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Editor's Note - Denise Linton, DNS, FNP-BC

As I reflect on my past year I would like to thank everyone who made submissions to the newsletter and the individuals who encouraged, supported, and served alongside me. When I became editor, my goal for my first year was to "disseminate information about the groups and committees of our organization" with the assistance of committee chairs.



Denise Linton, DNS, FNP-BC

To that end, I collaborated with Dr. Donna Neff, Director of RIGs and Christina Pettey, Student Network chair with doctoral student volunteers Lana Brown and Rebecca Parnell. These individuals solicited articles, for each issue, from the chair, and co-chair of various RIGs and doctoral students respectively. My associate editor, Dr. Kathy Richards obtained information for the new section **Special Feature Corner: A Senior Researcher**. Thank you ladies!

I look forward to serving you in 2013. And I am excited about seeing everyone at our annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

President's Pen - Patricia B Crane, PhD, RN, FAHA

Patricia B Crane

As I am writing this column, 2012 is winding to an end! The end of a year is a time of reflection and celebration. We have both at SNRS. We reflect on our excellent conference in February in New Orleans where the amazing research that is being conducted in the southern region was presented. I am thankful for the past and current leadership of SNRS. The boards have given of their time and energies to the mission of the organization: to advance nursing research.

We commend the current board and management company who are dedicated to the organization. They have worked diligently to meet the ongoing duties while focusing on the mission of the organization. We celebrate the works of the board this year; among them are a new strategic plan, international presence, growing membership, and a new mid-career research award, a restructuring of the RIGS, and updated policy and procedures.

As you know from an email blast, we are also celebrating an official SNRS journal: *Research in Nursing and Health (RINAH)*. In the spirit of transparency, I wanted to share with you how the board arrived at this decision. When the membership charged the board to examine other avenues for dissemination, a task group was formed. Drs. Susan Letvak (chair), Richard Cowling, and Mona Shattell developed a request for proposals (RFPs) document and distributed it to various publishers. Once proposals were received, the task group presented the board with those they believed best fit the RFP and the organization. The board then compared the RFPs on the criteria of costs to organization and membership, stipends, awards, support, impact factor, and publication policies.

And, we examined our sister research organizations and noted that two of them had *Nursing Research (NR)* as their official journal and one had *Western Journal of Nursing Research (WJNR)*. Additionally, we examined their dues structure, noted on each web site, and compared them to our structure (Table 1).

Table 1
A comparison of research organizations and their present due structure

Organization	Dues	Student Dues	Journal	Other
ENRS	120	65	NR	
MNRS	195	95	WJNR	International (student rate)
SNRS	100	65	RINAH	

Note - ENRS = Eastern Nursing Research Society; MNRS = Midwest Nursing Research Society; WIN = Western Institute of Nursing

The treasurer (Dr. Demetrius Porche) provided a financial prospectus for each proposal. And two (Drs. Demetrius Porche and Cindy Munro) of our board members who are journal editors provided valuable input in making a decision and advocating for the best contract. Once this information was compiled, the board examined the proposals and examined this commitment related to meeting our mission and supporting the strategic plan.

The board unanimously voted to have *RINAH* as our official journal! We have added a 'journal fee' of \$30 starting January 1, 2013. This addition places our fees \$10 above ENRS, but still in the lower portion of dues compared to the other nursing research organizations. We will celebrate our new journal at the annual conference in February in Little Rock, Arkansas!

You do not want to miss our annual meeting! The program committee, led by our Vice-President Dr. Ann Turner-Henson, has been diligently working to provide amazing opportunities to network and advance nursing research in the southern region. Also, we will be welcoming our newly elected board members at this conference.

We must continue to promote nurses and nursing research as vital to our nation's health care initiatives. You will be hearing more information as we kick off this next year's development initiative led by Dr. Nan Smith-Blair at the annual conference: Expanding Networks of Knowledge for Healthcare Innovations.

As we wind down this year and begin a new year, I want to thank each of you for your commitment to the growth of SNRS. Nursing research IS changing lives and making a difference in the health of our communities.



Chair, Maren J. Coffman,
PhD, RN.

Minority Health Research Interest Group

As chair of the Minority Health Research Interest Group for the past four years, I have worked with RIG members to promote the health of minority individuals, groups, and communities through support and collaboration. I have also used the RIG structure to help members develop collaborative relationships with others. I have seen tremendous growth in activity within the RIG and have had the chance to work with the RIG's outstanding members to promote research activities that include awards, publications, presentations, and research methods.

Each year, the RIG sponsors a student poster award. The purpose of the poster award is to recognize an exceptional poster presented by a student investigator that has significance for promoting the health of racial/ethnic minority individuals or groups. The poster award gives the RIG an opportunity to highlight outstanding student work. The poster winner has received a \$100 prize!

In 2011, I served as guest editor for the final RIG sponsored issue of the *Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research* (Volume 11, Issue 1). There was robust response to the call for manuscripts and the issue went to press with 11 minority health manuscripts. That same year, there were two symposia at the annual conference that were developed and presented by Minority Health RIG members. We covered topics that included minority health research methods and caring for minority populations.

During the SNRS 2012 annual conference in New Orleans, LA, the Minority Health RIG sponsored a preconference workshop titled *From Bench to Curbside: Developing Academic-Community Partnerships*; over 25 participants were in attendance. The preconference presenters addressed many interesting issues related to community based participatory research, including dealing with a community's history with prior researchers, trustworthiness, and credibility. Participants were very engaged during the workshop and supportive relationships and networks among participants began to take shape.

The RIGs are a great place to develop relationships and engage in research experiences. I encourage you to get to know other SNRS members by becoming involved in a RIG!

The Biobehavioral Research Interest Group

Biobehavioral research may be defined as scientific inquiry examining the interactions of biology and behavior, from a mechanistic viewpoint to predict pathology, as well as integration of how behavioral interventions affect biology to improve health and wellness. The purposes of the biobehavioral group are to foster the development and implementation of biobehavioral research findings and to develop a network of nurse scientists that can help problem solve methodological issues and serve as consultants.



Dr. Jeanne Ruiz, PhD,
RNC, WHNP

The biobehavioral RIG is a group of scientists who are at all stages of the continuum of experience examining the intersection of biology and behavior. The RIG meeting for the February 2013 meeting will discuss overcoming challenges in conducting biobehavioral research, such as problems with assays, values that are less than detectable and budgeting for repeat assays if problems do occur. The goal will be to have active interaction between the senior scientists who can then suggest ways to problem solve methodological issues from their experience and help the more junior scientists. Practical problems that have actually happened will be presented for discussion. All interested investigators are welcome to attend the meeting.

The RIG welcomes symposiums for 2014 that might include a wide variety of ways biobehavioral research may be conducted, such as, the integration of genetics, immune markers, endocrine markers, and/or diabetic markers with behavioral measures or interventions. For the Conference in 2014, an epigenetic preconference is planned to discuss ways nurse scientists may begin to incorporate genetic markers into understanding risk for disease.

Special Feature Corner: A Senior Researcher, Ann E. Rogers, PhD, RN, FAAN

Ann E. Rogers, PhD, RN, FAAN is Professor, Edith F. Honeycutt Chair in Nursing, and Director of Graduate Studies at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia. Her distinguished research career has focused on patients with narcolepsy and adult populations who obtain insufficient sleep.

Dr. Rogers is widely known for her leadership as principal investigator on the Staff Nurse Fatigue and Patient Safety Study. Her seminal research documented the long hours frequently worked by nurses and the effect of these hours on patient safety. Her current research seeks to evaluate the efficacy of an intervention combining a traditional diet and exercise with extended sleep to facilitate weight loss in obese adults.



Ann E. Rogers, PhD,
RN, FAAN

Dr. Rogers' research has been funded by the National Institute

of Nursing Research, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

We asked for Dr. Rogers' career advice for nurse scientists who are beginning faculty roles. "The advice I'd have for a beginning nurse scientist is to identify mentors who can help them with grant writing and publication, as well as how to navigate academia. It may be necessary to have several mentors, including at least one who is outside of nursing. Persistence is also important. It hurts when a paper gets rejected or a grant proposal receives a low score, but every time I've rewritten a grant proposal or a manuscript, it's been much stronger than the original version."

Doctoral Student Corner: Doctoral Student Network

My name is Lenora Smith and I am the chair-elect for the Doctoral Student Network. I will begin my duties when we meet at our 2013 annual conference in Little Rock. I am a PhD student at the Medical University of South Carolina. I am completing my comprehensive and will start my dissertation in the spring. My, what exciting times, but they are also very overwhelming!



Lenora Smith, MSN, FNP-BC

I have been a member of SNRS since 2006 and this is how I became interested in research - by attending the sessions and listening to all of the research that other nurse scientists were conducting. I listened to the research studies and thought about where the researchers could go from there, literally thinking about other research projects for others but never for myself, until I decided to go back to school.

When I began thinking of a research project for my dissertation, I really felt that I had no idea what I was doing in a doctoral program. As I began taking courses, though, I began to realize the importance of nursing research and how valuable it is to the nursing profession and to the care of our patients. We are blessed to have such a wonderful organization as SNRS to help us in our endeavors to provide quality, evidence-based care to our patients.

I wanted to become involved in the organization in some capacity, so I applied to be the newsletter editor. I was first assistant editor but was 'promoted' to full editor after my first newsletter; I was so excited to be serving in the organization! I am now thrilled and thankful to be the chair elect of the Doctoral Student Network! It is my wish that the network prospers and succeeds within the organization; after all, we are the future of SNRS as nurse scientists.

Nominations were accepted for the new officers of the Student Network on November 30, 2012. The terms of office are only for a year, unless you would like to run for a second term. Our network leadership begins with you!

I hope to see you in Little Rock, AR for the 27th annual conference. A fun, but educational, time to be had by all! I look forward to meeting you!

Mentor Pin



Mentors are invaluable members of the nursing discipline. The National League of Nursing's position statement on mentoring recognizes mentoring as one of the key components to "facilitate the growth of future leaders in nursing." Are there mentors that have guided you, taught you and supported you along your nursing research journey?

Did you know that the SNRS has provided a way for you to recognize those mentors who have impacted your journey? You can recognize your mentor by purchasing a "Mentoring for Excellence for Nursing Research" pin for only \$15 and the proceeds of the sale of the pin helps support the research endowment fund. The pin is meant to recognize and thank your mentor(s) and/or faculty member(s) for their excellence in mentoring. Second, with a pin purchase, the mentee has the opportunity to write a personal thank you to honor their mentor on the SNRS Mentor Wall at the time of purchase. Check out the [Mentor Wall](#).

Let's recognize our mentors and support the research endowment fund. Please purchase your pin today at the [SNRS online store](#). They will also be available during the SNRS 2013 conference.

