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I speak to our student members in this issue; before I do I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the contributors of this issue. To our membership, thank you for reading this issue and it is my hope that you continue to be active members of our Society.



Special congratulations to all of our 2014 graduates! We share in your joy, excitement and your sense of fulfillment and relief; we are proud of you, and we look forward to having you continue your active participation as members in our great Society. Take a short break and then work on disseminating your research findings. We truly want to hear about the fruit of your dedication of the past four or so years of your lives.

The Southern Nurses Research Society (SNRS) recognizes the importance of preparing future nurse researchers. Therefore, one of the missions of our Society is to facilitate "the career development of nurses and nursing students as researchers." I encourage you, our student members to avail yourselves to all of our resources that are available to you. Our Society needs you; we are depending upon you to prepare yourselves to be future Presidents of our Society, future Directors, Chairs and Co-chairs of Research Interest Groups, and active members, in addition to being nurse researchers and scientists. All the best in your studies, the leaders and members of your Society believe in you.

President's Pen

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

As President of SNRS, I want to facilitate SNRS members being engaged, enabled, and energized. In this column, I'll expand on my belief that engagement is central to accomplishing our mission of advancing nursing research, and beneficial to individual members.



The SNRS mission identifies four ways in which the mission is realized: dissemination and utilization of research findings; facilitating the career development of nurses and nursing students as researchers; promoting the image of nursing as a scientific discipline; and enhancing communication among members. Engagement of members is foundational to each of these. The upcoming SNRS annual conference will be held in Tampa, Florida, February 25-28, 2015. The local planning committee provides an outstanding exemplar of member engagement. Without the sustained efforts of local planning committee members, the annual conference would not be possible. A full year before the conference, the planning committee kicks into high gear and attends to every detail in order to maintain high quality standards and to enhance the conference experience for attendees. Making sure that the conference has something to offer nurse researchers, at all career levels (including students) and from diverse research settings, is a challenge, but is crucial to facilitating member engagement. I applaud the dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work of the local planning committee!

The annual SNRS conference may come readily to mind when members think of their own engagement with SNRS. The conference provides opportunities to disseminate one's research findings, and to learn about others' research. Additionally, the conference is an ideal time to connect with colleagues. Networking opportunities abound. The Research Interest Groups (RIGs) hold meetings that allow members with similar interests to engage with each other. The opening reception and poster sessions are structured to support interaction among members. Other occasions for networking arise spontaneously as part of attending the conference. I encourage you to attend the conference in Tampa, and to interact with the speakers and attendees. Seek out those who share your interests; plan to attend a RIG meeting. However, also mingle with people whose interests are different from yours; they may bring a new perspective to your work.

The annual conference is a highlight in the SNRS year, but engagement should continue beyond the annual meeting. While RIGs meet in person at the annual conference, many

RIGs also hold periodic virtual meetings and have active discussion boards which keep RIG members connected throughout the year. SNRS committees meet regularly to accomplish the organization's work. Outside of the annual meeting, engaged committee members are involved in reviewing applications for SNRS grants and awards, planning succession of SNRS leaders, preparing the Southern Connections newsletter, updating the website, and many other important activities. There are many opportunities for member engagement!

Engagement is active, not passive. It implies a connectedness to the SNRS mission, to other members, and to the larger world. Engaged members bring energy and enthusiasm to SNRS. They participate in shaping the SNRS priorities and activities. They are essential to accomplishing our mission of advancing nursing research, and they are the impetus to move the organization forward. I believe that the benefit each member derives from SNRS is proportional to his or her level of personal engagement. I hope you will choose to engage!

Serving SNRS, Cindy L. Munro, President

Senior Researcher Corner: A Senior Researcher: Linda Bullock, PhD, RN, FAAN

Linda Bullock is the Jeanette Lancaster Alumni Professor of Nursing and the Associate Dean for Research at the School of Nursing, University of Virginia. After she obtained both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from Texas Woman's University, she obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health from the University of Otago, New Zealand. She returned to the USA in 1997 as Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri, Sinclair School of Nursing. In 2003 she was promoted to full Professor. Her research was the first to provide empirical evidence of the relationship between the abuse of pregnant women and the low birth weight of their infants.



Her continued research on the health outcomes of abuse of pregnant women resulted in the development and testing of an innovative nurse-delivered telephone social support intervention to reduce stress-induced responses, such as smoking in the women, and to improve developmental outcomes in infants exposed to abuse. She has conducted multiple randomized controlled trials with pregnant women and their children in Missouri, with funding from both the National Institute of Nursing Research and the National Institute of Child and Human Development. She worked with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to implement the DOVE research study (NR09093) into home visiting programs in rural Missouri and is now Co-Principal Investigator of the DOVE II study (HD070771) with rural sites in Virginia and Missouri.

Dr. Bullock has worked closely with politicians and State Health Departments, addressing statewide policies and research agendas on intimate partner violence. She is an active member in the Virginia Nurses Association, the American Academy of

Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Nursing Network on Violence & Abuse International. From 2006 to 2010 she was a standing member of the Nursing Science Children and Family study section at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Bullock shares her decision to become a nurse scientist and her advice to nurses who aspire to become nurse scientists.

What influenced you to become a nurse scientist?

My research has come out of my clinical practice. As a labor and delivery nurse in a large medical school affiliated hospital, I was curious as to why more women who were Medicaid insured had poorer birth outcomes than women who had private insurance. The disparities were obvious and I wanted to know why! I think I have always been the kid who would dismantle toys etc. to see how it worked - so I probably came by this curiosity naturally.

What advice would you like to give aspiring nurse scientists?

My best advice is to not confine yourself to just nursing research/literature or even health research. Take advantage of every opportunity to hear about research, research methods and results from various fields. This will help to broaden one's own repertoire and will make you a better scientist.

**Research Interest Group Corner:
Schenita Davis Randolph, PhD, MPH, RN, CNE and
Susan MacLeod Dyess, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, Co-Chairs**

Community Public Health/Health Promotion RIG



Dr. Randolph

The mission statement of the community health research interest group (RIG) is to support other nurses in their endeavors to enhance community and public health research and nursing. This RIG is committed to supporting relevant community based research aimed at informing nursing science, practice, education and policy. Most recently this RIG has been engaged in conversations and research related to the implications for the evolving environment of healthcare. Services



Dr. Dyess

provided within health care is changing related to efforts to limit hospital acquired conditions, treatment and medication errors, and re-admissions, as stimulated by financial penalties in the Affordable Care Act. Current dialogue related to health care reform has focused primarily on the changing finances of care, less attention is being placed on practice settings for care delivery and this will change. Anticipating the shift from an emphasis on acute care to an emphasis on community health and population focused care and services provides us with the opportunity to examine professional initiatives and education. This RIG has investigated nursing education perspectives with attention given to the community health core competencies, an explicit crosswalk for community health/ public health professional roles, inter and intra-professional collaboration as a necessary approach for successful healthcare redesign and the importance of translation research for communities.

Doctoral Student Corner

June Kelsick, MSN, RN, PhD Student

I am the Clinical Administrative Director in the ambulatory setting at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Prior to my employment at MD Anderson, I built my career by working in various settings and roles at the University of Chicago for more than 20 years. I earned my graduate degree at Governors State University in Illinois and I am currently pursuing my Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing at Texas Woman's University in Houston, Texas. I am interested in exploring appropriate nursing interventions for both formal and informal caregivers of clients with Alzheimer's disease. I believe that because of the future projected growth of the elderly population there must be strong and supportive systems in place to meet the needs of both the caregivers as well as the recipients of care.



I had the opportunity to attend the 2014 SNRS conference in San Antonio, Texas as a new member of SNRS and a first time conference attendee. It was an unforgettable experience and was my first time attending a conference that focused solely on nursing research! So many nurse scientists concentrated in one area, under one roof, and having a shared vision.

I have attended many professional conferences but the SNRS conference was like no other. The active participation encouraged by each session I attended added much value to my learning. I had the ability to network and receive valuable input regarding my phenomenon of interest from other colleagues. Overall, on a scale of 1-10, I rate the SNRS conference as a 10! It was great to be part of such a dynamic group of nurse researchers and I am excited about attending the upcoming conference in 2015.

