

# Southern Connections



## Awards Presented to SNRS Members at the 15th Annual Conference 2001

Please join us in recognizing and congratulating many SNRS members who were honored at the 2001 conference by receiving awards.

*Janet D. Allan*, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Dean of the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing at San Antonio, was honored as the 2001 Distinguished Researcher. The paper she presented as she received her award is printed in this issue of Southern Connections.

*Barbara Holtzclaw*, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing at San Antonio, was the recipient of the first Leadership in Research Award.

The D. Jean Wood Award for Nursing Scholarship was presented to *Hae-Ra Han*, RN, MSN, a doctoral student at the University of Maryland School of Nursing for her poster, "Using On-Line to Provide Information and Support to Parents of Children with Cancer." Her abstract is printed in this issue of Southern Connections.

Graduate student poster awards were also presented this year. The Graduate Student Poster Session at the 2001 conference consisted of over seventy posters related to a wide range of research topics. Three poster winners were chosen from the excellent research displayed. The first place award went to *Cathaleen Dawson Ley*, from the University of Maryland for her poster, "The Relationship Among Coping Strategies, Depression and Anxiety in Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplantation Patients." The second place poster winner was *Susan Barnes* from the University of Oklahoma. Her poster was titled, "The Relationship Between Cognition Levels and Beck's Level of Dressing Assistance in Persons with Alzheimer's and Related Dementia." The third poster winner was *Christine Taylor* from Texas A & M University at Corpus Christi for "The Incidence of Deep Vein Thrombosis in Post-Op CABG Patients: Is there a Higher Incidence When Using Off Pump Technique?"

### Thank You to the Baltimore Conference Co-Hosts

On behalf of the SNRS Governing Board and members, former Vice President Lazelle Benefield wishes to recognize and thank the institutional co-hosts of the SNRS 15th Anniversary Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland in early February. Deans Heller and Donaldson generously supported the conference where research dissemination, networking, rejuvenation and relaxation took place. Dr. Jerilyn Allen and the Local Planning Committee provided invaluable support and the SNRS Program Committee implemented the framework for a very successful conference!

### New Membership Survey Is Ready for Your Completion

As we attempt to meet the needs of the membership in this new millennium, we would like to ask you to answer several questions about existing membership benefits and potential new services. Many of you that attended the annual conference in Baltimore, February 1-3, have completed the survey. If you did not attend the meeting, or if you did not have time to complete the survey there, please take a few minutes to complete the membership survey for us on-line. You can access the survey at <http://www.snrs.org/members/survey.htm>. You can print it out and mail it to Melissa Mitchell, SNRS, C/O The University of Alabama, College of Continuing Studies, Box 870388, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487. If you wish to FAX your completed survey to Melissa, dial (205) 348-9276. Thank you for taking the time to help us in making SNRS the organization you want it to be.

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*The 2001 SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award*..... pg 2-4

*Message from the SNRS President* ..... 5

*Message from the SNRS Vice-President* ..... 5

*SNRS New Research Collaboration and Award*..... 5

*States Liaisons* ..... 6

*SOJNR* ..... 6

*SNRS Governing Board* ..... 6

*Board Members and Editors* ..... 7

*RIGS Met in Baltimore* ..... 7

*Call for Abstracts and Reviewers for 2002* ..... 8

*SNRS D. Jean Wood Award Recipient* ..... 8

*Future SNRS Events* ..... 8

*Announcements* ..... 8

#### Insert

*Call for Nominations 2002 Nomination & Consent Form*

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Judith Drew, PhD, RN,  
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## The 2001 SNRS Distinguished Researcher Award Recipient

Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Presents Her Paper

I must tell you how honored I am to receive this award. First, I want to express my appreciation to the individuals, my colleagues, who nominated me for this award: Dr. Jean McSweeney from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, Dr. Julie Barroso, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Dr. Barbara Holtzclaw, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Dr. Kelly Mayo, Medical University of South Carolina and Dr. Colleen Keller, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. I also want to thank the Southern Nursing Research Society for giving me this award. Finally, and perhaps most rewarding is to see so many of my former doctoral students in the audience and to know the quality of their careers and scholarship, and their many contributions to this organization.

