From the Director

TSNRP has had a very busy summer moving into our new home at Andrews Air Force Base. We had the usual moving glitches with phone and computer connectivity, but these were smoothed out thanks to herculean efforts of the USUHS Information Systems staff. Despite the bumps along the way, TSNRP didn’t miss a beat! Please check our Web site for the new address and phone numbers.

**ACTIVITIES**

We held a publication workshop right after the Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Program in San Antonio. It was well attended and the faculty was highly praised for the job they did.

Our Grant Camp was not as big as we had hoped for, but the faculty was able to maintain 1:1 mentoring with the campers over the summer and we hope to have some good proposals submitted over the next year.

We were able to have a third call for proposals this summer. We were pleased to fund an additional proposal.

The grants management staff and faculty of the post-award workshop received many kudos for the good work they did informing our grant recipients about regulatory and ethical research issues.

Our Novice Researcher Development Course was very well attended, and I’m certain the faculty was able to rouse interest in the research process for many new potential investigators.

This year, we introduced the first ever Evidence-Based Practice Grant Camp and had 10 students and 6 very well-qualified faculty members. We hope this will result in funding more EBP grant proposals.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

TSNRP is very active in many of the nursing events at AMSUS, this year in San Antonio. We have completed the plans for both the Karen Rieder and Federal Nursing Poster Sessions. Many thanks to the volunteers who judged the abstracts this year! As always, TSNRP is sponsoring a session at the Federal Nursing Section. We will have Dr. Patricia Benner (Novice to Expert) introduce and discuss some of the background of the Clinical Knowledge Development study. We will also hold our usual Pod meeting to further our work on research interest group infrastructure and support.

Lastly, I would like to publicly thank my staff for the outstanding job they did during our move. Change is always difficult, and they kept up with demands despite being in the midst of boxes and “iffy” computer connections. A sense of humor always helps and my staff never lost theirs. Thank you, Beth, Maria, Pam, Debra, and Mantza!

Thank you all for your continued support of TSNRP.

Deb Kenny, PhD, RN, LTC, AN, USA
Programs of Research

Several Principal Investigators have been able to build upon their programs of research due to funding and other resources provided by the Triservice Nursing Research Program (TSNRP). We applaud their insight, commitment, and efforts to support the research priorities of TSNRP.

Working to Improve Deployment Health Care for Women

LT C (ret) Nancy A. Ryan-Wenger, PhD, CPNP, FAAN, AN, USAR

In 1996 my colleague, Nancy Lowe, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, and I embarked on a mission to improve the care of military women who experience vaginal and urinary symptoms during deployment to austere environments. With a generous 3-year grant from TSNRP (N96-029), we surveyed military women to identify the scope of the problem. In fact, women reported many instances of vaginal and urinary symptoms and risk factors during deployment⁴ and told us that health care for these types of problems was unavailable or unacceptable.³ Medics are neither trained, nor have appropriate medications to diagnose and treat women's genitourinary infections. This research grant also allowed us to develop and test the prototype of a self-diagnosis kit for women.⁴ Armed with these preliminary data, in 2003 we received a 5-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research (R07662-01A1) to refine the Women in the Military Self-Diagnosis (WMSD) Kit and evaluate the accuracy of women's self-diagnoses compared to DNA probe analysis and urine culture.⁵

In 2008 we received a 2-year grant from TSNRP (N08-01) to determine what level and intensity of training in the use of the WMSD-2 Kit is required to yield the most accurate results, compared to standardized specimens. The ultimate goal of this program of research is to provide deployed military women with a field-expedient kit to accurately self-diagnose genitourinary infections and to safely treat themselves with diagnosis-specific single-dose oral medications and other products to alleviate symptoms. Military women do not want special treatment; they simply want access to accurate diagnosis and treatment of common genitourinary symptoms in deployment situations.


Fostering Patient Self-Care and Self-Determination

CAPT Patricia W. Kelley, PhD, RN, FAANP, NC, USN

Presently serving as acting associate dean for research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing, CAPT Kelley began her nursing research with a question from her work in a large inner-city teaching hospital: “What could I do to facilitate patient acceptance and adherence to medication therapy for hypertension?” As an independent gerontological nurse practitioner, CAPT Kelley chose as a topic of research for her master's degree a question from her practice: “Why are nurses giving patients psychotropic medications and denying patients’ right to self determination?”—especially important because informed consent was a requirement for patients taking these medications. “My findings, with those of other psychiatric health care providers, led to a publication in the Journal of the American Geriatric Society.” Psychotropic medications have come to be viewed as a form of chemical restraint, and the regulations now require evaluation, monitoring, and documentation when this class of medication is used.

CAPT Kelley continued to search for ways to improve care and to foster self-care and self-determination, and she was particularly interested in helping patients adopt healthful lifestyles. As she explains, “I explored the adoption and maintenance of exercise in my doctoral work, conducting a study..."
Reducing Navy Recruits’ Stress and Depression

CAPT (ret) Reg Williams, PhD, RN, NC, USNR

Since 1996, the TriService Nursing Research Program has funded research by CAPT (ret) Reg Williams, PhD, RN, NC, USNR, and his research team. These investigations have focused on Navy recruits’ stress and depression—a serious health problem affecting performance, functioning, interpersonal relationships, and career planning. Nineteen million Americans experience depression annually, with many developing first symptoms in late adolescence. This is the age cohort of many sailors, who are also at risk from potentially traumatizing situations, including combat and the impact of terrorism.

