Abstract:

**Introduction:** In 2005, school nurses in coastal regions of Louisiana were greatly impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, professionally and personally. After these hurricanes, they began to rebuild their lives and resumed care for children in schools. Then, in the Fall of 2008, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike devastated coastal Louisiana once again. The purpose of this descriptive qualitative study was to examine the stress response and adaptation of Louisiana school nurses who have been directly impacted by both sets of hurricanes.

**Method(s):** Personal interviews are being conducted with school nurses who were personally and professionally affected by the Hurricanes of 2005 and 2008. The constant comparative method of data analysis is being used to identify themes among participants relative to their experiences after the hurricanes.
Results: The conclusion of data collection will occur when saturation is obtained. Preliminary results indicate repetition of themes, and it is anticipated that data collection will be completed within the next month. The researchers intend to report final results during the 2010 SNRS Conference.

Discussion & Conclusions: Results of this study can be used by school nurses for planning and coping with the impact of any natural disaster. The goal of this planning should be to minimize long-term effects on professional practice. This will enable the school nurse to provide a stabilizing environment and a place of refuge for students whose lives have been disrupted by hurricanes or other natural disasters.

Abstract History: This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure: No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

FDA Disclosure: I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

Non-Exclusive License:

Submitted by: