



SOUTHERN CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Charleen McNeill

Dear Colleagues,

Reflecting on the Southern Nursing Research Society's (SNRS) 39th Annual Conference, held from February 19-21, 2025, in the vibrant city of Memphis, Tennessee, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. The event, hosted at the historic Peabody Hotel, brought together approximately 500 nurse scientists, educators, and practitioners, all united by a shared commitment to advancing nursing research and improving health outcomes across our region. Elvis came and enjoyed the outstanding performance by Michael Townsend, along with everyone present. What a fun and welcoming reception!

Engagement: The Heartbeat of SNRS

Engagement lies at the core of SNRS's mission. Our society thrives on the active participation of its members, fostering a collaborative environment where ideas are exchanged, mentorships are formed, and innovations are born. The conference exemplified this spirit, offering numerous opportunities for attendees to connect, learn, and contribute.

One of the standout initiatives was the "Organization Spirit Day" on February 20. Members showcased their institutional pride by donning their school or organization's colors and logos. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed were inspiring, and the friendly competition added a layer of camaraderie to the event. The University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Nursing notably highlighted their participation, reflecting the collective energy of the day.

Another significant engagement activity was the Speed Networking session. Designed to connect mentors and mentees, this event facilitated meaningful dialogues between

seasoned researchers and emerging scholars. Such interactions are invaluable as they pave the way for future collaborations and ensure our region's continuous growth of nursing research.

Conference Highlights

The conference theme, "From Social Determinants to Precision Health Innovations: Nursing Research for Today and Tomorrow," set the stage for a diverse array of presentations and discussions. Our keynote speakers delivered thought-provoking addresses that resonated with our collective goals.

Dr. Deborah Jones, Senior Vice President and Dean at the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing, opened the conference with insights into integrating nursing education with innovative research to enhance patient outcomes. Her emphasis on interprofessional collaboration underscored the importance of a holistic approach to healthcare.

Closing the conference, Dr. Anne W. Alexandrov, Professor of Nursing and Neurology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, shared her pioneering work in acute neurovascular care. Her research on novel methods for blood flow augmentation in acute stroke patients highlighted the critical role of nursing research in developing life-saving interventions.

Celebrating Excellence

Recognizing and celebrating the achievements of our members is a cornerstone of SNRS. This year, we honored several individuals who contributed significantly to nursing research. Dr. Kathleen Page was awarded the D. Jean Wood Nursing Scholarship, Dr. Gayenell Magwood received the Distinguished Researcher Award, Dr. Kelly Pretorius received the Early Science Investigator Award, Dr. Robin Page received the Health Disparity Research Award, Dr. Kavita Radhakrishnan was awarded the Mid-Career Researcher Award, and Dr. Jennifer Miller received the Research in Nursing & Health Authorship Award.

Looking Ahead

The success of this year's conference is a testament to the dedication and passion of our members. As we look toward the future, we must continue to build on this momentum. Engagement does not end with the conference; it is an ongoing commitment.

I encourage you to stay connected, participate in our various Research Interest and Implementation Groups (RIIGs), and contribute to our initiatives. Your involvement is vital in shaping the future of nursing research in the southern region.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who attended, presented, and contributed to the success of the 39th Annual Conference. Together, we are advancing nursing research and profoundly impacting the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Warmest regards,

Charleen McNeill, PhD, MSN, RN

President

Southern Nursing Research Society

McNeil

AWARD WINNERS

2025 SNRS Annual Conference Award Winners



Mid-Career Researcher Research Award
Kavita Radhakrishnan



Early Science Investigator Award
Kelly Pretorius



D. Jean Wood Scholarship Award
Kathleen Page



Early Science Investigator Award
Ashley Ruiz



Distinguished Researcher Award
Gayenell Magwood



Health Disparities Research Award
Robin Page



Research in Nursing & Health Authorship Award
Jennifer Miller



Student Poster Winner: 1st Place
Christopher Herring
Emory University



Student Travel Scholarship Recipient
Theresa Ekenedo



Student Poster Winner: 2nd Place
Blessing Okorie
University of Florida



Student Travel Scholarship Recipient
Christopher Herring



Student Poster Winner: 3rd Place
Kathryn Carr
Emory University

Congratulations!



We are excited to announce our new Institutional Membership Packages! These packages are designed to offer expanded benefits and greater opportunities for engagement with the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) throughout the year.

Highlights of the New Membership Packages:

- Recognition at the Annual Conference: Gain visibility as an Institutional Member.
- Complimentary Memberships: Each package includes complimentary regular and student memberships.
- Complimentary Job Postings: Receive complimentary job postings per year.
- Webinar Hosting Opportunity: Host webinars to showcase your research.
- Sponsorship of SNRS Webinars: Sponsor webinars throughout the year.
- Enhanced Visibility: Have your logo displayed on the SNRS website and in email communications.
- Newsletter Advertisement: Advertisement in the SNRS Quarterly Newsletter.
- Social Media Recognition: Benefit from social media recognition posts.
- Access to SNRS Mailing List: Rent the SNRS mailing list for your outreach needs.