TSNRP studies include:

- **Factors Associated with Onset of Depression in Navy Recruits.** This study examined predisposing and concomitant factors related to basic training. Depressed recruits were more likely to be separated from the Navy and not complete training, and had significantly more family history of mental illnesses as predisposing factors than comparison recruits. They also had significantly higher stress levels, more loneliness, and less sense of belonging as concomitant factors. The study added to understanding the role of specific life stressors, interpersonal functioning, and development of depressive symptoms.

- **Boot Camp Survival Training for Navy Recruits—A Prescription (BOOT STRAP).** This was a cognitive/behavioral intervention for reducing risks associated with depression and stress. Of those receiving the intervention, 86% completed basic training, compared to 74% of non-intervention and 84% of comparison recruits. Recruits at risk for depression had significantly fewer transfers and separations.

- **Follow-up Intervention Coping Strategies for Sailors (FICS).** This longitudinal study followed up with BOOT STRAP and STARS sailors. A “Stress Gym Internet” intervention was pilot tested to curb the threat of stress and depression in sailors beyond basic training.

- **Stress Gym for Combat Casualty Patients (Stress Gym).** This ongoing proof-of-concept study of “Stress Gym” is for combat casualty patients in all services: Army, Navy/Marines, and Air Force. Nurses who care for them are evaluating site feasibility.
Study Nursing Care in Austere Conditions

Col. Elizabeth Bridges, PhD, RN, USAFR, NC

Since 1998, a collaborative team of Air Force nurse researchers has conducted research funded by the TriService Nursing Research Program that has focused on casualty care under unique and austere conditions. This program, which is led by Col. Elizabeth Bridges, PhD, RN, CCNS, FCCM, USAFR, NC, and Lt. Col. (ret) Joseph Schmelz, PhD, RN, CIP, USAF, NC, has become the largest program of operational nursing research in the Department of Defense.

This research program, which focuses on nursing care provided under unique conditions (e.g., battlefield, aeromedical evacuation, and disaster response), has led to greater understanding and improved care in hypothermia prevention, pressure ulcer prevention, and the care of patients requiring in-flight mechanical ventilation or invasive hemodynamic monitoring and has explored the utility state-of-the-art monitoring to guide resuscitation of critically injured casualties. In addition, this research has informed decisions regarding the use of human patient simulation to enhance readiness.

TSNRP funding has also supported creation of the first comprehensive database of the patient characteristics and care requirements of critically ill and injured patients transported by USAF Critical Care Air Transport Teams (CCATT). This innovative database, which integrates multiple data sources, contains information about the entire range of care from the point of injury through CCATT transport to definitive care. These data are now being queried to answer questions regarding the outcomes and challenges associated with the complex evacuation.

Additional outcomes of this research program include the delineation of tri-service core competencies for medical-surgical and critical care nurses and the creation of the Battlefield and Disaster Nursing Pocket Guide, which provides evidence for nursing care under these unique and austere conditions. This research and the evidence-based initiatives, along with resources to support collaboration with internationally recognized experts, would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the TriService Nursing Research Program.

Seeking to Understand the Stresses of Combat and Deployment

Col. (ret) Penny Pierce, PhD, RN, USAFR, NC

Col. (ret) Penny Pierce is an associate professor at the University of Michigan and a faculty associate at the Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan. With the support of TSNRP, she has developed a portfolio of research, much of it specifically focusing on women in the military, beginning with studies following the Persian Gulf War and including the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other current projects focus on the health and well-being of both the men and women of the Air Force and the Army who serve during wartime, surveying the myriad personal and family-related consequences of military deployment. The importance of these consecutive longitudinal projects lies in the strength of the sampling procedures, the comprehensive theoretical models used to test relevant hypotheses, and the timeliness of data collection, either during or shortly following deployment. Beyond providing valuable descriptive data, these studies have tested models of retention following deployment. They compare physical and mental health consequences of the Persian Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and most importantly, they have identified two independent and significant predictors of post-traumatic stress syndrome other than combat exposure and stress. The identification of the role of work and family conflict as well as sexual misconduct in theater has provided direction to the development of interventions aimed at modifying these stressors and reducing the incidence of post-traumatic stress.

These TSNRP-funded studies have provided numerous opportunities to inform other researchers through public presentations and publications. They have also been instrumental in influencing public policy through invited testimony to the Presidential...
Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations, the Institute of Medicine Committee to Review the Health Consequences of Service During the Persian Gulf War, and the Defense Department Advisory Council on Women in the Services (DACOWTTS). This research portfolio is dedicated to the men and women who serve our country in war, and it would not have been possible without the steadfast support of the TriService Nursing Research Program.

