

TSNRP ★ news

From the Director

FALL 2012



CAPT John P. Maye

The year 2012 marks a special occasion: the TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) celebrates its 20th anniversary. Over the years, the one constant at TSNRP has been *change*. Change is inevitable; every organization, at some point, experiences it and deals with it. One could even argue that the longevity of an organization is based on its ability to change and adapt to new demands in a rapidly evolving environment. TSNRP has remained flexible and responsive to changes in the military and in the nursing profession. Educating and mentoring military nurses remain important parts of TSNRP's mission. In the future, TSNRP will continue to offer many of the same educational courses but will place a new emphasis on evidence-based practice (EBP) education programs. As we prepare for 2013, TSNRP will offer more innovative EBP courses and include more Web-based educational curricula. TSNRP understands the roles and responsibilities of military nurses and will continue to develop and provide educational programs that coincide with the missions and visions of the different military Services.

This year, TSNRP staff and faculty have been busy on the educational front. In February, TSNRP instituted the first

Intermediate Research Development Course (IRDC) to support individuals with outstanding research ideas that directly align with TSNRP priorities. Each individual whom TSNRP selected to attend this course presented a compelling research idea that raised interest among TSNRP faculty. TSNRP's ultimate goal was to prepare these individuals to be competitive for the next step in the process: Research Grant Camp. Research Grant Camp has always been a competitive program; TSNRP generally accepts only those individuals with well-developed proposals. The IRDC proved to be a successful endeavor in that TSNRP accepted all four IRDC participants to the summer 2012 grant camp. TSNRP Resource Center faculty remain optimistic that individuals who participate in grant camp ultimately will submit successful grant applications for the 2013 cycle.

In this issue of *TSNRP News*, you will read about several innovative educational programs that TSNRP sponsored during 2012. From these articles, you can be certain that TSNRP's educational programs will continue to reflect the missions and visions of the military Services as well as the special needs and requests of military nurses. As always, TSNRP will evolve and change to meet the unique demands of the military and military nurses.

CAPT John P. Maye, CRNA, PhD, NC, USN



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TSNRP Holds Inaugural Intermediate Research Development Course

The TSNRP Resource Center sponsored a 3-day Intermediate Research Development Course (IRDC) at the College of Nursing on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus on 6–8 February 2012. The IRDC enabled select attendees from the Basic Research Course to receive individualized assistance to develop their novel research ideas. Working with experienced research mentors, the IRDC attendees focused on developing their ideas into the basis for fundable projects in alignment with TSNRP research priorities.

The goal of this new program is to increase the number of front-line practitioners involved in research by providing participants with the foundational skills to apply for research funding to support their projects. The IRDC's objective is to facilitate a smoother transition for students from the Basic Research Course to Research Grant Camp to help them develop their ideas into fundable projects.

The intensive mentoring experience incorporated extensive faculty feedback on attendees' research ideas across the following areas:

- Development of a research idea into a fundable project
- Development of specific aims for submission to Research Grant Camp
- Development of an outline of methods to meet the specific aims of the proposed study

To meet the aims of this course, attendees were expected to have:

- Attended TSNRP's Basic Research Course
- A basic knowledge of research methods



Intermediate Research Development Course attendees with the Ohio State University mascot

- A relevant idea for a researchable project
- A passion to improve clinical outcomes

Nurses from the Army, Navy, and Air Force attended the IRDC. The application process was highly selective. Attendees were chosen based on their research ideas and their performance at the Basic Research Course.

The IRDC faculty were experienced researchers and educators. All had prior or current funding through TSNRP and other funding agencies.

In summary, the IRDC was a rewarding experience for the participants. All of the attendees stated that they planned to submit proposals to attend the July 2012 Research Grant Camp. ★

Dear TSNRP,

I am writing to send my sincerest thanks to you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the TSNRP Intermediate Course at Ohio State University. This experience was tremendously insightful and allowed me to delve into the vast possibilities surrounding military nursing research. The mentorship during this intensive training was invaluable and the opportunity to work one-on-one with subject matter experts in a supportive and caring environment was remarkable. The time spent during this course allowed for the exploration of opportunities in nursing research as it pertained to military medicine. The ensuing discussions made the concept of research less daunting and the potential for and exploration of future projects more attainable.

Please accept my sincerest appreciation and know that this course will be a cost benefit far into the future as I am inspired to contribute to the field of Navy nursing research.