The preparation of this speech for today's event was another gift. It has given me the opportunity to reflect on my 20 plus year career as a scholar/researcher in a new way. What I hope to share with you today is a brief review of my research career in 3 phases: doctoral work, faculty/researcher, scholar/Dean and since I am an anthropologist, some "lessons from the field" that may be useful to those of you who are beginning researchers and to my established researcher colleagues who may be pursued by headhunters, western industrialized society's version, to be candidates for Chair and Dean positions.

The majority of my research has been on weight management in women within the larger substantive area of women's health promotion. My interest in obesity and weight management has been long standing, starting when I became an adult nurse practitioner in 1977 and initiated my faculty practice at UCSF. Other NPs and the residents and attendings knew of my interest and referred many individuals, mostly women, into my practice for primary care and lifestyle counseling. As a clinician, I became increasingly aware of the disconnect, at times, between the biomedical model for treating obesity and the perceptions/values of clients being treated. I also learned about the prejudice and stigma affecting this condition. One resident was so frustrated in dealing with obese clients that he stopped weighing them. A faculty colleague, with a BMI of 45, shared with me that she ate like a bird in public (cottage cheese in the cafeteria for lunch but a box of cookies at home

at night) because she knew everyone looked at her tray and judged her.

So in my first year in the doctoral program in medical anthropology, when asked to do a paper on a medical condition from an anthropological perspective, I choose to look at obesity. Exploring this topic in a body of literature was like opening a door to another world. I had always thought of myself as very non-medically oriented, the NP students ribbed me as being the Health Promotion czarina. Well, this paper which led to the development of my dissertation proposal, exposed me to a variety of different paradigms for looking at obesity: for example: socio-cultural: the meaning of biological parameters such as weight are culturally defined; that is the definition of what is considered a normal body weight is subject to changing ideas about health and beauty; or an ecological approach in which body weight is viewed the result of micro and macro influences on the genetic inheritance of the individual within a given culture.

**I was hooked.** In the early 1980s, there were few qualitative studies on weight and little was known about weight management activities of non-clinical populations of women or about the environmental milieus in which these activities occur. My dissertation on weight management patterns and processes among urban dwelling women used a cultural- ecological orientation, ethnographic interviewing, and anthropometric measures to examine the weight management methods, conditions of gaining or losing weight, body size values and explanatory models of weight among 37 Euro-American community-based women living in Central Texas.

**My first lesson from the field:** I strongly believe that questions arising in our clinical practice should guide our knowledge development. This belief has guided my research career. As a practice discipline, this provides the direction for our knowledge development and keeps us honest as we return research findings back to practice.

I must pause and tell a story on my fellow students and faculty. In anthropology, the norm is to leave the country and study a cultural group that is totally different from your own. When I told my peers and faculty that I planned to move to Texas from SF and do my dissertation study there, they paused, then stated in all seriousness, well Texas qualifies as a foreign country and culture.

So, I moved to Austin, Texas in June 1984, learned the community, had my proposal approved, collected my data and completed my dissertation in July 1986. Normative for anthropology, my dissertation had 9 chapters and weighed 7 & 1/2 pounds.

What did I learn from the 37 women who gave me their time, energy and support? I learned a great deal. My findings revealed that all women tried to lose weight many times during their life, mostly without professional help, and that they all used multiple methods, the most frequent being exercise, and reducing high calories foods (*Allan, 1989; 1991*). Despite SES and weight differences, all women perceived a cultural pressure to be thin, and valued an underweight body size as most attractive and healthy (*Allan, 1994*).

An important aspect of all qualitative studies is to examine your own assumptions and biases. One critical finding from my study contradicted my own biases and assumptions. I assumed, despite my renaissance awareness of the biomedical model, that women's perception or assessment of their own body size would be based upon the ubiquitous weight charts.

**How wrong I was.** All of the women in my study rejected the weight charts or biomedical standards and instead developed personalized weight norms expressed as pounds for what to weigh based upon weight loss and gain experiences, mass media images, input from peers/family and individual ideas. Each woman had an ideal, acceptable (range of pounds that was realistic and attainable) and overweight range, representing an unacceptable weight and served for some as a signal to do something. These culturally developed norms determined whether they agreed with their health providers that they needed to lose weight or not (*Allan, 1988*). One woman who was 5'3 and 200 pounds stated. "I don't go by the charts. I think normal for me is 150 pounds. That is the weight that I was when I got married at age 20. According to the doctor that is too much for me but if I weighed 115 like she says, I'd be anorexic and I'm not a model. I can realistically exercise and diet to 150."

