



Newsletter of the Southern Nursing Research Society

In This Issue

[From the Editor](#)

[From the President](#)

[A Future Scan for SNRS](#)

[Website Newsflash!](#)

[How To?](#)

[RIGs on the SNRS Web
Site](#)

[Diane Orr Chlebowy,
PhD, RN](#)

[2010 Conference News](#)

[Scholarship & Fellowship
Programs](#)

[Call for Podcasts](#)

Quick Links

[Conference Information](#)

[SOJNR](#)

[State Liaisons](#)

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Thoughts from the Editor

Disseminating SNRS Information

Summer is approaching its end and fall will soon be upon us. With the falling temperatures, fall surely is one of my favorite times of the year. Fall reminds me that it will not be long until the 2010 SNRS annual conference; I hope you are making plans to attend, as it sounds fascinating! Check out the information about the conference in this newsletter as well as on the SNRS website, www.snrs.org.

In other SNRS news, nominations are now being accepted for open positions within the organization. The [call for nominations](#) can be found on the website. Positions being sought include President-Elect, Secretary, members at large, and nominating committee members. Please consider nominating yourself for a position and becoming more active in the organization!

In this edition of Southern Connections, the Executive Director of SNRS, David Stumph, contributed with information regarding the organization's strategic plan. It contains some valuable information that should be of interest to every member. Additionally, we highlight the Evidence-Based Practice Research Interest Group (RIG) and refer members to the web site to learn more about the exciting opportunities and activities available to RIG members.

Southern Connections serves as a source of information for all members of SNRS. We welcome ideas or suggestions for improvement, which can be [emailed to me](#). I am always happy to consider new ideas! If you have news to share, please email that as well - we love hearing from our members! Keep us apprised of your important news so others can become as excited about your research as we are!

Lenora Smith, MSN, RN

Editor, Southern Connections

From the President

Due Diligence

Pages

Leanne Lefler

Lenora Smith

Editor-*Southern Connections*

Nan Smith-Blair

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Merriam-Webster (2009) defines 'due diligence' as: the care that a reasonable person exercises under the circumstances to avoid harm to other persons or their property; or research and analysis of a company or organization done in preparation for a business transaction (as a corporate merger or purchase of securities).

The SNRS Board determined this spring to focus our due diligence in examining the financial health of the Society on the behalf of the membership. Accounting reviews for the past several years indicated that we were in

compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). However, it has been more than five years since a full audit was performed on the SNRS accounts. Therefore, the Board decided to authorize a full audit of the Society accounts. On behalf of the Board of Directors and SNRS membership, the Finance Committee reviewed several proposals from firms interested in conducting an audit. Firms were considered based on years of experience, particularly with non-profit organizations, scope of services to be provided, availability and process outlined to conduct the audit, references, and cost. The Board of Directors has approved the engagement of Heider, Tanner & Dirks, Inc. located in Denver, Colorado to conduct an audit of SNRS finances with a complete report available to the membership at our 2010 annual meeting.

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Society in Baltimore, the Board presented the membership with an Operating Budget reflecting a small negative balance (-\$2,970). That initial 2009 Operating Budget was built using anticipated revenues from the 2009 annual meeting; however, we had a more significant shortfall than planned when food and beverage, and cost for A/V upload and equipment came in higher than planned, and registration was less than projected. This required the Board of Directors to amend the approved 2009 Operating Budget. After an in-depth analysis, the Board voted at their July 7 meeting to utilize \$40,000 for the Operating Budget that had been earmarked for the reserves in order to have a balanced budget for the remainder of the year. The utilization of these funds does not deplete our investment accounts; the Society continues to have an investment account with over \$180,000. This \$40,000 had been set aside to assist with the formation of a SNRS Foundation that would increase the Society's fundraising potential and to create an enduring source of support for nursing research. The 2009 Operating Budget was also balanced by decreasing expenditures on conference brochures, decreasing board of directors travel expenses, decreasing printing and copying supplies.

We currently are in the process of planning for the 2010 Operating Budget, and due to the recession, we reduced our expectations of funds that will be generated by the 2010 Annual Meeting and will build the budget with those constraints in mind. As a Board, we moved the reserve funds with the realization that this is not a strategy than can be made from year to year without depleting all our funds; we realize that reserves are only there for the 'hard times'. As we saw in February, the annual meeting, while a significant part of the ongoing revenue stream for SNRS, cannot always be counted on to carry the financial wellbeing of the Society; it should be a self-sustaining entity with dues covering the day-to-day operations of the

organization.