Very respectfully,

LCDR Anne S. Hollis, NC, USN



TSNRP Holds its Largest Research Development Course

The TSNRP Resource Center sponsored a 3-day Research Development Course (RDC) from 11 to 13 June 2012 at the Jacob E. Smart Center at Joint Base Andrews, a U.S. Air Force base in Maryland. The RDC assists talented clinicians who are interested in starting research or evidence-based practice (EBP) projects at their clinical sites. The program's goal is to increase interest among clinicians in translating clinical problems into researchable or EBP projects in order to improve clinical practice within the military health care systems.

The RDC faculty members are experienced nurse researchers and educators with a combined total of more than 60 years of experience. All of the faculty members have prior or current funding through TSNRP and other funding agencies. Through their experience as nurse researchers, the RDC faculty members provide attendees with an overview of research methods.

Clinicians reap several benefits from this intense 3-day course:

- An overview and refresher of basic research methods



Faculty and participants at the Research Development Course

- An opportunity to discuss their research ideas
- Expert guidance in developing a clinical problem into a researchable idea

The criteria for attendance are an interest in pursuing a research or EBP project in one's clinical environment and a desire to learn more about research.

This year, 40 clinicians, primarily nurses, from the Army, Navy, and Air

Force attended the RDC. Although the majority of attendees were from the Washington, D.C., area, some participants flew in from as far as Italy, Hawaii, Japan, and Guam.

The RDC was a positive experience for all attendees. After attending the event, many of them stated that they felt truly inspired to pursue research in their clinical areas and to attend future TSNRP development courses and grant camps in order to develop proposals for TSNRP funding. ★

TSNRP Conducts 13th Annual Grant Management Workshop

On 14–16 August 2012, TSNRP conducted its 13th Annual Grant Management Workshop at the Smart Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Twenty-nine recently funded principal investigators, research team members, and grantee organization representatives took advantage of the unique opportunity to learn about conducting their studies in the federal context. Lt Col (ret) Joseph Schmelz, USAF, NC, opened

the meeting with insightful presentations and discussions on research ethics. Joseph Levin, JD, led attendees through a lively history of federally funded grants and explained how Department of Defense regulations and other federal guidelines affect their individual projects. CAPT(ret) Janet Pierce, NC, USNR, rounded out the expert faculty, providing the research teams with useful tools for completing the required

reports and disseminating their results. TSNRP Executive Director CAPT John Maye, NC, USN, and the Grants Management staff enjoyed the opportunity to answer questions and meet the scientists they collaborate with but rarely see. Networking was another significant benefit of the meeting, which allowed experienced nurse scientists to share their knowledge and perspectives with more novice researchers. ★

TSNRP Research Grant Camp: Mission and Goal

Since its inception in 1992, TSNRP has sustained a commitment to help new scientists advance their skills in writing grant applications. In 2002, the format for this process changed, as did the name, and Research Grant Camp (RGC) was born. The mission of RGC is to help military nurses with limited research experience advance their skills in developing fundable grant proposals. The goal of RGC, then, is to afford participants the opportunity to work with a cadre of skilled faculty members who will assist them in thinking through ideas, crafting defensible arguments, and writing proposals to be considered for TSNRP funding. Military nurses from all three components—Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard—may apply to attend the camp.

Two noteworthy strengths of RGC work synergistically to foster goal attainment: RGC is a highly interactive experience, and the faculty-student ratio is low. Together, these qualities ensure that each student receives not only a great deal of personal attention but also professional mentoring.

The faculty members present short, focused lectures on the components of grant writing; however, the grant camp's emphasis is on providing the



Faculty and participants at the 2012 Research Grant Camp

participants with adequate time to apply the information and develop their grant proposals. The entire RGC process relies on a dynamic interchange between students and faculty, with immediate feedback, critique, and suggestions for ways the students can strengthen their proposals.

The RGC approach yields many successful applicants, although success is not guaranteed; the funding rate averages 50%. Maj Jennifer Hatzfeld, USAF, NC, and LTC Kristal Melvin, AN, USA, exemplify the success that is possible in garnering TSNRP

funding for their doctoral dissertations after attending RGC. Each of these investigators also succeeded at the next step in their career development by being awarded funding as novice investigators. This same success is also possible for other RGC attendees. In this light, TSNRP takes great pleasure in providing grant camps and thereby maintaining its commitment to help new nurse scientists move forward with their research and gain the skills needed to develop fundable grant proposals and conduct quality research. ★



TSNRP
20 YEARS
OF RELEVANT, RESPONSIVE RESEARCH

1992

- The TriService Nursing Research Group (TSNRG) receives initial congressional appropriation sponsored by Senator Daniel K. Inouye for \$1 million under S.R. 102-154.
- Holds first meeting on 8 January at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with six committee members, one active and one reserve from each branch.