I conceptualized these weight norms as a creative strategy for dealing with weight, the repeated failure to loose and/or maintain weight loss and the cultural pressure to be thin. The weight norms functioned to impart more flexibility into the rigid biomedical standards of the weight charts by redefining them thus helping women to cope with the threat to self-esteem of never measuring up to cultural standards. Today, many weight intervention programs advocate assessing the



clients own weight perception and ideas about normal weight and using those ideas as the basis of goal setting.

**I was still hooked:** Many questions arose out of this first study and I wanted to explore the experiences of other populations of women, particularly AA and MA women who have high rates of overweight.

**Second lesson from the field:** follow your heart. Only select a topic that you are passionate about because your dissertation work initiates your career and your program of scholarship. Passion about a topic fuels the energy and persistence you will need to develop and sustain a successful research career.

From 1986, when I joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing as an Assistant Professor until I left as a Full Professor in 1997, I continued to develop my program of research on weight management. With the help of my mentors, two of whom were in California, I developed a 5-year plan to extend and enlarge upon my dissertation by replicating the study with African-American and Hispanic women of Mexican descent. In 1986, there were no studies describing the weight management activities, values and experiences of ethnically diverse women. We had not heard these women's voices. Ethnic differences in obesity prevalence and weight loss activities reported from large epidemiological or cross-sectional studies were attributed mostly to the vague category of "cultural values" or the even more vague "black box of socio-cultural factors," whatever they are. My program of research aimed to address some of these questions.

I was funded by ANF and STT to do a pilot study with a small number of African-American women and then by NINR to do a large cross-ethnic study of weight management in women. The pilot study with 31 AA women replicated and validated the design and methods developed in my dissertation study, enlarged the coding categories, and provided evidence to support ethnic differences in weight management (*Allan, 1995*).

I want to share one critical finding from this study. In comparing body size values and perception of normal weight between Euro-American (EA) and African-American (AA) women, AA women of lower SES were significantly different than AA women of higher SES and EA women regardless of SES, in that they viewed themselves as heavier and perceived an attractive body size as heavier. We concluded that lower SES AA women had a wider range of normal weight and that this wider

range of normal weight developed from comparisons of other women in their environmental milieus and influenced the initiation of weight loss activities (*Allan, Mayo & Michael, 1993*). This study offered a peek into that "black box" of socioeconomic factors and weight. Dr. Kelly Mayo, now an Associate Professor, was my research assistant and utilized the AA pilot study group to explore physical activity among AA women, one of the first qualitative studies of AA women. I cannot tell you how much the endless discussions between Kelly and I on study methods, coding and interpretation of findings enriched the research.

The purpose of the NINR funded three phase study among 120 African-American (AA), Euro-American (EA) and Mexican-American (MA) higher and lower SES women was to explore weight management activities, compare these activities within and between the 3 ethnic groups, and to examine weight management activities of successful weight maintainers. The findings of this study validated and enlarged upon many of the findings from my previous studies.

**I want to discuss 2 areas:** weight management methods and explanatory models and focus on SES and ethnic similarities and differences.

**Weight management methods:** Weight, ethnicity, and social status were significant factors influencing weight management. Women, regardless of SES, with BMIs greater than 27 more frequently used the methods of fad diets, diet programs and professional services to lose weight whereas women with BMIs less than 27 more often used the methods of cutting back, daily planning and alter eating patterns. Contrary to the literature, all women reported trying to loose weight repeatedly over their lifetime and they used multiple methods. The majority of women across ethnic and social status groups, used two methods, that I labeled as lifestyle work, repeatedly to lose weight. These methods were decrease high calorie foods and exercise. However, EA and MA women used these methods for a significantly longer period of time than AA women. Sustaining weight loss attempts was problematic for AA women and may be a major factor contributing to their larger body size. Women across all ethnic groups, who were most successful at losing and maintaining weight within biomedical normal range were of higher SES, exercised regularly, made permanent changes in their eating and activity patterns and used a variety of weight management methods to manage weight fluctuations. Higher SES women

experience different opportunities related to income, education information, diet, and occupation, all of which may exert an influence on weight management.

