



In This Issue

- President's Message
- SNRS 2009: 23rd Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society
- Additional SNRS Leadership Opportunities
- Introduction to Dr. Marti Rice, SNRS President-Elect
- Introduction to Dr. Cindy L. Munro, SNRS Board Member-at-Large
- Message from SOJNR Editor Judy Lewis, PhD, RNC, FAAN, NCC
- 2008 Small Grant and Dissertation Award
- Aging/Gerontology RIG Update
- Evidence Based Practice RIG Update
- Psychiatric Mental Health RIG Update

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President's Message

Elaine J. Amella, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN



Recently while listening to the standard instructions as the plane was about to depart from Charleston, I was struck by the flight attendant's closing -- a very pleasant "thank you" from the crew, acknowledging that passengers could choose among many airlines, but thanking us as we had chosen to fly with them. I recalled that SNRS members make the same choice. There seems to be a plethora of nursing, interdisciplinary, and specialty organizations that you could all join, yet you chose to affiliate with and support the efforts of SNRS. The Board

heartily thanks you for your loyalty and hopes we live up to your expectations!

We hope to be a resource to members - a one-stop shop for senior, mid-level and junior researchers who find within our website, during interactions through the Research Interest Groups (RIGs), and at increasingly diverse annual scientific meetings, a place that satisfies many critical professional needs for nursing collaborators, interdisciplinary threads pulled through research questions and design, and niche groups that satisfy your need for more in-depth partnerships. This newsletter highlights several of the resources open to you as a member, and we hope you find it useful.

The portal to SNRS, our website, is rapidly evolving to be a full-time resource for members. Link to www.snrs.org and you will find information under various tabs for everyone from doctoral students to seasoned researchers. Dr. Anne Stiles and the Communication Committee are swiftly making the website a critical link for all

researchers. I will give you a short flight around the site.

- Leadership opportunities within the Society provide the prospect of regional and national exposure for members looking to extend their reach and positively impact the profession. Electronic voting for Board Members will occur in October; everyone who votes this year will have the chance to win either a registration to the 2009 23rd Annual Conference in Baltimore or an annual membership. This year a special free pre-conference session of the Annual Conference will focus on the "ins and outs" of positioning yourself for leadership within SNRS and will be conducted by the Nominating Committee. Plan to attend this special Wednesday session!
- Dr. Cynthia Russell and the Planning Committee for the upcoming conference in Baltimore will soon announce the opening of the **Student Poster submission**. Watch for an e-blast and check out the [conference site](#) for further details.
- Doctoral students who wish to build their CVs and who have an interest in the process of **publication** can assist Dr. Judy Lewis, editor of the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR), with production activities. Send letters of interest to her attention at snrs@resourcenter.com.
- The Qualitative RIG is currently **accepting manuscripts** for their upcoming SOJNR issue. Send your manuscript to SOJNR@resourcenter.com and notify guest editor, Dr. Elaine Marshall.
- The Awards and Small Grants Committee, led by Dr. Cindy Munro, is gearing up to accept **ANF/SNRS dissertation proposals** due by September 1. [Awards](#) for leadership in research and specialty areas are due in mid-October.
- Dr. Martha Alligood and the State Representatives will soon be circulating the **2008 Membership Survey** that will help us to adjust priorities and plan future activities. Look for the survey in coming months!
- The RIGs continue to be the heartbeat of the Society. Check out individual [Group sites](#) and interact with others through the Blogs, which now feature standards for professional interaction.
- Dr. Jennifer Wenzel, Board Liaison to the RIGs, just became **a new mother to Joshua** - Congratulations to both her and Danny!
- Dr. Marti Rice and her committee continue to knit together and solidify our infrastructure by organizing the **Policies & Procedures** of the Society.
- Check out the new **Online Store**, which features the very

popular "Mentoring Excellence for Nursing Research" pins that were first seen at the 2008 conference and were the product of Dr. Carolyn Lewis and the Finance Committee's imagination. They continue to be the perfect gift for that special person who helped you realize your ambitions.