Biobehavioral RIG Hosts First Summer Seminar on Survey Methods

The Biobehavioral Research Interest Group (RIG) was pleased to welcome military nurse researchers and other invited guests to its first-ever summer seminar, held at the University of Michigan's Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in conjunction with ICPSR's popular Summer Institute. The course, involving at-home study and 1 week in residence in Ann Arbor in July, was the first in a series of three courses planned by the Biobehavioral RIG. These three workshops are intended to lead to a certificate in survey methods and analysis.

This summer's course, "Fundamentals of Survey Methodology," introduced principles of survey design, examined research literatures that use both observational and experimental methods to test hypotheses about the quality of survey data, and presented advanced statistical concepts and techniques. Taught by ICPSR faculty members Philip Brenner, PhD, and James Lepkowski, PhD, 22 students enjoyed a challenging and informative week of daytime lectures and evening homework, tutoring, and networking.

TSNRP congratulates (and thanks!) the Behavioral RIG leaders for a job well done in planning and carrying out the first course in the series. Bravo Zulu to team leader Col (ret) Penny Pierce, USAFR, NC; RIG members Paula Chapman, PhD, LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, AN, USA, LTC Felecia Rivers, AN, USA, Col Michaela Shafer, USAF, NC, LTC Meryia Throop, AN, USA, and COL (ret) Linda Yoder, AN, USA; and University of Michigan faculty James Lepkowski, PhD, and JoAnne McFarland O'Rourke, MSW. ★

Research Strategies for Clinicians Course

In spring 2012, in conjunction with the 17th Biennial Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Course, TSNRP's Resource Center sponsored a one-and-a-half-day seminar led by Marianne Chulay, PhD, RN. Dr. Chulay is a nationally recognized nurse scientist with more than 25 years of experience helping bedside clinicians "to accomplish the impossible"—namely, to conduct research simultaneously with performing their clinical duties.

Dr. Chulay described approaches that clinicians can use to overcome barriers to conducting research in the service setting. She shared proven strategies for finding good research questions, developing a research protocol, getting through the institutional review board process, making data collection easy, and disseminating research findings with others through presentations and publications. This program focused on

pragmatic approaches to integrate the conduct of research into everyday clinical practice, providing a variety of examples of clinician-led studies that have influenced nursing practice both locally and nationally.

Nurses representing the Army, Navy, and Air Force attended the course. Attendees found the course to be informative as they seek to bring research questions to their work at the bedside. ★

1993

- Receives budget appropriation for FY 1993: \$2 million under P.L. 102-396.
- Implements grant application and award process.

1994

- Establishes two categories of award funding.
- Develops guidelines for sponsoring and mentoring new military nurse scientists.

1995

- The Institute of Medicine reviews TSNRG and makes major recommendations.
- Establishes working relationship with USU Graduate School of Nursing.

1996

- Changes name from TriService Nursing Research Group (TSNRG) to TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP).
- Receives authorization as a component of the Department of Defense Health Care Program.

Publications and Presentations

Lt Col Wilson Guest Edits In Focus for March/April 2012 *JOGNN*

Lt Col Candy Wilson, USAF, NC (59 CSPG), of Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, guest edited the In Focus series for the March/April 2012 issue of the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*, also referred to as *JOGNN*. The publication is the peer-reviewed, clinical scholarship journal for the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.

Lt Col Wilson opened the In Focus series with an editorial titled "Caring for Military Women and Families as a Nation at War." American Nurses Association Past President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, and the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services praised the series, recognizing its importance at a time when national leaders look to nursing science for the optimal care of



Lt Col Candy Wilson

military women and their families. This series also demonstrated outcomes from the TSNRP-sponsored Women's Health Research Interest

Group. Several military nurse scientists contributed articles for the series. Authors and article titles are as follows:

- Trego, L. L., "Prevention is the Key to Maintaining Gynecologic Health during Deployment"
- Wilson, C., & Nelson, J. P., "Exploring the Patterns, Practices, and Experiences of Military Women Who Managed Genitourinary Symptoms in Deployed Settings"
- Weis, K. L., & Ryan, T. W., "Mentors Offering Maternal Support: A Support Intervention for Military Mothers"
- Foster, G. A., Alviar, A., Neumeier, R., & Wootten, A., "A Tri-Service Perspective on the Implementation of a Centering Pregnancy Model in the Military" ★

■ LTC Catherine Schempp becomes the first TSNRP Executive Director.