**Explanatory models:** Study women had complex explanatory models (EMs) or ideas about the cause, consequences and treatment for overweight. Participants' EMs of overweight were generally similar across the three ethnic groups and only partially congruent with professionals EMs of obesity. Major differences in EMs between the study groups were found in the dimensions of etiologies and consequences of overweight (*Allan, 1998*). The majority of women viewed overweight as caused by a combination of heredity, adult lifestyles of overeating, under exercising, lack of time and unplanned life events such as relationship stress and new role obligations such as taking care of an ill parent (*Allan, 1998*). In contrast to AA and EA, significantly fewer MA women viewed family norms that is patterns of eating and exercise, or emotional problems or life stress as causing overweight.

**This EA women talks about growing up:** I'm overweight because of the way I was raised. We grew up on a typical Texas diet, lots of grease, gravy and grits. . . . If you didn't eat you were sick... you know, the clean plate club idea. There were no controls put on our eating and in those days, who talked about exercise. We were farmers. I think my mother thought that fat kids were healthy and loved kids.

The consequences of weight were both personal (buying clothes, appearance, poor self-image) and medical (health conditions). Interestingly, less than one half of all AA and MA women mentioned any consequence of being overweight whereas the vast majority of EA women saw being unattractive as the major consequence. The traditional plan of health professionals using weight related threats to health as a stimulus to weight loss may be ineffective. In contrast to EA women, AA and MA women did not seem to view overweight with the degree of stigma and horror as EA women. In fact, AA and MA women had more positive, and affirming views of overweight and less media influenced ideas of normal weight. This may reflect differences in values, family and peer group norms that have been found to influence participation in weight loss activities.

In conclusion, weight concerns and dieting have become normative for US women. I suggest that nursing needs a more contextual, ethnically sensitive view of weight management. Weight loss programs need to focus more on identifying



clients' ideas about what they should weigh, the relationship between health and weight, and knowledge of weight loss methods in order to establish more personalized and tailored goals for weight loss and more relevant criteria for success.

**Lessons from the field:** Collaboration and mentorship are critical activities for developing and sustaining an ongoing program of research. It is critical as a doctoral student and as a new researcher to select appropriate mentors. I use plural because I believe that one needs several mentors and I advocate like Meleis, Hall and Stevens (1994), a collaborative mentorship, one that involves mutuality and empowerment not hierarchy and exploitation. I was fortunate to have three such mentors: an ecological anthropologist, physician epidemiologist and a nurse theorist. What they modeled as mentors enabled me to return such mentoring to students and colleagues. As a faculty member, working in collaboration with students, in my case doctoral students, enriched my own research, expanded my thinking, enabled the use of key sensitizing concepts from my research to be used by students to explore other areas of concern and enabled me to mentor in the way I had been mentored. Dr. Mayo, Dr. Jean McSweeney, in her ground breaking study of making behavioral changes after an MI, Dr. Judy Drew, in her study of health and illness patterns among Franco-Americans, and Dr. Julie Barroso, in her study of long term survivors of HIV infection, all used the concept of explanatory model in their dissertation studies. This led to a SNRS symposium on the topic and an eventual publication in *Image* (McSweeney, Allan & Mayo, 1997).

In fall of 1997, my life changed radically when I accepted the position of Dean at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing. The faculty wanted a scholar/ dean and an individual who would promote the research mission of the School. I wanted to continue my researcher and mentor roles. Some of my colleagues thought I was crazy and still to this day, remark, how can you stand being a Dean!

Being a Dean, I have had to rethink and redesign my role as a researcher and mentor. I have several dean colleagues who like myself went from researcher to dean, this is the trend in academic nursing leadership, and we have discussed this role shift a great deal. Although a trend, the system that we encounter does not in

reality view the dean role as a scholar role. Scholar deans have had to carve out this new identity.

How have I tried to evolve this role to make a connection between being a Dean of a University School of Nursing and being a researcher/scholar and mentor?

