing level of support from the membership! Many thanks to everyone who participated, especially the two winners (randomly selected) of the drawing for a year's SNRS membership-*Dr. Linda D. Burhans, PhD, RN* of East Carolina University and *Ms. Valentina S. Lucas* of

Virginia Commonwealth University and registration to the upcoming Annual Meeting in Baltimore was awarded to-*Dr. Patricia Mary Wall* of the University of Louisville!

This year we had 15 members nominated for either Board Member or the Nominating Committee-all were very worthy. By allowing their names to be placed in nomination all were winners as they all made a commitment to advance our organization; we all are grateful for their willingness to step forward!

I proudly announce that your new Board Members whose term of office is 2009-2011 are:

- **Vice-President:** *Dr. Anne Turner-Henson*; University of Alabama
- **Treasurer:** *Dr. Demetrius Porche*; Louisiana State University
- **Member-at-Large Research Interest Groups:** *Dr. Jennifer Wenzel*; Johns Hopkins University
- **Member-at-Large Awards:** *Dr. Debra Moser*; University of Kentucky
- **Member-at-Large Membership:** *Dr. Deborah Jones*; University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

I proudly announce that the new Nominating Committee Members are:

- *Dr. Randy Jones*; University of Virginia
- *Dr. Donna Neff*; University of Florida

Are you interested in developing your leadership skills so you can promote change by stepping forward to advance your career within SNRS and establish your national stature? The Nominating Committee will be facilitating a free pre-conference workshop at the upcoming Annual Meeting in Baltimore on Wednesday, February 11 from 4:00-6:00 pm entitled, Succession Planning: The Next Generation of Professional Association Leadership. AT the closing, refreshments will be served to encourage networking.

We are thankful for all members support, especially in these tight

financial times. Recognizing that you have many expenses and must set your priorities, the Board of SNRS wants to acknowledge your choice to put the future of nursing research among your professional priorities and promote change in the science by renewing your membership and your participation at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore! Thanks to all and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

**Elaine J. Amella, PhD, GNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN President, SNRS**

## Conference Information

*Baltimore & SNRS-Interdisciplinary Fun!*

The 23rd annual SNRS conference will be in Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore February 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2009. Five schools of nursing serving as the Local Planning Committee (LPC) will host this year's conference, bringing together our collective expertise to offer a great program entitled, "Interdisciplinary Research a Road More or Less Traveled". The LPC is represented by University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, Catholic University,

Towson University, and West Virginia University. Our vision for this year's conference is to provide a futuristic perspective on the research enterprise focusing on the challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary research with the advent of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) along with the necessity to enhance science by partnering with other disciplines. Participants will enjoy a robust dialogue among colleagues on major research areas, create a forum to mentor, introduce the next generation researcher to the community of scholars and be enriched by the value of networking.

The keynote presentation given by Dr. Catherine Gilliss, DNSc, RN, FAAN, Dean of the School of Nursing at Duke University will kick off the conference with a presentation of the experiences of the nine CTSA-funded academic health centers in the SNRS region, highlighting the enablers and barriers to successful interdisciplinary research. On Friday the distinguished panel of past presidents of SNRS, Deans Allan, Hathaway, and Walker will present mid career wisdom on building a research career in an interdisciplinary climate. Pre-conferences will introduce new methods and approaches, as well as the "tried and true" publication pre-conference will return again this year. The doctoral student pre-conference will focus on key topics for planning a research career. Fundamental decisions across the many milestones in the process of launching a research career will be addressed. Stimulating research topics will be presented that are rich with diverse content from each of the research interest groups and will create opportunities to learn and expand one's knowledge in areas of specialization both in methods and specialty areas. In addition, special meetings to provide information and dialogue on major issues facing the SNRS professional organization from development to succession planning are scheduled to capture the interest of the next generation of leadership. NINR will offer individual sessions with each of the research divisions where investigators can sign up and receive feedback on questions and issues for future submissions. Saturday will conclude with a plenary session by Dr. Kevin Frick, PhD economist from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health who will discuss the economic factors impacting

nursing research.