Starting in 2025, all current and new Institutional Members will need to choose from the packages listed here. [Click here](#) to view the prospectus.

If you have any questions regarding the packages, please email Cindy Dady, Executive Director at cdady@associationconferencegroup.com. We look forward to your continued support!



DONATE TO THE SNRS NURSING RESEARCH FUND!

Become a partner today in shaping the future of nursing research through your contribution to SNRS. A financial gift provides benefits for both you as a donor and SNRS by helping to maintain financial security for those seeking to increase the science of nursing through research.

All SNRS member donations go into an endowment fund that has a goal of \$200,000 so it can fully fund our current grants and look to fund future grants.

Consider making a donation today including **our new option of recurring donations**. So if you would like to donate \$10 monthly simply check off the box when you make your donation.

To learn more about our grant program and how you can make a difference in promoting nursing research, [click here](#).



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



We are excited to share the success of our Minority Health RIIG Symposium: From Social Determinants to Precision Innovations at the SNRS 39th Annual Conference. The event featured insightful presentations from our members, addressing key topics related to precision health across different minority communities. Topics included nursing research on social determinants and precision health, precision health for diabetes in Vietnamese Americans, social determinants affecting necrotizing enterocolitis mortality in preterm infants, intrauterine fetal demise linked to opioids, and culturally adapted diabetes interventions for rural Hispanic Veterans.

Photo: Armiel Suriaga, Melanie Orejuela, Catherine (Cathie) Mbango, Keliy Fordham, Angelina Nguyen

A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Catherine (Cathie) Mbango for her exceptional leadership as Chair of the Minority Health RIIG the past two years. We also want to congratulate Dr. Janet Lopez on her new role as Chair and Dr. Nitha Mathew Joseph as Co-Chair. The second Co-Chair position is still open, and we encourage any interested Minority Health RIIG member to consider running for this role.

Collaboration Opportunities: We would like to acknowledge and commend the Minority RIIG members for their valuable contributions to minority health. Their presentations at SNRS annual conference enhance our understanding of health disparities and promote innovative solutions for health equity. We look forward to continued collaboration and progress in advancing minority health through research and innovation!

Upcoming Events: Join us for our monthly meeting on the third Wednesday at 3 PM EST. Your insights and contributions are valuable, and we look forward to seeing you there! For more information email info@snrs.org.

Do you have good news to share?

SNRS wants to hear about your accomplishments, grants awarded, articles published, research projects, and more. If it's important to you, it's important to us!

Please complete [this form](#) to let us know about your good news so we can celebrate with you in a future newsletter, on our website, and via social media.

#SNRSGoodNews



RIIG Overview:

The Minority Health Research Interest and Implementation Group (RIIG), part of the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), is dedicated to improving the health of minority individuals and communities. Its mission focuses on fostering research collaboration, mentorship, networking, and inspiring future minority health researchers. The group aims to transform minority health outcomes by promoting diversity in research. By supporting career development and enhancing communication among members, the Minority Health RIIG strives to address health disparities and create a lasting impact through inclusive nursing research.

Community/Public Health/Health Promotion

Welcome from Melissa Klamm, Chair of the Community Public Health/Health Promotion Research Interest and Implementation Group

We are a high-energy group focused on improving populations' health through collaborative research, implementation science, and dissemination. Our community/public health and health promotion lens support this focus. We embrace DNP-PhD partnerships to expand knowledge and improve health outcomes through applied research. Students

are always welcome to participate in all of our RIIG meetings and efforts. We want this RIIG to be a place to share your successes and opportunities for collaboration. As well, we want to support opportunities for you to share your work through works-in-progress presentations, full results presentations, or, hopefully soon, podcasts.

Community/Public Health & Health Promotion RIIG Member Publication of the Year Award

All peer-reviewed Research Study or Evidence-based Practice Implementation Project publications authored or co-authored by a member of our RIIG with citation/reference information submitted to the RIIG Chair email since the prior SNRS annual meeting will be considered by the RIIG leadership committee for this award. Presentation of the award occurs at the annual in-person RIIG meeting at SNRS; however, you do not need to be present to win.

As always, if you have any questions about SNRS, please contact us at info@snrs.org.

Aging/Gerontology RIIG Strategic Plan

Promote the advancement of research for the care of older individuals using innovative approaches to guide and promote the care of healthy, chronically ill, and frail older people. Facilitate networking opportunities and inspiration to nurses and other healthcare providers interested in aging research and aging care in the Southern Region of the U.S. The strategic plan was implemented through the following.

Webinars coordinated and presented by our members.

May 22 (12-1 pm ET), NIH grant writing, Speakers: Drs. Kalisha Bonds Johnson and Katherine C Britt,

September 25, (12-1 pm, ET) Methods in research and recruitment: Speaker: Dr. Stephanie Large.