The Board will hold its semi-annual meeting in Austin, Texas on September 20 to continue strategic planning, sharpen plans for the 2009 Conference in Baltimore, and begin planning for the 2010 Conference at the Austin Hilton Hotel. Dr. Mary Walker will lead our planning for our major fund-raising campaign- "**\$250,000 by 25!**" We will welcome to the meeting Dr. Sharon Horner from UT-Austin School of Nursing, one of the host schools for our February 2010 Conference.

As you continue your flight, we hope SNRS will help you soar! Many thanks for your continued support; please let us know what we can do to make this the journey you'd like to take!

Elaine J. Amella, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN
President

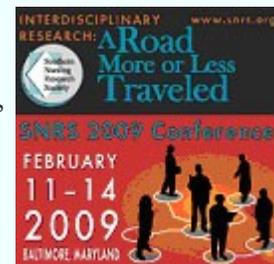
PS - Don't forget - put the [Annual Conference](#) to be held in Baltimore from February 11 - 14, 2009 on your calendar! Also, the 2008 [National State of the Science Research Congress](#) is almost here - October 2 - 4. Early bird specials will expire on September 5 and blocked rooms are limited!

SNRS 2009: 23rd Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society

Baltimore, Maryland, February 11-14, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore

"Interdisciplinary Research: A Road More or Less Traveled"

Join your colleagues for a stimulating and valuable exchange of research and networking. In planning the 2009 conference, we recognize that the future of research involves many different disciplines. With the new direction of the NIH Road Map and the funding sources placing new value on the



interdisciplinary contributions to advancing knowledge and translation, we have selected this timely theme to prepare you for success in the future direction of your research career.

The program includes pre-conference workshops on Wednesday, February 11th and the keynote starting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 12th. This is a change from last year to allow more time for networking and exchange of ideas. Plenary, paper, and symposia sessions will be available throughout Thursday, Friday and Saturday.



Catherine Gillis, DNSc, RN, FAAN, will keynote with an exciting presentation: "***Interdisciplinary Research: A Road More or Less Traveled.***" Dr. Gillis will share her experiences and vision for interdisciplinary research and the future requirements for working in teams in order to be successful in a research career. Dr. Gillis is a professor and dean of the Duke University School of Nursing and Duke Medicine's first Vice Chancellor for nursing affairs. Having earned her BSN degree in 1971 from Duke University, she is the first alumna in the School of Nursing's history to hold the position of dean. Gillis earned her MSN degree in 1974 from the Catholic University of America and her DNSc degree in 1983 from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) where she completed her post-doctoral studies, joined the school of nursing faculty, and from 1993 to 1998 was professor and chair of the Department of Family Health Care. From 1998 until her arrival at Duke in 2004, she was professor and dean at the Yale University School of Nursing.

The Local Planning Committee and host schools: University of Maryland School of Nursing, Towson University, The Catholic University of America, Johns Hopkins University, and West Virginia University School of Nursing welcome you to Baltimore with a host school reception on the evening of Friday, February 13.

The meeting will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor**. A special conference rate of \$179 single/double (plus applicable taxes) has been arranged. Call 1-888-362-0088 to make reservations; be sure to identify yourself as an SNRS attendee to receive the special rate. The reservation cut-off date is January 21, 2009; thereafter the hotel will accept reservations on a space-available basis only at the current market rate.

Additional SNRS Leadership Opportunities

Editor of Southern Connections Newsletter!

Editor needed immediately. Prior editor experience helpful, but not required. Qualifications: Doctoral degree in nursing or related field, a history of publishing manuscripts, the ability to proofread and edit written material, coordinate and meet deadlines, and communicate with others. Most of the material in the newsletter is provided by others; there will be very little writing done by the Editor. This is a voluntary position with a two-year commitment. If you are interested, please send a cover letter and CV to [Dr. Anne Stiles](#), Director of Communications, SNRS.