We will be posting our financial reports and the most recent audit documents on the Members Only portion of the SNRS Website as they become available. We hope you will review the shared documents when they are posted on the website. At the 2010 Annual Business Meeting, attention will need to be given to the future viability of the organization. Your help in the process is vital. Should you have questions or comments about the above information, please contact Dr. Demetrius Porche, Treasurer.

due diligence (2009) In Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Retrieved July 22, 2009, from http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/due_diligence

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

President

Demetrius Porche, DNS, RN, FAANP

Treasurer

A Future Scan for SNRS

David Stumph, IOM, CAE

Executive Director

SNRS is a member-driven organization - a very positive characteristic for a professional society in that it keeps the organization focused on the key issues of its members. It ensures that the educational content and information exchanged at the annual conference, in the newsletter and the journal stays relevant to the SNRS membership. SNRS is also driven by a set of strategic goals and initiatives that keep us focused on the important issues at hand. To help everyone understand the SNRS Strategic Plan, we thought it would be a good idea to offer a brief overview and discussion of how it relates to and affects the future of the organization and its members. The SNRS Strategic Plan consists of the following primary objectives:

Objective 1: Promoting the conduct of research as well as the dissemination and application of research findings. The single most important goal of SNRS is to fund research and to utilize every option available to ensure that the research findings are communicated in such a way that they are incorporated into practice. The funding issue is critical to making this happen. Over the past few years, we have been able to increase funding for research as a result of a few successful annual conferences. To put the teeth behind our efforts to raise funds to support research, the Board is working on establishing a research foundation. One of its primary charges is the initiation of a special endowment fund specifically designed to provide a perpetual source of support for nursing research. This project is currently on hold as a result of a poor financial outcome from the 2009 conference. However, work is progressing on the formation of the foundation so that the structure will be in place and ready to take advantage of future successes.

Objective 2: Facilitating the recognition and growth of members as nurse scientists. Recognition for ones accomplishments in nursing research is important to those of you making important discoveries, as well as in enhancing public awareness for those achievements. The SNRS awards program is a key part of this objective. We are continually looking for ways to improve dissemination of this information to address both goals. Naturally, using our own website and our newsletter to get the information out is important. We must not be shortsighted, however, by limiting dissemination of this information to these areas. A press release program is planned to provide broader dissemination of this information so that it gets into media outlets well beyond SNRS.

Objective 3: Fostering communication, connection and collaboration among members. This goal is more introspective, in that it specifically positions SNRS as a connecting point for its members. There are numerous resources available to accommodate communication and collaboration among members, including:

- The SNRS newsletter, Southern Connections, which offers information about organizational activities, news from the Board and committees, and updates from the research interest groups (RIGs).
- The journal, Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR), which offers nurse scientists the opportunity to collaborate on submission and publication of research finding.
- An online searchable membership directory offering the opportunity for members to locate other members in their area or within areas of research interests.
- Each RIG has a listserv allowing RIG members to post questions relevant to their research issues and to exchange information as appropriate.
- Developing and presenting a symposium at the annual conference is another way to collaborate with peers in meeting this objective.

Objective 4: Promoting the image of nursing as a scientific discipline. Most of us in the general population are not aware that nurses are involved in research. This goal supports some of the ideas discussed under Objective 2 as it relates to the need for public awareness of nursing's role in research. Medicine and healthcare face many challenges, not the least of which is a serious nursing shortage. This is not news to any of you. As the leading nursing research organization in the Southern region, we must lead the way in making the case for nursing as an attractive profession and driving more professionals into academic positions, thereby creating an educating and training forum for bringing more nurses into the work force. This is primarily a public relations effort that needs all of our support.

Objective 5: Advancing SNRS as a model of organizational excellence. What do we mean by a "model of organizational excellence"? This goal encompasses everything we do. It means that our annual conference provides a model of excellence for others to emulate. It means that our financial management is transparent and managed in a way that provides a sound footing and support for the funding of future research. It means improving all member services and communications, public awareness campaigns, awards and recognition activities, and fostering member collaboration. It means that you as members of SNRS are looked up to for the outstanding

contributions that you make to nursing research and that our public relations efforts are designed to amplify and call attention to those achievements.

The SNRS Strategic Plan provides us the road map to achieve these objectives. But none of this can be accomplished without you. As a member-driven organization, we need your support through both volunteer activities and financial commitments to keep SNRS on a course that remains relevant to nursing research in the Southern region. These goals have been set high but certainly not out of sight. As your staff, we look forward to continuing our collective efforts in meeting these important goals.

Website Newsflash!