**Conducting Groundbreaking Research in the Care of Burn Patients**

Col. (ret) Linda Yoder, PhD, RN

Col. (ret) Linda Yoder, PhD, RN, MBA, AOCN, FAAN, is an associate professor of nursing and director of the Graduate Program in Nursing Administration and Healthcare Systems Management at the University of Texas School of Nursing. Her areas of research have included examining the nursing work environment for staff nurses; career development of nurses; and quality of life in patients with chronic illnesses, such as cancer, cardiovascular, and pulmonary disease. She is currently the principle investigator of a 3-year TriService Nursing Research grant examining the quality of life experienced by military service members after they are discharged from the military burn unit (the United States Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, Texas). According to Dr. Yoder, TSNRP has assisted her in numerous ways to conduct research focused on outcomes experienced by chronically ill patients and burn survivors. TSNRP has also provided an avenue for Dr. Yoder to be a research mentor to novice investigators with master’s degrees or new PhDs. She says that “Because of TSNRP, I have served as a PI, AI, and research mentor and consultant on studies that are clinically and administratively relevant to the improved provision of care for military beneficiaries.” Although much of Dr. Yoder’s research has been descriptive in nature, her preliminary findings have provided opportunities for clinical teams to implement improvements that have become standard of care, thereby negating the need for interventional research in certain areas. She notes that her “funding to examine longitudinal outcomes of burned service members has provided an avenue to collaborate with colleagues in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs system. VA researchers will invite her cohort of participants to continue to be followed for up to 4 years post-discharge from the burn center; this is groundbreaking longitudinal research.”

**TSNRP Newsletter Needs YOU**

The TSNRP news is not only for you, it is ABOUT you! We want to know about all the great things you are doing, where you are, what assignments you have. TSNRP is aware that you are very busy and we know our requests for information may come at a time that is inconvenient for you. Avoid the rush! Send your news when it occurs and we’ll save it for the next issue. Our e-mail address is tsnrp@usuhs.mil. Please add “Investigator News” to the subject line.

**Know Your Specialty Leaders**

Your specialty leaders are a valuable resource for current research requirements and initiatives throughout the military, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Nursing Services.

**U.S. Army**

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Special Topics

TSNRP and Research Ethics

In August and September, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences held two all-day seminars in research ethics. These seminars raised a topic that should be first and foremost in the mind of anyone who is considering or conducting research. Ethical research has two aspects: one is protecting the rights of study subjects and the other is the ethical conduct of the investigator(s). Both issues are equally important, and although they are intertwined, they should be considered separately. Each one has its own set of governing regulations.

Protection of Human Subjects

The experimentation on World War II prisoners by Nazi physicians led to the formulation of a landmark document called the Nuremberg Code that guarantees the rights of research subjects. We have all heard about unethical research practices that have occurred in the United States, such as the Tuskegee syphilis study, in which the course of the disease was studied in black prisoners even though new treatments were available, and the Willowbrook hepatitis study, in which institutionalized, mentally handicapped children were inoculated with a hepatitis virus to examine the effects of gamma globulin.

These experiments prompted action that resulted in the Belmont Report, the current foundation for research subject protection. The report, originally entitled Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research, was published in 1976 and was underpinned by three ethical principles: (1) respect for persons, (2) beneficence, and (3) justice (Office of Human Subjects Research, 2007).

Military review boards adhere to the principles of the Belmont Report, but an additional set of regulations governs the protection of subjects within the Department of Defense (DoD): Title 10 of the U.S. Code of military law, Section 980, titled “Limitation on use of humans as experimental subjects.” It states:

“(a) Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense may not be used for research involving a human being as an experimental subject unless—

(1) the informed consent of the subject is obtained in advance; or

(2) in the case of research intended to be beneficial to the subject, the informed consent of the subject or a legal representative of the subject is obtained in advance.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition in this section with respect to a specific research project to advance the development of a medical product necessary to the armed forces if the research project may directly benefit the subject and is carried out in accordance with all other applicable laws.” (U.S. Law, 2007)

This U.S. Code is extremely important because it is the primary determinant of what research may or may not be conducted within DoD. It is designed to protect both military researchers and research subjects.

Investigator Ethics

Investigator compliance with ethical principles is just as important as the protection of human subjects. There are many examples of research programs being closed or suspended due to investigator research misconduct.

As defined in DoD Instruction 3210.7, “Research Integrity and Misconduct,” research misconduct is considered to be “Fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion” (DoD Instruction 3210.7, 2004). It can take only a single instance of research misconduct by an investigator and/or oversight failure for a program to come under scrutiny or be subjected to consequences.

Role of TSNRP in Ethics Compliance

TSNRP promotes and ensures compliance with ethical research through its careful scrutiny of grants at all phases of the process, from proposals to final reports. The grants management staff meticulously monitors all ongoing studies and communicates with investigators to make certain they comply with the regulations governing research. The TSNRP also educates all new investigators and project directors about the process and ethical regulations governing research in our Post-Award Grant Management Workshop, which is mandatory for all researchers who have received TSNRP funding. We adhere to the highest standards of research ethics and are willing to go the extra mile to ensure that our investigators also follow the guidelines.
TSNRP Commends Recently Deployed and Returned Investigators

We extend our admiration and support to the military nurse researchers who have recently returned or been deployed.

Recently Deployed

COL Carol Pierce, AN, USA, has just deployed as the chief nurse of the 44th Medical Brigade.

COL Petra Goodman, AN, USA, and LTC Terri Hendrix, AN, USA, have just deployed with the Deployed Combat Casualty Research Team (DCCRT).

Col. Margaret McNeill, USAF, NC, is the deputy director for the research cell at Balad AB, Iraq.

Recently Returned

LTC Denise Hopkins-Chadwick, AN, USA, returned from deployment with the DCCRT in March 2008 and has joined the Tripler Army Medical Center research team.

MAJ Nancy Steele, AN, USA, returned from deployment with the DCCRT in September 2008 and will set up nursing research at the European Regional Medical Command, Germany.