Collaboration with the Community Public Health/Health Promotion RIIG under the leadership of Dr. Jean Davis on symposia presentation at the 2025 SNRS conference. Two years Leadership succession plan coordinated by the immediate past Chair: Dr. Ladda Thiamwong, including Co-Chair transitioning into Chair's position
Recognition of members' research contributions through the Aging/Gerontology RIIG Awards

2025 SNRS Aging/Gerontology RIIG Award Recipients

Distinguished Dissertation Award

Eunice Ojo, DNP, RN, CV-BC, PCCN

Nursing PhD Student

University of Central Florida, Orlando Florida

McKnight Doctoral Fellow 2022-2026

Chair, SNRS Aging/Gerontology RIIG

The Rising Investigator Award

Jyotsana Parajuli PhD, MGS, RN
Assistant professor
School of Nursing and an affiliate faculty in the Gerontology Program
University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

For further inquiry, contact Eunice Ojo (Chair; Aging/Gerontology RIIG) at
Eunice.ojo@UCF.edu



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Pauline Adhoch
Catherine Allen
Kimberly Barcus
Tajudaullah Bhaloo
Rajib Kumar Biswas
Jane Bolin
Michelle Broadbent
Tamika Broome-Lewis
Candice Buchanan
Jodi Bullard
Moriah Chariz Cabadin
Andrea Castellano
Reginald Castor
Bryce Catarelli
Chloe Chapin-Grabowski
Latarsha Cheatham
Katelyn Chiriboga
Eunju Choi
Honor Chotkowski
Sarah Cohen
Cynthia Corbett
Lila de Tantiloo

Edith DeCland
Racolesha Denson
Jennifer Dugger
Kacie Duncan
Cheryl Elliott-Dawe
Melanie Fant
Stephanie Felonta
Elizabeth Finnessy
Molly Fitzpatrick
Margaret Fletcher
Beverly Fray
Carmen Giurgescu
Sujeong Go
Mandy Golman
Danielle Granderson
Letitia Graves
Sandra K. Hanneman
Annelies Harrison
Kim Hickman
Jenny Holcombe
Carolyn Horne
Charmaine Hutchinson

Sadie Hutson
Hyeiyeon Im
Jolie Jemmott
Julius Kehinde
Kayla Diane Kelly
Robert Kim
DONGMI KIM
Soo Hyun Kim
Stephanie Large
Sherry Leviner
Erica Lewis
Caitlin Lofton
Alicia Logan
Sydney Long
Danita Massie
Barbara McAlister
Angela McClure
Ethan Mo
Mona Mohammadifirouzeh
Kristen Montgomery
April Morris
Rachell Nguyen

Tonychris Nnaka
Karen O'Connell
Blessing Okorie
Frances Okpaluba
ROSE ONYIRIMBA
Robin Page
So Hyun Park
Jiwon Park
Jiwon Park
Amy Parker
Joyce Pittman
Shannon Powell
Jami Prevete
Ranjitha Rao
Magali Rezende de Carvalho
Angela Richard-Eaglin
Kathryn Robinson
Sarah Robinson
Amanda Ross
Bethany Sanders
Kunwal Scott
Tracy Shamburger

Paige Sheppard
Lanie Simon
Raven Smith
Setor Sorkpor
Molly Ann Szczech
Joseph Tacy
Michelle Tall
Kate Taylor
Ali Tfaily
Rebekah Thacker
Alexa Thompson
Darlla Thompson
Leslie Trejo
Janet Van Cleave
Lizette Villanueva
Antay Waters
LaDaryl Watkins
Elizabeth Wells-Beede
Cindy Weston
Seoyoon Woo
Aislinn Woody
Amy Yaroach-Meeker



CAREER CENTER

Looking for a Job? Looking for a great candidate to fill a vacancy?

Visit the [SNRS Career Center](#) to access jobs and candidates within the highly skilled nursing research profession.

Columbia University School of Nursing has a **post-doc opening** in their Systems Science and Comparative and Cost-Effectiveness Research (S2CER2) Postdoctoral Research Training Program. They are looking to fill this position by July 2025. [Click here](#) for more information.

JOB POSTINGS

POST A JOB



ATTN: ALL NURSING AND
PUBLIC HEALTH
STUDENTS!

FREE NURSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE!

@ GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

April 24,
2025
9am-5pm



*Keynote: Dr. Terri-Ann Thompson, Senior
Research Scientist at Ibis Reproductive Health*

Planned by nursing students for nursing students. ALL nursing students welcome to register (BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD)! **Are you a nursing or public health graduate student researching a nursing related problem?** If so, we highly encourage you to register and submit an abstract.

Register today!

Registration DEADLINE: 4/23/25

Abstract Submission DEADLINE 4/3/25

Register [Here](#) or
SCAN ME



Submit Abstract [Here](#) or
SCAN ME



**FREE
Giveaways FOOD!
Parking**

Accepting abstracts for **qualitative and quantitative research, evidence based practice, policy, advocacy and quality improvement** projects.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

REGISTRATION

Thank You to Our 2025 Institutional Members!

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



BECOME AN INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER



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