Leanne L. Lefler, PhD

Greetings from Leanne Lefler, Communications Chairperson in charge of web site updates. SNRS is devoted to increasing our energies to building the Research Interest Groups (RIG) and the website. This is a critical component of the Society and allows us to offer a valuable resource for members outside of specialty organizations. The RIG websites serve as communication "hubs" for the membership of SNRS by providing opportunities for collaboration, education, and peer support around issues associated with each specific area (gerontology, health promotion, parents and children, etc). We hope to provide a forum for integration and synthesis of our work within each specific area. Each RIG has a listserv associated with membership and can be accessed by a request to SNRS "webmaster" at snrs@resourcenter.com

We have spent considerable time and effort updating the RIG websites, although not everyone has responded yet to our call. I encourage everyone to frequently check your RIG website out and use this resource. If you have not signed up for a RIG group-it's easy. To participate, please login to the Members-Only section and choose up to two RIGS as part of your membership benefits. If you choose 3 or more, each additional RIG will be \$15. We urge the Chairs and Chairs-elect to update your RIG website by giving updated information on the purposes and projects of your RIG. Please send information to L.Lefler@uams.edu.

The Administration RIG is looking for leadership if you are interested. Send your info to Jennifer Wenzel, RIG chairperson jwenzel@son.jhmi.edu.

How To? SNRS Research Interest Group Listserv Networking Tool

Leanne Lefler, PhD, APN/Communications Committee

Over the year, we have received several inquiries on how to access the listserv within each Research Interest Group and what are the official rules and regulations concerning their use?

First and probably easiest, you can send emails directly to the appropriate

lists by addressing them as below. The rules & regulations concerning use of the SNRS listserve can be accessed at this link: [Listserv Policy](#). One of the most common problems concerning the listserves is that members want to use the REPLY function. As a result, mailboxes are bombarded with emails! Please **DO NOT** click on **REPLY** or **REPLY TO ALL** as everyone's mailbox will be filled with emails. If there is a question about the message, please address it directly to sender.
Happy Networking!

Administration: snrsadmin@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Aging/Gerontology: snrsaging@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

ANMC: snrsanmc@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Biobehavioral: snrsbiobeh@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Community health/Public health:
snrscommhealth@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Education: snrsed@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Ethics: snrsethics@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Evidence-Based Research: snrsevidence@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Health Promotion: snrshealth@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Minority Health: snrsminority@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Parent Child: snrsparentchild@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Psych/Mental Health: snrspsyhealth@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Psychometrics: snrspsychometrics@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Qualitative: snrsqualitative@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

Research in Clinical Settings: snrsresearch@lists.snrs.resourcenter.net

RIGs on the SNRS Web Site-Learn More!

The Research Interest Groups have information on what their groups are doing and what they need in order to succeed. The Evidence-based Practice RIG has done an exceptional job of informing their members of their news as well updating their web site!

Other RIGs that have also done a great job:

Aging/Gerontology
Community/Public Health
Health Promotion
Parent/Child
Psychiatric/Mental Health
Psychometrics

KUDOS to these RIGS! Keep those updates coming!

Evidence-based Practice

-A sampling from the RIG web page

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.

Bios

Lyn Stankiewicz Murphy, PhD, MBA, MS, RN, the Director for Professional Development and an assistant professor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, joined the faculty at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in 2001. Her area of interest focuses on the professional development of women in leadership positions, namely nurses and educators. She is particularly interested in the behavioral determinants that influence women to choose a lifestyle of leadership and the economic contributions of this behavior on society. The long-term goal of her research is to develop infrastructures that assist women in developing leadership roles succeed in today's business environment.

Dr. Murphy received her BSN from Carlow College in Pittsburgh, PA, her Masters in Nursing from the University Of Maryland School Of Nursing, her MBA from the University of Baltimore, and her PhD in Public Policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Dr. Murphy teaches research methodology, statistical analysis, health finance, and organizational / leadership theory on the master's and doctoral levels.

Darryl W. Roberts, MS, RN is an Assistant Professor and public health informatician at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. His research focuses on lethal and near-lethal violence including homicide, suicide, and domestic violence using large disparate data sources to identify trends. He is also co-investigator on studies investigating predictors of dementia pugilistica in professional boxers that could lead to new insights into Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and on studies of children and adolescents with obstructive sleep apnea and asthma to identify predictors of those illnesses. In addition, he is the project manager for Nursing Systems for Education in the 21st Century (NURSE 21), in which he leading the implementation of an academic electronic health record for students to use in the school's various clinical simulation labs.

Diane Orr Chlebowy, PhD, RN: Highlight

RIG Chair-Elect - Research in Clinical Settings

Dr. Chlebowy is an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville School of Nursing and the Adult Health Division Coordinator of the undergraduate program. She earned her doctorate in nursing from The Ohio State University in 2002 and has over 25 years of clinical and teaching experience in adult health nursing. Dr. Chlebowy received recent intramural and extramural funding for her research projects and is currently the principal investigator of an interdisciplinary funded study examining the effect of a motivational interviewing intervention on adherence to prescribed treatment regimens among African Americans with type 2 diabetes. She is the primary author of recent publications and has presented extensively at local, regional, and national conferences. Dr. Chlebowy has assumed various leadership positions in local and national diabetes organizations during her professional career.