We hope that having this year's conference in Baltimore will add some new adventures in this exciting port city with history and beauty of an active harbor and growing cosmopolitan city. Baltimore is known for its charm, ethnic restaurants, and performing arts. Two of the biggest attractions in the downtown area are the National Aquarium and the Maryland Science Center. And for those that enjoy Italian food, "Little Italy" offers a Mecca of restaurants.

For more information and registration go to the SNRS [website](#).

## SOJNR

### *New Journal Information*

SOJNR will have published 4 issues during 2008. Four issues also are planned for 2009. The first 2009 issue will focus on Qualitative Research, and promises to have excellent papers, including both methodological issues and reports of studies conducted using qualitative methods. The second issue in 2009 will be the abstracts of the 2009 meeting.

We are receiving an encouraging number of unsolicited manuscripts, and are happy to review these for possible publication. The author guidelines are available on the SNRS [website](#).

I look forward to meeting many of you in Baltimore.

**Judith A. Lewis, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FAAN**

Professor Emerita  
School of Nursing  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**Managing Editor**  
**Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research**

## Development Column

### *SNRS Foundation Created!*

It is a truism that nothing good happens fast and, indeed, nothing good happens in isolation. So, this report represents an update of sorts on the philanthropic activity of the Southern Nursing Research Society since this area was formalized for strategic development at the Business meeting in Birmingham in February, 2008.

As a result of a collective concern regarding the strategic positioning of SNRS going forward, it became evident that we, as members of the Society, might wish to identify additional mechanisms for funding our regional research efforts. We created a Board position at that meeting to oversee strategic direction-setting with respect to generating philanthropic support and garnering additional revenue to provide small grants and other support to our members.

Over the summer it became clear that a likely mechanism to carry out the intention of the membership with respect to this matter might be to consider development of our own Foundation as a separately incorporated 501c(3) organization. SNRS itself is a 501c(3), but as a membership organization it does not represent the type of organization likely to attract philanthropic interest. Thus, the notion of the Southern Nursing Research Society Foundation has emerged as one significant mechanism to allow the Society to solicit funds to support pilot research, provide awards, and garner additional visibility within the region.

There are two major types of Foundations: (1) charitable and (2) philanthropic. The structure of our thinking at this point is to separately incorporate a SNRS charitable foundation for purposes of moving the regional research agenda of the Society. In thinking about what might constitute the purposes of such a Foundation, we identified the following:

- To aid and support various conferences, seminars, workshops, and institute programs for professional nurses and members of the public;
- To encourage recruitment of qualified persons into the nursing profession, in particular into research and academic roles;
- To aid and support development of annual and continuing educational programs for professional nurse members of the Southern Nursing Research Society;
- To disseminate information on nursing research and related subjects to the public;
- To establish and provide means for publication of journals, books, monographs, articles, and other printed or audiovisual materials to assist nurses patients and others in rendering or obtaining better nursing care;
- To encourage attendance and participation of members of the public and the various health professions and occupations at various research programs, seminars, workshops, or institute programs including, but not limited to, the efforts of the Research Interest Groups;
- To do all things necessary, expedient or appropriate to the accomplishment of any of the objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed.

As part of our ongoing dialogue and our notions of transparency to the membership, we will conduct a "town meeting" on the issue of

development and the potential for structuring an SNRS Foundation at the annual meeting in Baltimore in February. Please consider the essential nature of this effort for our regional research group at this time and bracket some time in your busy schedules to participate.

Many thanks for the tremendous support of all of you in making this, the largest of the regional research groups, such an important member-driven organization. We hope to see you at the Town Meeting in February.

**Mary K. Walker, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
**Director-at-Large, Development**

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## SNRS Welcomes New Board Members

*Information on two of our new Board members*

*Dr. Anne Turner-Henson, DSN, RN*

Dr. Turner-Henson is a Professor in the UAB School of Nursing and has joint faculty appointments in the Schools of Medicine (General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine) and Public Health (Maternal Child Health). Dr Turner-Henson has had extensive experience in interdisciplinary research in community-based settings and in community participatory research. Reducing health disparities, along with reducing respiratory and environmental risks, for vulnerable children and families is a key theme in Dr Turner-Henson's current research.