References


CDRs Parodi and Almonte Embark on a Humanitarian Mission

CDR Andrea Parodi, NC, USN, and CDR Angelica Almonte, NC, USN, sailed the USS Kearsarge in support of Continuing Promise 2008, a humanitarian mission that partners military personnel with other government and non-government organizations, such as Project Hope and Operation Smile, in response to natural disasters.

This mission was diverted to Haiti, at Haiti’s request, to provide medical care to areas devastated by the recent traumatic series of tropical storms. The medical personnel conducted health assessments beginning September 17, 2008. Their initial findings were that the overall health of the villagers was good, but there is growing concern about malnutrition because so many crops were destroyed. The crew of the Kearsarge has delivered more than 980 tons of supplies, including 26,000 gallons of water.
Newly added to the training and education portfolio of the Resource Center of the TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) is the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Grant Camp, a seminar designed to teach grant-writing skills for EBP grants. The new Grant Camp took place on August 21–22, 2008, at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. This seminar was not training in the EBP process. Rather, it served as a resource to learn how to write grant proposals for the TSNRP EBP award mechanisms. Ten nurses attended the EBP Grant Camp from eight different military treatment facilities.

The Seminar

LTC Deb Kenny, Executive Director of TSNRP, opened the seminar by describing the types of EBP awards available at TSNRP. Dr. Lori Loan then gave a clear and thorough coverage of elements common to both types of EBP proposals. Other topics expertly discussed by Dr. Loan were institutional review board (IRB) oversight and military public affairs office clearance for EBP projects.

COL (ret) Linda Yoder discussed elements specific to the implementation of innovation. She included methods, assessment guidelines, site-specific rationale, implementation strategies, and sustainability. Dr. Yoder addressed each participant’s area of interest and steered students in a direction that would enhance the probability of their success in EBP grant writing.

Dr. Paula Lusardi, a critical care clinical nurse specialist at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, shared her expertise on elements specific to conceptual guideline development, theoretic framework, literature review, evaluation and synthesis, data collection and analysis, and the development of guidance for practice. Her second topic elicited a lively discussion on organizational assessment and the role and significance of stakeholders; an organization’s ability to implement, evaluate, and sustain an EBP project; and the composition of a multidisciplinary team needed to develop a clinical guideline.

A leading proponent in EBP thought and practice, Dr. Robin Newhouse, assistant dean of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Studies Program and associate professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Nursing, led students through exercises using the Appraisal of Guidelines Research & Evaluation (AGREE) Instrument aimed at evaluating an existing guideline for its validity and appropriateness for use in an individual setting. Dr. Newhouse also demonstrated how to select outcomes for an EBP project. Students learned how to articulate a desired outcome for their proposal and how to formulate a conceptual and operational definition for their selected outcome. The important task of choosing a grantee organization was expertly presented by CAPT Patricia Watts Kelley.

In addition, the faculty panel discussed pitfalls and fatal flaws of EBP proposals. A “review of the reviews” of recently submitted proposals illustrated common mistakes seen in EBP proposals. A “review of the reviews” of recently submitted proposals illustrated common mistakes seen in EBP proposals. A “review of the reviews” of recently submitted proposals illustrated common mistakes seen in EBP proposals. A “review of the reviews” of recently submitted proposals illustrated common mistakes seen in EBP proposals. A “review of the reviews” of recently submitted proposals illustrated common mistakes seen in EBP proposals. Panel members offered remedies for correcting pitfalls based on actual experience.

Closing the 2-day session was LTC Kenny’s presentation on evaluating the cost-effectiveness of EBP outcomes. She described measures for determining the value of outcomes of implementing EBP guidelines as well as procedures to determine how expected outcomes would be measured in an EBP grant proposal.

Overall, the attendees were pleased with the seminar, stating that the course better prepared them to write an EBP grant proposal. At the roundtable session, students suggested adding a section on grant budget preparation and more one-on-one interaction with faculty at future EBP Grant Camps.

The Faculty

The faculty for the EBP Grant Camp was chosen for their expertise in Evidence-Based Practice, ranging from theoretical perspectives to grassroots knowledge.

Dr. Lusardi is a funded researcher at Baystate Medical Center (small grants) and a critical care clinical nurse specialist (CNS) who drives the EBP activities in the intensive care unit (ICU) and other areas of the hospital and a teacher–mentor for research content in the ICU and often throughout the hospital. Dr. Lusardi mentors other CNSs in EBP procedures and students interested in EBP processes and grant writing. She sits on the hospital-wide IRB. A former associate professor at University of Massachusetts at Worcester and Amherst, Dr. Lusardi has taught theory and philosophy of science courses to doctoral students and chaired several dissertation committees.

Dr. Loan is chief of the Nursing Research Service and a member of the executive board of directors at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. Dr. Loan has had intensive
EKP training from Marita Titler as well as training in the use of Dr. Kathleen Stevens’s ACE Star Model of Knowledge Transformation. She has won two EBP awards at the Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Conference and co-authored an article about EBP published in the Journal of Nursing Science.

Dr. Yoder currently is associate professor and director of nursing administration at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. Her expertise encompasses the implementation of EBP in clinical and administrative health care settings. She has created and taught 1- to 2-day workshops on EBP, which have included (1) an explanation of how EBP is differentiated from research or research utilization, (2) a discussion of EBP models, (3) how to conduct a comprehensive review of the literature, (4) grading the evidence collected, and (5) planning an implementation strategy that includes program evaluation via metrics.