2010 Conference News

Sharon Horner, Local Planning Chairperson

Anne Turner-Henson, Vice-President

The SNRS [2010 Conference](#) will be held in beautiful [Austin, Texas](#) at the Hilton located on 4th Street in historic downtown. The mild winters with cool nights and crisp clear sunny days are perfect for outdoor activities. Located 3 short blocks from the Austin Hilton is Lady Bird Lake, an ideal spot for walking or running in well established hike and bike trails. Austin boasts of diverse nighttime entertainment including the Austin symphony, ballet and opera companies, the Zachary Scott Theater, and a wide variety of live music venues.

The 2010 conference theme is Health Care Challenges in the Next Decade. The keynote speaker will be Ada Sue Hinshaw, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor of the Graduate School of Nursing, at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Hinshaw is a world-renowned researcher. She served as the first permanent director of the National Center of Nursing Research and guided its transition into the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health. Her research interests focus on nursing staff, client quality in care, economic outcomes, evaluation of practice structures, and evaluation of environments that influence professional practice.

We will continue to have a later abstract call for student poster presentations that will open on October 1st, 2009. Additionally, the Late Breakers and Evidence-Based Research abstract system will also be open October 1st, 2009. Late breaker abstracts allow presentations of cutting-edge research which was not available at the time of the regular abstract deadline. In addition we are inviting our nurse scientists in practice (Magnet hospitals, VA nurse scientist training programs, etc.) to submit

abstracts of research and evidence-based practice. [Guidelines](#) for the late breaker and evidence-based practice abstracts submissions will be sent via E-Blast in mid August 2009.

The 2010 conference will incorporate new venues for disseminating emerging research findings to the community of nursing scholars. SNRS is launching its inaugural poster discussion format for presenting research. This format combines the classic poster session (author present to answer questions about the study) followed by group discussions by poster authors and other attendees. The podium discussions in these sessions are not presentations of the study, but rather discussions of issues that extend across the group of posters. Poster discussion formats will be used for Late Breakers and Evidence-Based Research.

Start making plans to join us in Austin, Texas for SNRS 2010. We look forward to seeing you there.

Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Scholarship & Fellowship Programs

Call for 2010-2012 Applications

Online Application System is OPEN.

The American Academy of Nursing, with support from the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City and the Atlantic Philanthropies, seeks applicants for the following Scholarship and Fellowship Programs:

- The Predoctoral Scholarship program supports 2 years of full-time doctoral work for nurses committed to careers in academic geriatric nursing. The program awards a total of \$100,000 (\$50,000 per annum) to each selected Predoctoral Scholar candidate.
- The Claire M. Fagin Fellowship program supports 2 years of full-time advanced research and leadership training for doctorally-prepared nurses committed to careers in academic geriatric nursing. The program awards a total of \$120,000 (\$60,000 per annum).
- The Mayday Fund provides an **additional** \$5,000 award to selected scholar and fellow candidates whose research includes the study of pain in the elderly.

Details about the programs and application materials can be found on our [web site](#). **Applications for the 2010-2012 cohort are due January 13, 2010.** Please feel free to contact Pamela Dudzik at 202-777-1171 if additional information is needed.

The **John A. Hartford Foundation's** overall goal is to increase the nation's capacity to provide effective and affordable care to its rapidly increasing older population. Specifically, the Foundation seeks to enhance the training of physicians, nurses, social workers and other health professionals who care for older adults, and promote innovations in the integration and delivery of services.

The **Atlantic Philanthropies** are dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Atlantic

focuses on critical social problems related to aging, disadvantaged children and youth, population health and reconciliation and human rights.

The **Mayday Fund** is dedicated to alleviating the incidence, degree and consequence of human physical pain.

2009 SNRS/CANS Call for Podcasts

Nurse as Scientist Contest

The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science announces the Call for Podcasts: Nurse as Scientist contest. There is regional competition with all of the research societies, and there is an award of \$1000 for the winning regional entry. SNRS's entries will be judged by the Awards Committee and the winning entry will be shown at the 2010 Annual conference. Once the regional winners are awarded, their entries will be sent and judged by CANS. The winner of the national competition will receive a \$1,500 scholarship for travel expenses plus one free conference registration for the 2009 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research. The closing date for entries has not been announced as yet. Stay tuned for more information, or get updates at www.nursingscience.org.

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