Dr Turner-Henson recently received Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funding as project director for UAB's Leadership Education in Child-Health Nursing (LECHN). She is a board member for UAB's IRB, and has served as a grant reviewer for several national foundation panels (American Nurses' Foundation). Dr Turner-Henson is a member of the EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (federal advisory committee).

She has been a member of SNRS for 11 years, serving as Parent-Child RIG chairperson, 2008 Local Planning Chair (Birmingham, AL location with a record meeting attendance over 740), abstract reviewer, podium and posters presenter at multiple meetings, and member of the program committee. Dr Turner-Henson sees SNRS has been a key organization in her development as a nurse scientist and educator. She is honored to serve as Vice-President, and pledges to work to grow the organization and address the needs of researchers at all levels and research needs of the Southern region.

*Dr. Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, RN*

Dr. Demetrius James Porche is Professor and Dean of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, Louisiana School of Nursing. He holds an appointment also in the School of Public Health at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. He received his undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Nicholls State University and his Master of Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Science from Louisiana State University Medical Center. He completed Family Nurse Practitioner post-graduate coursework at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Dr. Porche is certified as a Clinical Specialist in Community Health Nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner. He is currently the Chief Editor of American Journal of Men's Health and serves on the Editorial Board of The Journal for Nurse Practitioners and the Open Nursing Journal. He is currently in his second term as the national President of the American Assembly for Men in Nursing.

Dr. Porche also serves on the Research Committee of the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators, Education Committee of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists and the Doctoral Conference Planning Committee of the American Association of

Colleges of Nursing. He is a member of the Association of Community Health Nurse Educator's Research Committee. He is a Virginia Henderson Fellow of Sigma Theta Tau International and a Fellow in Society of Luther Christman Fellows for Contributions to Nursing by Men.

## State Liaisons

### *List of State Liaisons*

- Alabama: Dr. Kathy Jo Ellison, RN, DSN
- Arkansas: Dr. Tammy Jones
- Florida: Dr. Susan Chase
- Georgia: Dr. Diana Meeks-Sjostrom
- Kentucky: Dr. Lynne Hall
- Louisiana: Dr. Debra Copeland
- Maryland: Dr. Barbara Smith
- North Carolina: Dr. Nancy Stephenson
- Mississippi: Heather Carter-Templeton
- South Carolina: Dr. Judith Alexander
- Tennessee: Dr. Jan Witucki-Brown
- Texas: Dr. Barbara May
- Virginia: Dr. Patricia Gray
- West Virginia: Dr. Mary Jane Smith

A list of state liaisons with contact information is available under the Society tab on the SNRS [website](#). For more information on the State Liaison program, [click here](#).

## SNRS Member News

### *Members Share Their Awards*

An SNRS member was elected as a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Nursing: **Barbara J. Lutz**, PhD, Assistant Professor from the University of Florida College of Nursing, Gainesville, FL.

**Liwiwa Villagomez**, a member of SNRS, has had her dissertation accepted for the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Dissertation Award for 2008. Her dissertation proposal is "Shifting Paradigms: The Development of Nursing Identity in Foreign-educated Medical Doctors Re-trained as Nurses Practicing in the United States." See the full story [here](#).

Congratulations to the two recipients of the **2008 SNRS/ANF Scholar Award:**  
**Cynthia L. Renn**, PhD, RN

University of Maryland  
*A New Model of Paclitaxel-Induced Allodynia in Mice with Solid Tumor Cancer*

**Catherine G. Ling**, MN, FNP-BC

Medical University of South Carolina  
*Stepping Forward: Pedometers and People with Class III Obesity*

Congratulations to our very own **Jennifer Wenzel** who received one of only 15 RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholar Awards! See the full story [here](#).

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**Southern Nursing Research Society**

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