Dr. Newhouse has published, presented, and consulted nationally and internationally on the topic of EBP. She received the 2005 Sigma Theta Tau International Research Utilization Award for her work in leading the development of the Johns Hopkins Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Model and Guidelines and the 2007 Maryland Nurses Association Pathfinder of the Year Award. Sigma Theta Tau International published her team’s book in 2007. She is a member of the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Research Council and is an invited member of the Advisory Council in Evidence Based Behavioral Practice at Northwestern University as a representative for nursing.

Dr. Kelley is former Executive Director of the TSNRP and current acting associate dean for research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She is the principal investigator of the TSNRP Research to Practice training and education grant, which focuses on translating research findings into practice. Dr. Kelley is a subject matter expert on the Iowa Model of EBP, on dissemination of training across all three services, and on driving research down to the bedside. She also was a nurse researcher at the National Naval Medical Center. During the past 8 years, she has worked with and facilitated research practices across the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Dr. Kenny has national and international recognition as an expert in EBP within both the military and civilian communities. She has been involved with the International Knowledge Utilization Colloquium, comprising world-renowned, multidisciplinary experts in knowledge translation and EBP, and hosted a seminar on the economics of knowledge translation at its annual meeting in Banff, Alberta, Canada. LTC Kenny teaches EBP courses for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Catholic University of America and is a sentinel reader for the McMaster Online Rating of Evidence, a program of McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. The EBP guidelines developed under her direction at Walter Reed Army Medical Center have been shared across military and civilian institutions. She received the Outstanding EBP Project Award in 2004 at the U.S. Army Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Conference. She has developed a data-based theory for EBP from a qualitative study, has presented findings of her studies and projects at numerous national and international conferences, and has been invited to be a visiting scholar at the Taiwan National Defense University School of Nursing in December 2008.

For announcements of upcoming TSNRP Resource Center-sponsored programs, visit the TSNRP Web site at http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp.

**CAPT Kelley Appointed Acting Associate Dean for Research**

CAPT Patricia Kelley, NC, USN, has been appointed acting associate dean for research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing (GSN). In this position, Dr. Kelley will work with GSN faculty, students, and administration, and will activate the Faye G. Abdellah Center. She has also been appointed Vice Chair for the National Naval Medical Center’s Institutional Review Board.

Dr. Kelley is a funded nurse investigator who served as Executive Director of the TriService Nursing Research Program for several years. In announcing this appointment, GSN Dean Dr. Ada Sue Henshaw stated, “Her excellent experience as a researcher and a facilitator of others’ research provides her with an impressive background for this acting position.”

**Tell Us About an Event**

You can submit information about an event for publication on our Web site. Just visit Tell Us About an Event at http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/site/add_event.shtml, complete the form, and send it to us. We will review the event for its content and appropriateness. If it meets the criteria, it will be posted on our Web site.
Post-Award Grant Management Workshop, August 2008

The ninth annual Post-Award Grant Management Workshop, conducted at the North Island Naval Air Station in beautiful Coronado, California, proved to be one of the best ever! Participants were mostly newly funded, novice researchers, although a few experienced researchers joined the course, and project managers also were included. The interaction among the participants, presenters, and TSNRP staff was exceptional. The TSNRP staff assuredly learned as much as did the participants!

This workshop challenges participants in ways that many TSNRP conferences do not. Grant management rules and regulations are many, varied, and difficult to understand. TSNRP is able to deliver this content in the most interesting, interactive, and entertaining manner through help from Mr. Ed Levin, Esq., who has taught this content for TSNRP for 3 years. His presentations are always well received. Mr. Levin has a depth of knowledge that is unsurpassed, with years of hands-on experience as the general council for the Department of Commerce grants programs and as an instructor for Management Concepts. He also truly admires the TriService Nursing Research Program. Mr. Levin has said that he is in awe of the education that TSNRP affords its funded researchers and their staffs. He believes that our efforts are without comparison and says he wishes other funding organizations would be as proactive in disseminating information about grant management rules and regulations.

Lt. Col. (ret) Joe Schmelz, USAF, NC, a retired Air Force nurse, provided the human subjects protection instruction. Lt. Col. (ret) Schmelz is the director of the Office of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and associate professor of research in the Department of Acute Nursing Care. He offered realistic, accurate, and unique scenarios found in the Department of Defense human subjects arena. He also presented a brief history of human subjects regulations and offered practical examples intended to enable participants to prepare required documents that will meet IRB requirements for each service. One of his most exciting teaching strategies is his review of workshop participant protocols in which he covers all situations these grantees could experience. Lt. Col. (ret) Schmelz also addressed concerns for researchers conducting animal studies.

CAPT Janet Pierce, RN, PhD, NC, USNR, professor at the University of Kansas, discussed interim, annual, and final reporting requirements. CAPT Pierce is a well-funded researcher with many publications and presentations in her personal portfolio. She offered tips on using the final reporting mechanism as a step toward publishing a journal article. CAPT Pierce spent quite a bit of time discussing self-plagiarism and the need to ensure that each publication or presentation is original and not a restatement of previously delivered information.

The TSNRP grant management staff, LTC Deborah Kenny, Beth Tordella, Pamela Moses, and Debra Chambliss, explained the needs of the TSRNP, offered guidance for fulfilling those needs, and gave the rationale for the guidelines. The staff discussed the principal investigator’s (PIs) responsibilities and explained the differences between the PIs and project manager’s obligations, offered instruments to
assist in fulfilling IRB documentation needs, and explained communication streams. Ms. Chambliss discussed the process for completing final reports, including the scientific, administrative, and editorial review processes and publication on the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL®), and TSNRP Web sites. The staff reiterated the importance of research dissemination, explaining that these efforts, particularly the publication of research findings, were critical to TSNRP as an outcome of support of military nursing research. This portion of the workshop was particularly well received, and participants encouraged TSNRP staff to allow more time for giving this advice.

