

Southern Connections

A publication of the Southern Nursing Research Society

Fall, 2004



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Interprofessional Collaboration: Nursing Research at its Best



For years we've been espousing the virtue of interdisciplinary collaboration but then would bemoan the way some folks would define "interdisciplinary."

To our medical colleagues it seemed to mean that internal medicine would work with GI, who would work with endocrinology, who would work with immunology, who would---you get the picture.

It was one of my medical colleagues that introduced me to the term "interprofessional" and I admit at first it just seemed like another way of saying the same thing. However, since then I've noticed that when I use this word around folks outside of nursing there is no confusion about the intent of what I am trying to convey.

So now, in an effort to more clearly convey my intent I've been trying to train myself to use this new word. At first it seems a bit awkward, but it is reaffirming to know that my intent is being clearly delivered since it seems interprofessional collaboration is the topic of more and more of my conversations.

The recent surge of interest in interprofessional collaboration has been spurred to a great extent by the release of the NIH Roadmap and its emphasis on collaborative research. Nursing of course is well positioned for these endeavors, especially when you couple them with the focus on translational, clinical and interventional research. Again, areas that nurse scientists have excelled in for many years.

Our challenge as NIH goes down this new path will be to first raise the awareness among our colleagues from other professions that nursing can make some important contributions to a research team. I believe we are making remarkable headway in this arena, as I seem to be getting more and more calls asking if I know of a nurse who would be interested in collaborating on a project. However, the second part of our challenge is to enhance the recognition that nurse-scientists bring a great deal of expertise and can contribute much more than just a name for the investigator list to demonstrate interprofessional collaboration. Accomplishing this will take a mixture of tact and actually showing what we can do. Knowing the exceptional knowledge, skills, and overall talent of my nurse-scientist colleagues I know this too is already happening all across the country.

We are in an interesting time in health research, a time when some doors are being opened where we can share the great work nurse-scientists are doing with a broader constituency. Collaborators are out there, and perhaps for the first time many of them are seeking partnership with nurse-scientists. We just need to decide which opportunity to seize upon, what a pleasant problem to have!

Dr. Donna Hathaway

New initiatives aimed at improving health care for all Americans through translational research are being initiated via National Institutes of Health Roadmap for Medical Research. One member of SNRS who has built a successful research trajectory based on translating biological research for application to nursing practice through behavioral science is Dr. Carolyn B. Yucha, the 2005 Conference keynote speaker.

Dr. Yucha was recently appointed Professor and Dean at the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Nursing. She is well known to members of SNRS through her previous role as Associate Dean for Research at the University of Florida, College of Nursing. In keeping with the conference theme that focuses on how nursing research fits the NIH roadmap, Dr. Yucha's presentation is entitled "Biobehavioral Research and the NIH Roadmap."

Dr. Yucha earned her BS in Nursing from the State University of New York at Albany, her MS in Adult Health Nursing from SUNY Buffalo, and her PhD in Physiology from SUNY Health Sciences Center in Syracuse. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and focuses on non-pharmacological treatment of hypertension. In particular she is interested in self-regulation and biofeedback-assisted relaxation training for a variety of disorders. In addition to her current role at UNLV, Dr. Yucha is the Editor of *Biological Research for Nursing*, a quarterly peer-reviewed journal integrating biobehavioral research into health care, and is on the Editorial Board of *Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback*.



The 2005 conference will build upon our strong tradition of presenting papers, symposia, and posters representing the research efforts of our membership. Two pre-conference workshops have been planned, along with 6 symposia and 136 papers. We will continue the doctoral student mentoring marketplace including a session addressing the needs of students in BS to PhD programs. The second workshop will be offered by the editorial staff of *Southern Online Journal for Nursing Research*. The focus of that program will be strategies for successful publication of research findings. Topics include: methods for publishing instrumentation studies, biobehavioral research, and ethical issues for publishing research among others. The host schools will sponsor a reception on Thursday evening and the Awards Luncheon will be held on Saturday.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Marti Rice, Treasurer
Conference 2004 Income

Income from the 2004 Annual Conference held in Louisville, Kentuck was **\$19,406.44**. By comparison, the 2003 conference held in Orlando, Florida netted \$25, 028.06.