I have shifted much of my attention on research and mentoring to the organizational level. Having come from rich research environments at UCSF, UC Berkeley and UT-Austin, I have focused on developing the culture and environment for research at San Antonio. This process is one of consensus building for a shared vision, collaboration, and empowerment. Developing a culture and environment for research, actually the scholarship of teaching, practice and discovery (Boyer, 1990) involves everything from recruitment (of doctoral students, faculty and Chairs/Associate Deans); to development of infrastructure resources, finding additional financial resources and communicating to the School, the HSC and the community the value of nursing scholarship. We established a breakfast seminar series on health for the community and featuring faculty presenting the implications of their research for individual health. One faculty member used her research on domestic violence to discuss protecting your family. We also have started a Research Scholars program for our BSN and MSN students to attract them to a career as a nurse researcher.

**What about my personal scholarship?** As one of the few qualitative researchers on faculty, I still mentor individual faculty, read proposals, participate in mock reviews and read manuscripts. In addition, thanks to such wonderful colleagues, like Colleen Keller, I am participating in an intervention study testing a walking program in middle aged, low income Mexican-American women. I am a consultant to Dr Lorraine Walker on a cross-sectional study of factors related to weight gain among child-bearing women and on Dr Liz Reifsnider's intervention study on growth stunted low income children (Reifsnider, Allan, & Percy, 2000). Finally, as Vice-Chair of the US Preventive Services Task Force, I am able to bring my expertise in women's health and primary care research to the development of national guidelines for counseling and screening.

In conclusion, I want to summarize briefly some of the critical lessons that I have learned as a researcher/scholar over these past 20 years. First, our research must focus on answering key questions arising from our practice and address critical health, and health services issues.

Nursing has led the way in addressing health disparities research. Second, be passionate about the areas that you select for your program of research. Such passion arises from our own experiential world as a clinician, scholar, parent, daughter or son. Follow your heart. Finally, involve yourself in collaborative mentorship, whether as a mentee or mentor. Collaborative mentorship involving empowerment and mutuality promotes scholarly caring. Scholarly caring promotes commitment to excellence, nurturance of students and faculty and collaborative production of knowledge for the discipline.

Thank you once again for this award and honor.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE SNRS PRESIDENT



This year we embarked on developing and implementing a new 5-year strategic plan to provide focus for our efforts. Members, committees and the board have achieved the goals for 2000 and we have a good start on the 2001 and 2002 goals. Highlights of the major accomplishments this year by the strategic plan and organizational functions are provided:

**FUNCTION A: Advance Nursing Research**

SNRS initiated a Small Grants program and awarded two Small Grants. Funds to support the grants program were increased by 300% through the SNRS budget and private donations. We support an American Nurses Foundation (ANF)/SNRS Scholar award for 2001 and we remain the only

regional society to support an ANF scholar. An Evidenced-Based Practice collaborative effort was started with STTI, a new partnership with the John Hartford Geriatric Institute made possible a Gerontology Research Award and we participated in a partnership to establish the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science.

**FUNCTION B: Promote the Dissemination and Utilization of Research Findings**

In the past year we increased by 200% the number of articles published in SOJNR. We presented SNRS posters at the ANA convention and attended the initial Evidenced-Based Practice roundtable session.

**FUNCTION C: Facilitate Career Development of Members as Researchers**

Two special conference sessions for current/prospective doctoral students were offered at the conference in Baltimore. Student members have been appointed to three committees, we recruited three new and mid-level career and two experienced researchers to serve in leadership positions in SNRS. We presented two special post conference sessions on methods and grant writing during the Baltimore conference and bestowed the initial Leadership in Research Award. The first Roundtable discussion with journal editors also took place in Baltimore.

**FUNCTION D: Enhance Communication Among Members**

The membership list serve was used for major notices/announcements of funding opportunities, SNRS activities and SOJNR publications. We posted the SNRS bylaws on our website, developed policies, procedures, guidelines, and handbooks for committees, support staff, management, board members, editors, and conference management services. Also established is a Communications Committee that will coordinate the website design, advertisement across communication modes, our homepage, newsletters and the SOJNR.

**FUNCTION E: Promote the Image of Nursing as a Scientific Discipline**

Separate and Collaborative (4 regional presidents) letters were sent to Congressional members for approval of DHHS, NIH, and NINR appropriations bills. We required that small grant applications be approved by IRB before submission, new membership brochures were developed, we conducted a special conference session with minority research scholars, and agreed to Co-sponsor the 2002 State of the Science Conference.