Participants’ comments have been helpful as we prepare for future workshops. Two participants indicated a need to have some of this information earlier in the granting process. One person suggested Web-based vignettes; another suggested pamphlets to be distributed with funding information. Input from participants has been requested to ensure that the instructional vignettes meet the needs of future participants. These suggestions are invaluable to TSNRP, and we are pleased to announce that we are currently working to develop appropriate vignettes that will be available on the TSNRP Web site in FY 2009.

A sampling of participant comments includes:

“The information regarding the PI responsibilities and those of the mentor was clearly explained and extremely informative.”

“The importance of dissemination in regards to TriService Nursing Program reputation was not anything I had heard before.”

“Self-plagiarism’ was a new term to me. I will keep this important concept in mind as I disseminate my research. I expect this term was new to others as well.”

“I learned no one individual has all the answers, but there are resource personnel who will help us along the way, we just need to ask.”

“The final thing that stands out is the importance of communicating any change to the protocol, even if it is something as small as requesting an increase or decrease in the number of subjects/participants in a study.”

“I think the Post-Award Workshop was helpful by navigating through the required paperwork and obligations with funding. The experts were helpful by sharing tips that can prevent major time delays to starting the research project or slowing the research once started. The networking opportunities were tremendous. It was a treat to hear what other researchers are studying. I particularly enjoyed meeting the TSNRP staff face-to-face and now have a ‘face with a name.’ I liked that the TSNRP staff gave tips and suggestions for enabling research. I can’t imagine why other funding agencies wouldn’t offer this opportunity to support researchers through the obligations required until completion.”

“Thank you TSNRP for meeting my needs as a funded TSNRP researcher.”

Final Reports Entered into NTIS and CINAHL Databases

The following TSNRP Final Reports were assigned NTIS accession numbers and entered into NTIS and CINAHL databases, with links on TSNRP’s Web site.


5. COL Margarita Aponte, AN, USA. (2008). The Role of Mentoring in the Career Advancement of Hispanic Army Nurses, TSNRP study N01-P03, NTIS accession #PB2008-109938.


Proposal Review Process Update

TSNRP has stepped into the 21st century! We are now able to upload your proposals to a secure section of our Web site for reviewers to access.

This technological advance proved to be particularly important for the summer Call for Proposals (more commonly referred to as the Call). As always, time was of the essence, and all reviewers—both scientific and programmatic—were able to access the proposals and produce their reviews quickly, thus greatly reducing our time lag.

Furthermore, we are enthused to note that these proposals all followed the document name saves prescribed in the Call. Clearly, this is an essential directive, because standardized document naming is a critical component of the process, an important part of making the overall appearance of the proposals similar and, thereby, ensuring that applications are easy for reviewers to read.

This outcome is exciting for all of us. As we all know, time is a precious and limited commodity. Having access to TSNRP proposals on the Web simplifies the scientific and programmatic review process and greatly reduces the reporting time for TSNRP staff.

Our next step is to develop a system that will enable reviewers to upload their reviews to our secure Web site, thereby eliminating the need for multiple e-mails among staff. ★
Newly Funded Studies

TSNRP’s 2008 funding year was highly successful, with three calls for proposals this year. Of the 26 applications received, 12 were funded. Also during 2008, TSNRP supported five proposals submitted during the 2007 funding cycle. Congratulations to the researchers and scholars who received these grant awards! To view the 2008 abstracts, please visit the Web site http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/funded/date.shtml.

U.S. Army

2LT Christine Yokoyama, AN, USA, “Evaluating Evidence-Based Interventions to Prevent Falls and Pressure Ulcers”

CPT Michael Bentley, AN, USA, “Diazoxide as a Neuroprotective Element for Fluid Resuscitation”

MAJ Betty Garner, AN, USA, “Sleep Disturbances in U.S. Army Soldiers after Deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq”

MAJ Felecia Rivers, AN, USA, “Military Nurses’ Experiences in Disaster Response”

LTC (ret) Nancy Ryan-Wenger, AN, USAR, “A Trial to Maximize the Accuracy of Military Women’s GU Deployed Settings 2008”

COL Kathryn Gaylord, AN, USA, “A Comparison of PTSD and Mild TBI in Burned Military Service Members”

U.S. Navy

LCDR James Reasor, NC, USN, “The Effectiveness of Stress Inoculation Training with Military Personnel Deployed”

LCDR Dennis Spence, NC, USN, “Individual Difference in HPA and SAM Axis in Students Attending BESS”

LCDR (ret) George Zangaro, NC, USN, “Army Nurses’ Experiences as Faculty and Students’ Perceptions of Military Nurses”

CAPT Linnea Axman, NC, USN, “Development of the Evidence-Based Protocol: Back to Basics Bundle of Nursing Care”

CAPT Patricia Kelley, NC, USN, “Clinical Knowledge Development: Continuity of Care for War Injured Service Member”

CAPT Janet Pierce, NC, USNR, “Lung and Diaphragm Damage at Varying Oxygen Levels and Ventilator Modes Post Hemorrhagic Shock”