Paying registrants totaling 512 included:

- 280 regular SNRS members
- 214 SNRS graduate students
- 18 nonmembers

Savings Account Balance as of 6/30/04: **\$124, 340.00**

Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/04: **\$41, 025.51**

BOARD REPORT: RECOMMENDED BYLAWS CHANGES

Dr. Barbara Haberman, Member at Large

The Governing Board of SNRS has approved two bylaw changes that the membership will vote on during the Annual Business Meeting in February 2005. We are including this information in the newsletter so that the membership has time to review the changes prior to voting. One change relates to voting in elections and the other relates to the establishment of a standing Awards Committee. Please see recommended bylaws changers on page 7. If there are any questions about the proposed bylaw changes, you may contact Barbara Habermann, PhD, RN, SNRS Board Member at habermab@uab.edu.

SOJNR EDITOR'S UPDATE

Dr. Barbara Holtzclaw and Dr. Craig Stotts

The Editors of the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR) are pleased to announce the publication of the latest article, "A multi-component intervention targeting utilization of the 'Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence Guideline' in the primary care setting."

You may also be interested in viewing the Table of Contents of the journal as we have had some interactive comments posted from readers on two articles. The URL for the Table of Contents is: www.snrs.org/members/journal.html.

We welcome your feedback about the Journal and encourage you to correspond with the authors via the mechanism provided at the end of each article. Also feel free to contact one of us with questions or comments about the Journal.



OFFICERS and Dates to Remember

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Officer Elections are Upcoming!

Make sure
your membership
Is current
and return your ballot!

Questions about
your membership status?
Call National Headquarters
at
1-877-314-7677

Convention 2005 Atlanta, Georgia February 3-5, 2005

Six symposia, 136 podium presentations
Thursday evening reception

Pre conferences:
Doctoral Student Mentoring Marketplace
and
Perish-Proof Publication for Researchers

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Carolyn Yucha,
Professor and Dean at UNLV
"Biobehavioral Research and the NIH
Roadmap"

General Session:
Ethical Issues for Doing Multi-site Research

Make your plans NOW to attend the
Southern Region's
premier nursing research event!

A note from Corner Editor, Becky Bonugli: I wish to thank Adelita Gonzales, a doctoral student at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, for submitting the following to "The Corner". Please share your thoughts and responses with us. We are always looking for unique perspectives! Send to bonugli@uthscsa.edu.

Le Tour de Doctorate by Adelita Gonzales

Like many people around the world, I cheered Lance Armstrong in his successful pursuit of an unprecedented sixth Tour de France title. As an amateur cyclist, I am able to appreciate the tremendous work and training such a fete takes. This week I successfully defended my dissertation proposal. Even though I still have a way to go before completing my doctorate, it is still a thrilling moment. This gave me pause to consider how I got here and how others, like Lance, successfully meet their goals.

Teamwork

As Lance's team protected him from falls and the wind, doctoral students need to use the team (faculty, mentors, fellow students) to protect them from continual confusion, the sinking feeling that accompanies hearing, "more rewrites," and the hunt for that perfect research question.

Expertise

One can only image the hours of training Lance did in order to prepare for the Tour; hours on end of being in the saddle, climbing mountains, and sore body parts. No doubt Lance must truly love the sport to endure his training regimen. I have learned during my tour that the pursuit of being an expert in your field of research is never ending. There are always new articles and books to read, sometimes into the wee hours of the morning, new courses to take, etc. To become an expert, like Lance, one must love the pursuit leading to expertise.

Patience

During the early weeks of the Tour, Lance was content to let others wear the yellow jersey. He knew he must conserve his energy for the challenge of the mountains that lay ahead. He understood that he must have patience in his pursuit of the final yellow jersey. Like Lance, I have learned to have patience with my tour. While theory and concept development may have seemed confusing at first, it was only with time and continued reading that the light bulb came on. Don't give up on something if you don't understand it right away. **IT WILL COME.**

Like Lance stated many times during his pursuit, his team is what made it possible, his preparation and training made him the cycling expert he is, and his early patience ensured his victory in the end. I am well on my way to the end of my tour.