**Necessary organizational activities this year:**

1. Conference management contracts with Division of Continuing Education at the University of Texas at Arlington were signed for services through 2003. The contact person at UTA is Jean Ashwill (Ashwill@uta.edu).
2. Our administrative management support staff and services are contracted through the College of Continuing Studies at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa through 2001, with a renewable clause for 2002. Our contact person is Geri Stone (gstone@ccs.ua.edu).
3. Conference cancellation insurance was purchased for the first time to protect against major disasters, strikes and weather beyond our control.
4. A bylaws change was approved at the annual business meeting to increase the number of nominating committee members to a total of 4, with 2 elected each year to serve 2-year terms. The President will appoint the committee chair.

**NEXT YEARS FOCUS and GOALS**

- Address Healthy People 2010, racial and ethnic disparities and evidenced-based practice.
- Increase funding for members.
- Establish more effective and efficient communications (SOJNR, website, newsletter, list serve).
- Develop specific criteria of appropriate archival material and a formal historical record of the organization.
- Develop new modes of research career development for members.
- A full report of the year's activities and an evaluation of the Strategic Plan goals, progress and outcomes from the President and other board members can be viewed at [www.snrs.org](http://www.snrs.org).

*Debra Wallace, President*

**2002 Conference  
News from SNRS  
Vice President:  
See You in San Antonio.**

Plans are underway for the **16th Annual SNRS Conference** in San Antonio, February 7-9, 2002. We hope members are planning to submit abstracts. Mark your calendars now as the abstracts are due May 15, and the end of the school year often keeps us very busy making it easy to miss the date! We are going to try to have an additional poster session if we can reconfigure the schedule.

This would allow more researchers to participate. As your new SNRS Vice President, I urge all senior investigators (meaning: experienced-not old!) to submit and come to the meeting. The meeting is extremely important in mentoring doctoral students and new investigators. We need your presence!

*Margaret (Marge) S. Miles*

**SNRS Announces New  
Research Collaboration and  
Award**



**Barbara Raudonis**

The John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing and the Southern Nursing Research Society have formed a partnership to recognize outstanding gerontological researchers in the southern region. As part of this joint venture, a Gerontological Research

Award has been established to acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions that SNRS members make to gerontology through their scholarly productivity and commitment. This year's recipient (2001) is Barbara Raudonis, Ph.D., R.N. CS, an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing. Dr. Raudonis is a long-time member of SNRS and is active in the Gerontology Research Interest Group. Dr. Raudonis is widely published and has received funding for many of her gerontological research studies that focus on palliative care and end of life issues. She is active in STTI, TNA, and in her local communities of the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. Congratulations Dr. Raudonis, and thanks to the Hartford Institute for making this partnership and recognition possible.





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[www.snrs.org](http://www.snrs.org)

**State Liaisons For SNRS**

The Southern Nursing Research Society is made up of 14 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. In 1991 the boundaries were expanded to include the Caribbean, Latin America and the Bahamas. Additionally, members who move out of the region sometimes elect to remain active in SNRS. Thus, you will see State Liaisons from New York and Oklahoma.

State Liaisons are the first contact for members who wish to make suggestions, ask questions, or voice concerns. They assist with the recruitment of new members and do follow-up with non-renewing members. The list of State liaisons and their e-mail addresses are listed below. Please feel free to contact them.

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**Discovery...Interaction...Online!**



**Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research**

SOJNR is the SNRS member benefit that brings new research discoveries and insights to you with electronic ease and timeliness. Log on to the SNRS website at <http://snrs.org>, click on the SOJNR access link, and enter your membership number to view or download articles. Interact with authors and the SOJNR Editor by Internet. Articles already available online are:

**Issue 1, Vol. 1, 2000**

Evaluation of NOC Instruments with Chronically Ill Patients. Morrison RS, Burroughs C, Witt M, Redden J, & Leeper JD.

**Issue 2, Vol. 1, 2000**

The Effects of a Smoking Prevention Curriculum on Fifth-Grade Children's Attitudes, Subjective Norms and Refusal Skills. McGahee TW & Tingen MS.

**Issue 3, Vol. 1, 2000**

Nutritional Risk Assessment in the Older Adult. Souter S & Keller CS

**Issue 4, Vol. 1, 2000**

Evaluating the Student Clinical Learning Environment: Development and Validation of the SECEE Inventory. Sand-Jecklin, K.