U.S. Air Force


Maj. Candy Wilson, USAF, NC, “Military Women’s Health and Illness Behaviors in Deployed Settings”

Col. (ret) Penny Pierce, USAFR, NC, “US Army Deployment Resilience and Retention: WAVE II”

Col. (ret) Mary Ross, USAF, NC, “Impact of AF Nursing Retention Completion Phase”

Col. (ret) Laura Talbot, USAFR, NC, “Strength, Pain and Function in OIF/OEF Amputees: A Nurse Managed Program”

CAPT Rychnovsky Promoted to Navy Captain

CAPT Jacqueline Rychnovsky, NC, USN, was recently promoted to the rank of O-6, Navy Captain. Her husband Steve and colleague CAPT Linnea Axman attended to her during her promotion ceremony and pinned on her new Captain bars. CAPT Rychnovsky was selected to be the 2009 Congressional Detainee Nurse for Senator Inouye, D-HI. Additionally, she was awarded the 2008 Elaine Rhine Hamilton Teaching Award for Excellence in Medical Resident Education at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Pediatrics Department.
MG Horoho and COL Clark Join TSNRP Executive Board of Directors

TSNRP is pleased to welcome MG Patricia Horoho, Chief, Army Nurse Corps; Commanding Officer, Madigan Army Medical Center and Western Regional Medical Command, as the newest member of our Executive Board of Directors. MG Horoho was named as the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps in June 2008 and assumed command in July 2008. Prior to that, she served at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, first as the Deputy Commander for Nursing, then as the Commander of Walter Reed. MG Horoho is a well-respected visionary within the Army Nurse Corps. As a member of the TSNRP Board of Directors, she will greatly influence the direction of military nursing research and research translation. In her new position, she quickly established her priorities and among them are research and evidence-based practice. We are very proud to have her as an integral part of our advisory group.

TSNRP is also pleased to welcome COL Susanne Clark, new Deputy Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, as a new member of the TSNRP Executive Board of Directors. COL Clark comes with vast and varied experience in administration, policy and organizational development, education, and research design and review. Her last assignment was as the Chief Nurse of the 62nd Medical Brigade from Ft. Lewis, Washington. This unit was deployed to Iraq from April 2007 to September 2008. Prior to that, she held several leadership assignments that included Deputy Commander for Nursing at Ft. Irwin, California, and Deputy Commander for Joint Task Force Bravo in Honduras. We are extremely proud to have COL Clark join our advisory group. ★

Recent Graduates

MAJ Michael Schlichter, AN, USA, successfully defended his dissertation and joins the Brooke Army Medical Center Research team in September 2008.

LTC Leigh McGraw, AN, USA, successfully defended her dissertation and will join the Madigan Army Medical Center Research team in October 2008.

CAPT Mary Chafee, NC, USN, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Maryland and is now the disaster research coordinator of the Disaster Information Management Research Center at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland.

CDR Michelle Kane, NC, USN, successfully defended her dissertation at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and will become the head of the Nursing Research Services at the National Naval Medical Center in October 2008.

LCDR Dennis Spence, NC, USN, successfully defended his dissertation at Rush University and is now with the Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program in San Diego.

Col. (ret) Talbot Awarded Distinguished Professorship in Nursing

Col. (ret) Laura A. Talbot, USAFR, NC, recently joined the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and holds the Dean W. Colvard Distinguished Professorship in Nursing. The professorship was named for the first chancellor of the University. Dr. Talbot earned her PhD in nursing from Texas Woman’s University and her EdD in college teaching from the University of North Texas. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, co-sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research and the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Talbot’s currently funded TriService Nursing study tests two different approaches to prosthetic rehabilitation as potential treatments for improving muscle strength, pain, and functional performance of daily activities in war-injured military personnel with a lower extremity amputation. Dr. Talbot recently retired as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve after 30 years of service. Her most recent assignments were as mobilization assistant to the surgeon general, Air Force District of Washington, and medical commander at the 440th MDS at General Mitchell IAP ARS, Wisconsin. ★
Awards and Honors

COL Kathryn Gaylord, NC, USA, recently received the USUHS Outstanding Service Award for “outstanding leadership and ceaseless efforts” during May 2007–May 2008 for the inception and development of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. COL Gaylord is the psychiatric nursing consultant to the U.S Army Surgeon General, a researcher-investigator for behavioral health at the U.S. Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and the PI on a TSNRP-funded study entitled “A Comparison of PTSD and Mild TBI in Burned Military Service Members.”

LCDR Dennis Spence, NC, USN, is a new PhD CRNA in San Diego and was the 2008 winner of the Rush University Research Forum John E. Ware Patient Experience Research Award and the Sigma Xi Award for his research entitled “Multilevel Modeling of the Diurnal Rhythm of Salivary Cortisol in Enlisted Personnel Attending Basic Enlisted Submarine School.” The John E. Ware Patient Experience Research Award is given annually to the student project at Rush that uses patient feedback in the most innovative or effective manner. Patient feedback is defined as any system of obtaining information from patients/family members about their thoughts, feelings, emotions, actions, or evaluation of their health care experience or activities. The Sigma Xi Award is given annually to students from each college of nursing for outstanding graduate student research.