We pursue the degree, but what we learn along the way
is what will make us all champions.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Election voting. *The Board is recommending a change from mailed ballots to electronic ballots. This will result in the organization being able to reduce mailing costs.*

Article VII: Elections

Current Section 1. Elections shall be by mailed ballot. Before ballots are mailed, voting eligibility shall be confirmed from a list of regular members of the Society. Elections shall be held so that the results can be tabulated no less than 30 days before the Annual Business Meeting.

Proposed New Section 1. Elections shall be by electronic ballot. Before the ballot is posted and access made available, voting eligibility shall be confirmed from a list of regular members of the Society. Elections shall be held so that the results can be tabulated no less than 30 days before the Annual Business Meeting.

Awards Committee. *The Board recommends that the Awards Committee be established as a standing committee in the organization. Thus a new bylaw follows that describes the structure and duties of the committee.*

ARTICLE XI Standing Committees

Section 1. Names. The Standing committees of the Society shall be the:

Proposed New Item F.

F. Awards Committee

Proposed New Section 8.

Section 8. Awards Committee

A. The SNRS Awards Committee shall have a Chairperson who is a Governing Board Member-at-Large. The members, as approved by the Governing Board, will include at least (5) five individuals from the general membership and the Society president as an Ex-officio member.

B. The Awards Committee shall be responsible for:

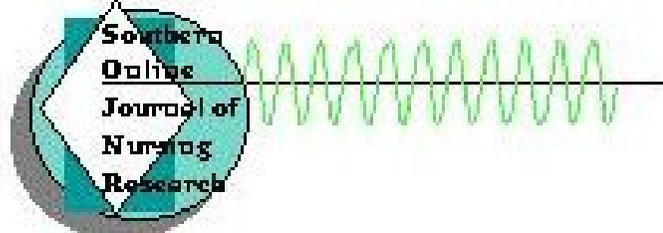
- 1. Receipt and review of all Society grant applications and award nominations.**
- 2. Development and ongoing revision of rating review forms for grants and nominations.**
- 3. Review and recommendations for development and revision of policies and procedures related to Society grants and awards.**
- 4. Monitoring the review of Graduate Poster session.**
- 5. Securing all Society awards for presentation at annual conference.**
- 6. Provide mid-year and annual reports of committee activities.**
- 7. Advise Executive Board regarding establishment of new Society grants and awards.**
- 8. Participate in identification of new sources of research support funds and participate in activities to increase funds for grants and awards.**

Recognizing SOJNR Peer Review Panel's Contributions

We recognize and thank the following members of the *Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research* Peer Review Panel for their contribution of time, energy, and expertise to the review of submitted manuscripts for the past five years. Their expertise in content and methodology provide excellent reviews that help maintain our rigorous publication standards while providing constructive, helpful guidance to authors. We are indebted to their professional commitment.

Acton, Gayle	Gill, Sara L.	Parker, Barbara
Agazio, Janice	Gilmer, Mary Jo	Peterson, Janice Z.
All, Anita	Gresham, Deborah	Pierce, Ann
Azzarello, Jo	Goba-Rivera, Migdalia	Raudonis, Barbara
Barba, Beth E.	Hill, Alice	Reifsnider, Elizabeth
Benefield, Lazelle	Hines-Martin, Vicki	Robinson, Beverly
Bernier, Mary Jane	Holditch-Davis, Diane	Rogers, Barbara
Boland, Clara	Hunter, Anita	Rowsey, Pamela
Broome, Marion	Ivey, Jean	Rozell, Billie
Brown, Sandra	Jenkins, Louise	Russell, Cynthia
Bunting, Sheila	Jones, Rebecca	Sapnas, Kathryn G
Cash, Jane	Keller, Colleen	Sawin, Kathleen
Comley, Anita	Kvale, Janice K.	Schoenhofer, Savina
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Cuaderes, Elena	Lobert, Sharon	Smith, Barbara
Curry, Linda	Mainous, Rosalie	Stotts, R. Craig
Dimmitt-Champion, Jane	Martin, Judy	Tiller, Cecilia
Dowell, Marsha	Martof, Mary Taylor	Topp, Robert V.
Dwyer, Kathy	McAuliffe, Maura	Travis, Shirley
Elberson, Karen	Meininger, Janet	Wicks, Mona
Elder, Jennifer H.	Migdala, Mary Siantz	Williams, Gail
Engbretson, Joan C.	Montgomery, Kristen	Wilson, Janet S.
Edgren, Suzan	Neelon, Virginia	Wright, Lore
Evans, Mary E.	O'Rourke, Maureen	Xu, Yu
Fick, Donna Marie	Owens, Steve	Yarbrough, Suzanne
Froman, Robin		Yucha, Carolyn B

THANKS TO ALL!