**Issue 1, Vol. 2, 2001**

Examination of the NHANES Data Set: Pets, Wheezing, and Allergy Symptoms. Barrett J., Dunkin JW, & Shelton MM.

**Call for Manuscripts**

Research reports related to the knowledge base and practice of nursing are invited. Articles dealing with instrumentation and methodology are also sought. Submit manuscripts or inquiries to: *Barbara J. Holtzclaw*, PhD., RN, FANN, Editor, Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research, School of Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio 7703 Floyd Curl Dr./San Antonio, TX 78229. Phone 405-573-0980. E-mail: [bjholtzclaw@earthlink.net](mailto:bjholtzclaw@earthlink.net)  
Mailing address: 4009 Harrogate Drive, Norman OK 73072



## New and Continuing Board Members and Editors

The results of our elections were announced at the 15th annual meeting in Baltimore and are posted in the "Announcements" section of this newsletter. To get acquainted with our new and continuing board members and editors, read on!

Elected to an at-large position on the governing Board is **Jane B. Neese, PhD, RN, CS**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Nursing at the College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Dr. Neese began attending the annual SNRS conference in 1993 as a doctoral student and later became involved as a state liaison for North Carolina. Her clinical expertise and research focus are in psychogeriatric nursing. For the last four years, with the help of a K01 award funded by NINR, Dr. Neese's research has focused on examining three different types of outcomes (health outcomes, costs, and health service use) of a community-based program for impoverished older adults.

Our new president-elect is **Jean McSweeney, Ph.D., R.N.**, an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock.

In the position of vice president is **Margaret (Marge) Shandor Miles, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN**, a Professor at the School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Miles teaches research to undergraduate and graduate students. She has her diploma from Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, her BSN from Boston College, MSN from the University of Pittsburgh, and PhD from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her clinical background is in the area of

pediatric nursing. During Dr. Miles' research career, her interests have focused on parenting prematurely-born and critically ill children, grief, and HIV in African American women. She is very active with the UNC Center for Developmental Science as a faculty member and member of their executive committee. As such, she has an intense interest in improving the conceptualization and design of research with children using new and innovative approaches to developmental science.

**Dr. Jeri Dunkin, Ph.D., R.N.**, of The University of Alabama was re-elected for another term as an at-large member of the governing board. **Michele Salisbury, Ph.D., RNC**, formerly a governing board member at large, was re-elected to the board in the position of Treasurer. **Drs. Janet Wang, Lee Ogburn-Russell, and Sharon Lock** continue in their terms of office through 2001. Congratulations to our new and continuing board members! Se also take this opportunity to thank those who completed their terms of service this year. They are **Dr. Lazelle Benefield** and **Dr. Arlene Privette** from the governing board and **Dr. Judith Drew** who served as editor in chief of Southern Connections, 1999-2001. Many thanks to webmaster **Dr. Craig Stotts** and SOJNR editor **Dr. Barbara Holtzclaw** who continue in their roles and a warm welcome to **Dr. Anita All** who will assume the editor in chief responsibilities for Southern Connections following the publication of this issue. Please use our website, [www.snrs.org](http://www.snrs.org) or the board and editor listing in each issue of Southern Connections to find the contact numbers or addresses for any of our board members or editors.

## Celebrating 15 Years: The Southern Nursing Research Society 1986-2001

We celebrated the 15th Annual Conference of SNRS this year. Tremendous growth has taken place in the organization since the initial planning committee meeting in 1986. At the Annual Conference we displayed many of the original communications including the November 1985 letter D. Jean Wood sent to deans and directors asking whether there was interest in starting a "southeastern research society". Throughout the years SNRS has remained consistent with the mission and function to advance nursing research. Our annual conferences have addressed national health priorities, featured internationally renowned speakers, and been venues for sharing our scholarship and recognizing the achievements of our members. Collaborative efforts with STTI, the American Academy of Nursing/CANS and the Hartford Institute extend the impact of SNRS beyond conference activities. Our newsletter, online journal and website provide colleagues, policymakers and lay persons with reports of our research.

To our charter members, thank you for the insight to establish this organization and the perseverance to sustain and support its growth. As of 2001, we have had representation from every member state on the governing board and committees and we recognize deans, directors, CEOs and VPs, for their financial and material support. As members we can be proud of the rich history of SNRS and more importantly we can look forward to the opportunities and bright future.

### Research Interest Groups (RIGS) Met in Baltimore

During the 2001 SNRS Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, RIG members shared their research interests and ideas and discussed collaborating with each other, mentoring new researchers, and issues raised by graduate students. Many members came to the meetings and the numbers of RIGs represented increased considerably from previous years. A total of 15 RIGs met this year. They included Bio-Behavioral, Cultural and Minority Health, Family, HIV/AIDS, Instrumentation, NINR, Gerontology & Aging, Health Promotion, Parent-Child/Adolescent, Perinatal-Neonatal, Psych-Mental Health, Public/Community Health, Qualitative Research, Research in Clinical Settings, Social Support, Stress & Coping, and Women's Health.

The number of members attending each RIG meeting ranged from 3 to 26 and a variety of research topics were discussed. Several RIGs were interested in the use and development of

specific research instruments and would like to have more time to discuss issues related to instrumentation and to share research instruments. The value of networking in the research groups for both seasoned and younger researchers was highlighted in several groups, especially in the Cultural and Minority Health RIG. Members of this RIG plan to submit a symposium to address culture and minority health issues at a future SNRS conference. It was noted that experienced researchers enthusiastically shared their experiences of research and publication strategies during the RIG meetings. Several groups also indicated an interest in planning a pre-conference for the next SNRS conference scheduled for February 7-9, 2002 in San Antonio, Texas. To obtain RIG chair/facilitator's names and e-mail addresses, members should contact: Janet F. Wang, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor, School of Nursing, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-9610. E mail: [jwang@wvu.edu](mailto:jwang@wvu.edu)



**Southern Nursing Research Society**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**College of Continuing Studies**  
**Box 870388**  
**Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0388**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **We Are Recruiting for a Volunteer Archivist and Treasures to Archive**

Proceedings and pictures from past conferences, newsletters, annual reports and business meeting minutes were on display at the Baltimore conference. These items will be placed in our official archives at the Pullen Library Special Collections on the Georgia State University campus in Atlanta. To contribute SNRS memorabilia to our archives, please send materials to SNRS National Office, College of Continuing Studies, Box 870388, Univ. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0388. If you are interested in volunteering to serve as an SNRS archivist, please contact SNRS President Debra Wallace at [debra-wallace@utk.edu](mailto:debra-wallace@utk.edu)

### **SNRS D. Jean Wood Award for 2001, Hae-Ra Han, RN, MSN**

This year's award winner is Jae-Ra Han, R.N., MSN, for her paper "Using On-Line To Provide Information to Parents of Children with Cancer"

### **Student Appointments**

SNRS student members are very active in governance as well as scholarship. We recognize the service of David Gerstle (TN), Awards Committee; Victoria Menzies (VA), Program Committee; and Mona Shattell (TN), Communications Committee. Thank you.

The full listing of Committee Appointments, RIG coordinators, and state liaisons will be posted at [www.snrs.org](http://www.snrs.org) If you wish to serve on a committee next year, please send your name, address, phone number, member status, and email address to the National Office or any board member. We are proud to say that during our 15 years, we have had representation from every member state on the governing board, committees and editorial boards.

## **Mark Your Calendars with Deadline Dates for Future SNRS Events**

### **Next Annual Conference**

The 16th Annual SNRS Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas, February 7-9, 2002.

### **SNRS Small Grants Program**

Applications are due April 1, 2001.

### **Call for Abstracts and Reviewers**

Abstracts for our 2002 conference in San Antonio are due May 15, 2001. See website for details. Prospective reviewers must send in form found in the abstract packet. Student poster abstracts are due October 1, 2001.

### **Nominations for Officers of SNRS Governing Board**

Nominations for officers, board and committee members are due August 1, 2001. See insert in this newsletter. Please follow the directions and remember that no FAXs will be accepted.

### **Awards Nominations**

Please be advised that the deadline date for nominating SNRS members for the Distinguished Researcher Award, the Leadership in Research Award, and the Researcher in Minority Health Award is September 15, 2001. Watch our website and the Summer 2001 issue of our Southern Connections newsletter for nominations forms and complete information and instructions. The deadline date for the D. Jean Wood Award nominations is November 1, 2001.