Student Member of Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking for a doctoral student who would like to serve a two-year term on the committee. The committee is responsible for the website, the newsletter and the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR). Some of our needs include someone to help in the last category (SOJNR) and to develop the doctoral student page on the website. We have an Editor for the journal (Judy Lewis), but we need a representative from the committee to assist Dr. Lewis. The doctoral student page on the website is brand new. We anticipate creating a highly interactive space that will meet needs of doctoral students. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of the SNRS members better and to build your CV! If you are interested, please SEND YOUR CV TO [Dr. Anne Stiles](#), Director of Communications, SNRS.

Introduction to Dr. Marti Rice, SNRS President-Elect

Marti Rice, PhD, RN

University of Alabama at Birmingham



Dr. Rice is a professor at the University of Alabama School of Nursing and teaches in the research methods, statistics, biobehavioral focal area courses and leadership Education in Child Health Nursing courses of the PhD program. She has taught doctoral students for over 20 years, chairing dissertation committees, and mentoring PhD students in research. Dr.

Rice's program of research focuses on anger, stress and self-concept in school-age children and currently involves a federally-funded, school-based intervention study aimed at reducing anger and stress and enhancing self-concept (the PASS program). Her research is based on a biobehavioral focus which includes psychological (anger, stress, self-concept, school connectedness), behavioral (coping strategies, in-school behavior), and biological (blood pressure, cortisol, and sIgA) factors. Along with school-age children, her research also addresses teachers and anger and stress management. Dr. Rice has over 20 years of experience with school-based research with children and teachers examining anger, stress, and self-concept and effects on blood pressure and other biological markers.

Based on findings from her research, Dr. Rice has begun a program which focuses on preventing high blood pressure in children, the PASS by High Blood Pressure program. She and colleagues are working with community, family and parent groups, and the schools to educate children and parents about blood pressure and prevention of high blood pressure.

As President-Elect, Dr. Rice will be working along with the other members of the Board on a Policies and Procedures Manual for the organization and the development of leadership institutes to advance research in nursing. In addition, she chairs the Bylaws Committee, the Policies and Procedures Committee, and serves on the Finance Committee.

Introduction to Dr. Cindy L. Munro, SNRS Board Member-at-Large

Cindy Munro, RN, ANP, PhD, FAAN
School of Nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University



Dr. Cindy Munro is an SNRS Board Member-at-Large, and chairs the Awards Committee. A Professor in the School of Nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University, she holds Affiliate Professor appointments in the School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine and Department of Microbiology and Immunology. She teaches in the undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs and practices as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. Her research focuses on the relationship of oral health to

infections (including ventilator-associated pneumonia and endocarditis). She is also the Measurement Services Coordinator for an NINR funded Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research at her school.

Dr. Munro has an extensive publication record with over 50 peer-reviewed publications, written with colleagues from many disciplines, including publications in the *American Journal of Critical Care*, *Applied Nursing Research*, *Biological Research for Nursing*, *Critical Care Medicine*, *Heart and Lung*, *Infection and Immunity*, *Intensive and Critical Care Nursing*, and others.

PRESS RELEASE:

Cindy Munro, PhD, RN selected as 2008 Harris Manchester Fellow

[Full Press Release](#)

Message from SOJNR Editor Judy Lewis, PhD, RNC, FAAN, NCC

I am honored to serve as the Managing Editor for *SOJNR*. My previous editorships have been with *JOGNN* and *Issues in Interdisciplinary Care*, both of which were print journals. I'm excited about the opportunities and challenges of publishing an online journal.

With the help of Barbara Trumbo and Linda Pocsik from the Resource Center, the format of *SOJNR* has been redesigned, and I've received positive feedback about our new look and increased functionality. The issues for the remainder of 2008 will include one focusing on Health Promotion that has been developed by the Health Promotion RIG, and one that includes the abstracts from the 2008 conference. The first two issues for 2009 will be one on Qualitative Research and one that includes the abstracts from the 2009 conference.

We are excited about being able to include manuscripts in addition to those that address each issue's special focus. If you are interested in submitting an article for review, I welcome hearing from you. You may contact me directly at jalewis@vcu.edu or you may directly [submit a paper](#) that is prepared according to Journal guidelines. The guidelines are published in each issue and also can

be found on the [SNRS website](#).

I'm looking forward to meeting you at the 2009 Conference in Baltimore.

Judy Lewis
Managing Editor

2008 Small Grant and Dissertation Award

Amy Calvin, PhD, RN & Liwliwa Villagomez



Amy Calvin, PhD, RN, was selected as the recipient of the SNRS Small Grant Award for 2008. Her proposal,

"Understanding of Advance Care Planning by Family Members of Persons Undergoing Hemodialysis", received \$4500 of support from SNRS. Dr. Calvin is an Assistant Professor at The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston.

Liwliwa Villagomez is the recipient of the 2008 SNRS Dissertation Award. Ms. Villagomez is a doctoral student at University of South Florida; Dr. Mary Evans is her dissertation advisor. Her proposal, "Shifting Paradigms: The Development of Nursing Identity in Foreign-educated Medical Doctors Re-trained as Nurses Practicing in the United States," received \$3,000 of support from the SNRS award.



ABSTRACTS:

Calvin, "Understanding of Advance Care Planning by Family Members of Persons Undergoing Hemodialysis"

Communication among persons with kidney failure, their family members, and health care providers is fundamental to the provision of optimal palliative and end-of-life care. Kidney failure is a chronic condition, where patients are dependant on dialysis treatment and are at risk for becoming critically ill. To honor patients' values and medical treatment preferences, health care providers often need to communicate with family members because of the patients' loss of decision making capacity. The purpose of this qualitative descriptive study is to explore hemodialysis patients' family members' understanding of the end-of- life decision making process. Interview and observational data will be collected from approximately 30 family members of persons who receive

hemodialysis in the outpatient setting. The specific aims of this study are to: (1) Determine from interviews and observations with family members of hemodialysis patients their constructions of advance care planning, including their roles and responsibilities and (2) Determine from interviews and observations with family members of hemodialysis patients their perceptions of health care provider roles and responsibilities in advance care planning. Data will be analyzed using standard qualitative descriptive methodology with peer debriefing sessions.

Villagomez, "Shifting Paradigms: The Development of Nursing Identity in Foreign-educated Medical Doctors Re-trained as Nurses Practicing in the United States"

A unique breed of nurses for the global market is emerging-the MD-nurses. MD-nurses are foreign-educated medical doctors who have re-trained as nurses and are now practicing in developed countries such as the United States (US). Shifting from a discipline traditionally viewed as more superior than nursing, development of their nursing identity is fundamental in their transition to nursing. This qualitative study will develop an explanatory model depicting the basic social psychological process that influences development of nursing identity in MD- nurses practicing in the US. This study is significant because MD-nurses are an evolving vital component of the global nursing workforce in the face of the current nursing shortage. It will offer theoretical explanations about the development of their nursing identity, and will also assist employers in designing strategies for their socialization, adaptation, and support which will subsequently impact their nursing practice. Grounded theory methodology will be used. The iterative process will allow for the complete exploration and discovery of the theoretical explanations sought for in this study. Participants will be recruited via theoretical sampling method to answer 10 interview guiding questions. No *a priori* number of participants is determined because interviews will continue until data saturation is achieved.

Aging/Gerontology RIG Update

The Aging/Gerontology Research Interest Group (RIG) is committed to facilitating the advancement of research for the care of older individuals. We recognize the importance of the nurse scientist's role in providing older adults with high quality care

through knowledge gained by research. More and more people are living longer, resulting in an unprecedented increase in the population of older adults in the United States and throughout the industrialized world. As the numbers of aged increase, so does the need for new and innovative approaches to guide and promote the care of healthy, chronically ill, and frail older people. We provide a forum for nurses and other healthcare providers interested in networking in the Southern Region of the U.S. to meet and connect, share information, promote best practices, identify nursing leadership, and link these together to build capacity for advancing the care of older adults.