Discovery . . . Interaction . . . Online!

Updated Editorial Board Information

As readers view upcoming issues of the *Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research (SOJNR)* they will find the SOJNR WebPages "under construction" as a new look spiffs up our electronic milieu. We hope to make articles, author information, and our Interactive Feature easier to locate and access. One feature under revision is the roster of the **2003-2005 SOJNR Editorial Staff and Editorial Advisory Board**. We are extremely proud of our members and our roster will include pictures to help acquaint readers with these individuals who were selected from across the US for their internationally recognized research expertise. Please note that several members of the Editorial Board have relocated and have new positions. They are: **Cornelia Beck**, PhD, RN, FAAN (Director of Research, Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences); **Marion E. Broome**, PhD, RN, FAAN (Dean, Indiana University School of Nursing); **Robin D. Froman**, RN, PhD, FAAN (Dean, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio); **Maureen W. Groer**, PhD, RN, FAAN, (Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation, University of Tennessee - Knoxville); **Martha N. Hill**, RN, PhD, FAAN (Dean, Johns Hopkins University); **Carol C. Hogue**, PhD, RN, FAAN (Professor Emerita, University of North Carolina-Chapel-Hill); **Janet C. Meininger**, PhD, RN, FAAN (Division Head, University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston); and **Barbara Medoff-Cooper**, PhD, RN, FAAN (Helen M. Shearer Endowed Professor, University of Pennsylvania). The *SOJNR* Editorial Staff includes: **Editor Barbara J. Holtzclaw**, PhD, RN, FAAN (Nurse Scientist/Research Liaison, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center) and **Managing Editor R. Craig Stotts**, RN, DrPH (Professor, University of Tennessee Health Science Center – Memphis).

Recent Titles

SOJNR brings you new research discoveries and insights with electronic ease and timeliness. Log on to the SNRS website at <http://snrs.org>, click on the *SOJNR* access link to view or download articles. Interact with authors and *SOJNR* Editor by Internet. Recent titles include:

Issue 1, Vol. 5, 2004

Leisure Time Physical Activity in Adult Native Americans.
ET Cuaderes, D Parker, CE Burgin

Issue 2, Vol. 5, 2004

Accruing the Sample in Survey Research.
SL Yoon, CH Horne

Issue 3, Vol. 5, 2004

Rural Floridians' Perceptions of Health, Health Values, and Health Behaviors.
EJ Brown, A Gubrium, G Ogonna-Hicks

Issue 4, Vol. 5, 2004

Mi familia viene primero (My family comes first): Physical Activity Issues in Older Mexican American Women.
A Gonzales, C Keller

SNRS Small Grant Award

Blair Peeler Short, MSN, RNC, PhD(c)

Ms. Blair Short, MSN, RNC, PhD(c) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Tennessee. She is originally from Memphis, Tennessee and relocated to Knoxville in 1987 to attend the University of Tennessee. She received both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Tennessee: the Bachelor of Arts with majors in psychology and philosophy, and the Master of Science in Nursing. She is licensed as an RN and is nationally certified as a nurse practitioner. Her area of clinical expertise is in the care for women of all ages and stages of life.

Ms. Short's research interest is in the analysis of breast milk, particularly the presence of melatonin and the role that this molecule plays in the immune function of the infant (as an antioxidant) as well as its role in the synchronization of circadian rhythm between mother and infant. She is also interested in the decision making process of families (particularly those enrolled in the USDA's Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC program) as they choose to breastfeed or formula feed their infants. She is married and is the mother of two daughters, Molly (5 years old) and Emma (1 year old).