Maj. Candy Wilson, USAF, NC, was selected by the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing as their Reviewer of the Year. Maj. Wilson, stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, is the support branch chief, executive director of research at the 59th Clinical Research Division. As support branch chief, her duties include supervising 15 personnel; managing a $4.5M budget; ensuring that researchers comply with Department of Defense, federal, and 59th Medical Wing (59 MDW) research regulations; and administration of the institutional review board (IRB) and the institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC), which oversee more than 600 active protocols. As the executive director of nursing research, Maj. Wilson’s duties include leading or coordinating all facets of the nursing research program for the 59 MDW and mentoring nurses in the research process or in evidence-based protocol development.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Karen Evers, MSN, RN, clinical research project director at Wilford Hall Medical Center, won the Geneve Foundation 2nd Quarter 2008 “Wave the Flag” Employee of the Quarter award. Ms. Evers is the project director on several TSNRP-funded studies and was nominated by Lt. Col. Marla DeJong for her contributions to the TSNRP-funded “Wartime Critical Care Transport” and “Accuracy and Precision of Buccal Pulse Oximetry” studies.

Col. Weis Is New Dean of USAF School of Aerospace Medicine

Col. Karen Weis, USAF, NC, just returned from Afghanistan where she was the chief nurse of Task Force Med from January to May 2008. She directed a nursing staff of 138, overseeing 14,050 patient visits, 500 admissions, 600 surgeries, and 125 aeromedical evacuation missions that moved more than 485 patients. She was also responsible for 61 translators at 6 medical sites.

Col. Weis is now the dean of the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) where she is responsible for the academic and budget requirements for more than 300 undergraduate and graduate aerospace medicine courses. Approximately 30 of these courses are Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC)—awarding courses and 84 are taught at Brooks City Base, Texas. The Center for Southeastern Tropical Advanced Remote Sensing (CSTARS) programs at Baltimore, Cincinnati, and St. Louis are also part of USAFSAM. The Air Force Flight Nurse and Flight Surgeon programs are just a few examples of the types of courses or programs taught. The USAFSAM is part of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) and will be relocating to Wright-Patterson AFB in the 2010–2011 timeframe. Col. Weis was promoted to Col. in September.

TSNRP Has Moved

The TriService Nursing Research Program has moved. We can now be reached at:

TSNRP
1063 W. Perimeter Road
Andrews Air Force Base, MD 20762
Phone: 240-857-4526
Fax: 240-857-4540
New Appointments

COL (ret) Patricia Patrician, AN, USA, is the first to hold the Donna Brown Banton Endowed Professorship in Nursing at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). In this position, Dr. Patrician is responsible for developing methods to improve nursing education and work environment to maximize nurses’ ability to improve patients’ lives. Dr. Patrician holds a master’s degree in strategic studies from the Army War College. The University of Alabama at Birmingham believes this degree will enable Dr. Patrician to meet her responsibilities. She is also an associate professor in the Nursing and Health Systems Administration Master's Degree Program and is advising several doctor of nursing practice (DNP) students whose focus is on executive-level nursing practice.

COL (ret) Stacey Young-McCaughan, AN, USA, is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry, at the University of Texas School of Medicine Health Science Center at San Antonio. She is also the coordinator of the South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience (STRONG STAR) Consortium, which is centered in San Antonio.

CAPT Min Chung-Park, NC, USN, is now the director of nursing services at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Sigonella, Sicily, Italy.

CAPT Joseph Pellegrini, NC, USN, retired in August 2008. He is now an associate professor at the University of Maryland Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Program.

CDR Lisa Osborne, NC, USN, is the clinical coordinator of the Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program in San Diego. She is a member of the editorial committee of the AANA journal and is on the AANA Examination Committee. CDR Osborn is also vice chair of the NMCSD IRB, chair of the Anesthesia Department Scientific Review Committee for NMCSD, vice chair of the Academic Honor Code Panel, and is a faculty member for the AANA Regional Workshops. She was recently appointed co-chair of the Consensus Guidelines Committee for the Anesthesia Department. She has eight new publications.

Lt. Col. Marla De Jong is the new Air Force program coordinator of the Department of Defense (DoD) Blast Injury Research Office located at Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland. The DoD Blast Injury Research Program’s mission is to provide a coordinated medical research program for the prevention, mitigation, and treatment of blast injuries, which include the entire spectrum of injuries that can result from exposure to an explosion.

Col. (ret) Mary Candice Ross, USAF, NC, has accepted the position of associate dean for faculty development at the Florida State University School of Nursing. In this position, Dr. Ross will assist faculty with scholarships, grant development, and teaching techniques. In addition, she will facilitate new academic and community program development, including interdisciplinary initiatives with other colleges within Florida State University and across the state.

November 2008

Proposals for FY 2009 Call for Proposals due November 4, 2008, by 1600 e.s.t., in the TSNRP Office

II 14th Annual Meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS), November 9–14, 2008, San Antonio

Karen Rieder Research/Federal Nursing Service Poster Session, November 10, 2008, AMSUS, San Antonio

January 2009

Letters of Intent FY 2009B Call due January 5, 2009

February 2009

Grant Camp submission deadline: February 11, 2009

March 2009

FY 2009B Call for Proposals due March 3, 2009

May 2009

Grant Camp I, May 18–22, 2009

July 2009

FY 2010 Call for Proposals published on TSNRP Web site, July 13, 2009

Post-Award Grant Management Workshop, July 29–31, 2009, location TBD

August 2009

Grant Camp II, August 3–4, 2009, location TBD

Novice Research Development Course, August 5–6, 2009, location TBD

September 2009

Letters of Intent FY 2010A Call due September 7, 2009

November 2009

FY 2010A Call for Proposals due November 3, 2009