Greetings from Eileen Rossen, Chair and Leanne Lefler, Co-Chair of the Aging/Gerontology RIG. As active members of the Southern Nursing Research Society, we will be promoting several activities among members of the RIG. We would like to facilitate, again this year, the Rising New Investigator Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize the contribution of a rising investigator who has conducted Gerontological nursing research, which has the potential to enhance the science and practice of gerontological nursing. Nominations for this award will be due in January 2009. We would like to add a Dissertation Award (this would be for those who graduated during the previous year) and a Senior Researcher Award in the RIG for 2009. Stay tuned for the call for nominations.

We attempted organization of a symposium and facilitated abstract submission for the 2009 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland this Spring. We received 4 abstracts that were vastly dissimilar and had difficulty combining them to form a symposium. However, we are not giving up on next year's conference! Our RIG is scheduled to have a symposium for the Conference in 2011 and for a Pre-Conference workshop in 2012.

Lastly, we would like to highlight some of our work in Aging/Gerontology for our quarterly journal, the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research. We are tentatively scheduled to sponsor the Fall or Winter 2009 edition. We will be issuing a call for manuscripts in the Spring of 2009. This is an excellent opportunity for us to contribute to the knowledge base of nursing and present scientific evidence, clinical evidence-based practice, clinical manuscripts, integrative and systematic reviews, and theoretical papers that improve the practice of nursing specifically featuring Aging/Gerontology topics.

We will plan an annual meeting of our RIG members in Baltimore on February 11-14, 2009. Look for e-blasts from the society for upcoming events, and be sure to register and log into our website.

See you in Baltimore!

Evidence Based Practice RIG Update

Greetings from co-chairs Lyn Stankiewicz Murphy and Darryl W. Roberts of the SNRS Evidence-based Practice RIG. Our area of work focuses on the integration and infusion of individual clinical expertise with the best clinical evidence from sound scientific research into nursing and allied health practice. Evidence-based practice can improve the quality of clinical judgments and facilitate cost-effective care for all healthcare providers. It is our hope that this RIG will enable likeminded nurses to create an environment for EBP excellence in the SNRS community and nursing profession at large.

This RIG formed at the 2008 Annual SNRS Conference in Birmingham after a spirited discussion regarding the importance of evidence-based practice and its relationship to nursing practice. Our goal for this coming year is to become an active RIG within the SNRS community. Our first step in meeting that goal is to generate interest in the RIG by using this Website and other means.

SNRS selected the EBP RIG for an Annual Conference Symposium in 2010. In the near future, the RIG will request manuscripts for a special edition of the SOJNR - date to be announced! Additionally, the EBP RIG offers networking opportunities, peer support, and inspiration to others interested in this area of work and research. We encourage all members to participate. We welcome all parties interested in EBP - researchers, clinicians, academicians, and students - to this RIG. Be sure to "sign-up" by logging in to the Members-Only section and choosing this RIG to join. There is no fee to participate. You can join up to three RIGs as part of your membership benefits. Just "click" on the topic and the Resource Center will do the rest!

Again, welcome to the EBP RIG! If you have any additional questions, ideas, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us! Thanks for your interest in the EBP RIG.

Psychiatric Mental Health RIG Update

Welcome from Sarah Farrell, Chair and Christine Williams Co-chair of the Psychiatric Mental Health Research Interest Group (RIG). The purpose of our RIG is to advance knowledge and practice of psychiatric mental health nursing in the southern region of the U.S and beyond by promoting the work of psychiatric mental health nurse researchers in all career stages.

We offer networking opportunities, peer support, and inspiration to others interested in this area of work and research. We encourage all members to participate. We welcome all interested parties in our area of work-- researchers, clinicians, academicians, and students to our RIG. Be sure to "sign-up" by logging in to the Members-Only section and choose which RIG(s) to join. There is no fee to participate and you can join up to three RIGs as part of your membership benefits. Just "click" on the topic and the Resource Center will do the rest!

We met at the 2008 Annual SNRS Conference in Birmingham. We discussed the following: 1) having a RIG-sponsored symposium in the future, 2) establishing research recognition awards, 3) establishing small grants to promote research in psychiatric mental health nursing, and 4) helping members to publish their work.

Our recent activities and/or current projects and/or opportunities include a RIG sponsored symposium at the 2009 conference.

Southern Nursing Research Society

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