Entrainment of Melatonin Rhythmicity in Human Infants through Breast Milk

Melatonin, an indoleamine produced by the pineal gland, functions as a neurohormone, a potent antioxidant and a free radical scavenger. Human adults demonstrate an obvious circadian rhythm of melatonin production, but infants below the age of nine weeks do not. The rhythmic production of melatonin has been identified in the milk of many mammals, including humans (Illnerova, et al., 1993). Melatonin transfer to offspring via maternal milk has been identified in many animal species (Reppert, et al., 1978; Vermouth, et al., 1995); however, there are no formal studies of melatonin transfer via breast milk in humans.

The proposed descriptive study will monitor levels of urinary 6-sulfatoxymelatonin (6SMT), the major melatonin metabolite, in exclusively breastfed infants ages 4-6 weeks (n=17) and in exclusively bottlefed infants (n = 17) of the same age over a 24 hour period. Breast milk melatonin levels over a twenty-four hour period will be monitored in the 17 breastfeeding women. A Urinary 6SMT ELISA will be used to determine levels in urine and a direct melatonin ELISA will be used to evaluate melatonin levels in milk. Repeated measures ANOVA will be used to analyze the data.

SNRS Small Grant Award

Vicky Zeigler, MSN



Ms. Vicky Zeigler is a doctoral student at Texas Women's University. Her funded study is entitled, "**The lived experience of adolescents with implanted defibrillators for life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias.**" She notes that "Life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias are relatively uncommon in children and adolescents. An increased understanding of the underlying etiologies for these arrhythmias as well as advances in device technology has led to the use of the implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) as a primary treatment option. The developmental period of adolescence generates unique issues that need to be addressed in order for the teen to optimally adjust to life with an ICD."



Aims and Objectives: The purpose of this qualitative inquiry is to explicate the meanings of being an adolescent with an ICD for an actual or potential life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia. Specific aims include: (a) to elicit descriptions regarding what it means to be an adolescent with an ICD, (b) to identify shared practices and common meanings among those who are actually living the experience, (c) to describe the relationships among the emergent themes, (d) to determine if/how specific conditions in the medical backgrounds of the adolescents, e.g., if they have experienced a cardiac arrest or received a shock, affect their life experiences.

Design and Methods: Phenomenological methodology will be used to solicit information regarding the lived experience of adolescents with ICDs for this study. This methodology lends itself to an exploration of

the essence of being an adolescent with an ICD. Participants will be recruited from a device clinic database where approximately 250 patients with devices are followed. In-depth, audio taped interviews will be conducted at mutually agreed upon sites after obtaining informed consent from parents and/or adolescents aged 12 to 19 years. Purposive sampling will be discontinued when saturation occurs, which is approximated to be between 10 and 15 participants. The audiotapes will be transcribed verbatim.

The procedural steps identified by Colaizzi will be used for data analysis. Briefly, the steps include: (a) an initial reading of all transcripts, (b) extraction of significant statements, (c) formulation of meanings, (d) clustering of themes, (e) exhaustive description, (f) fundamental structure formulation, and (e) validation of findings.



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Southern Connections

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Please send comments,
feedback and materials for
submission to Dr. Patty
Gray, Editor,
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SNRS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2005 IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA
CROWNE PLAZA RAVINIA AT PERIMETER CENTER**

Host Schools

Lead host, Brydine F. Lewis School of Nursing at Georgia State University
Co-hosts: Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University,
School of Nursing at the Medical College of Georgia
WellStar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University

Pre-conference Sessions

Doctoral Student Mentoring Marketplace
Perish-Proof Publication for Researchers

Conference Activities

Thursday Evening Reception
Six symposia, 136 papers, poster sessions
Meet the Editors Round Table
Awards Luncheon on Saturday

Recruit a new member: SNRS Membership Drive

SNRS is growing its membership! SNRS encourages all of us to recruit at least one new member. Recognition will be given to the member recruiting the most new members and the institution with the most new members by January 1, 2005.

A "New Member" is someone who has never been a member of SNRS or has not been a member of SNRS in the last 2 years. To have a new member attributed to you, ask the new member to **write "Referred by" and your name and institution** at the top of the membership form.

The individual recruiting the greatest number of new members will receive \$50 off the registration fee for the 2005 conference. The institution with the most new members will receive a free exhibit at the 2005 conference.