1997

■ Lt Col Diep Duong becomes the second TSNRP Executive Director.

1999

1998

■ Initiates 1-, 2-, and 3-Year; Pilot; and Graduate award mechanisms.

2000

■ Holds Priority Setting Conference and identifies major research priorities:

- Access to care
- Deployment health
- Developing and sustaining competencies
- Evidence-based practice and outcome measures



Published Articles and Presentations by TSNRP Nurse Scientists

Published Articles

Hiebert, J. B., Shen, Q., & **Pierce, J. D.** (2012). Application of coenzyme Q10 in clinical practice. *Internet J Intern Med* 9(2).

Shen, Q., Knowles, E., Hiebert, J. B., & **Pierce, J. D.** (2012). Mitochondrial health – essential information for nurses. *J Nurs Educ Pract* 2(2), 162–170.

Smith, A. J. (2012). Assessing confidence in triage decision making: Evaluation of an inventory in a sample of Navy and civilian nurses. *J Nurses Staff Dev* 28(3), 132–136.

Presentations

Axman, L. M., Almonte, L. C., Avalos, E. E., Thompson, S. J., & Ridley, Y. (4 May 2012). “Development of the evidence-based protocol: The back to basics bundle of care.” 19th National Evidence-Based Practice Conference, San Diego, California.

Bridges, E. (19–24 May 2012). “Functional hemodynamic monitoring in critically injured combat casualties.” American Association of Critical-Care Nurses National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition, Orlando, Florida.

Miner-Williams, D., Escamilla, M., Lewis, S., Ramos, M., Kretzschmar,

J., Kirmse, D., & Murphy, A. (17 July 2012). “The stress-busting program for family caregivers of wounded warrior: An adaptation of an evidence-based program.” Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Practice, San Antonio, Texas.

Wofford, K., Barroso, M., Herzberg, S., Silva, S., & Vacchiano, C. (3–8 August 2012). “Factors influencing mental and physical health after elective surgery in veterans with chronic PTSD.” American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

■ Redefines the TSNRP mission and goals.

2001

■ CDR Patricia Watts Kelley becomes the third TSNRP Executive Director.

2003

2002

- TSNRP Resource Center offers grant writing, evidence-based practice, and publishing workshops.
- Develops Regional Research Pods to facilitate military nursing research across the three military branches for mentorship, support of research programs, and shared resources.

TSNRP's Research Interest Groups Meet at Spring Phyllis J. Verhonick Research Course

Doing great work all over the globe is no easy task. So when the members of the TSNRP research interest groups (RIGs) found themselves in the same place at the same time at this spring's Phyllis J. Verhonick Research Course in San Antonio, they took advantage of the opportunity to meet in person. The leaders of the three RIG teams enjoyed the chance to reconnect live with their colleagues and discuss the groups' current initiatives and future plans.

The **Women's Health RIG** members used their time together to review critiques they had gathered from team leaders and women's health subject matter experts in preparation for their planned online database of military women's health literature. Thus far, they have screened almost 1,800 articles surrounding the health and health care of active duty, reserve, and National Guard women and have accepted 310 of these articles for inclusion in the database. They are grateful for the purchase of a 1-year site license for the Distiller Systematic Review (DistillerSR) program, which will facilitate online completion and organization of article screens and

reviews for this project and those of other RIGs.

The team is happy to continue offering the popular *Researcher Guide*, now in its fourth iteration, which features more than 50 military women's health researchers. The guide is available in paper (now spiral bound) and electronic versions. Please contact megan.foradori@gmail.com if you would like a copy for your own use.

During their meeting, the **En Route Care RIG** members compiled reviews their leaders had completed of articles about en route care. The team is crafting a white paper summarizing current evidence related to en route care and is considering a possible research grant to help quantify en route care (specific to the rotary wing phase of transport). In addition, team members are working on a grant proposal to fund the creation of evidence-based recommendations to guide the en route phase of nursing care.

The **Biobehavioral Health RIG** met to talk about future directions and continue planning its Survey Methods course, the first in a planned series of three offerings to be held at the

University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. The team members discussed how they might offer additional resources for biobehavioral health researchers, such as survey review training modules for institutional review board members, in the future (after the team completes its summer course).

Completing the day, representatives from the DistillerSR group gave the RIG members a brief introduction to the program, which allows subject matter experts to review and organize research articles online. DistillerSR's spreadsheet outputs can be used as the foundation of Web-based databases. The Women's Health RIG will be the first to use this program, which should help ease the critique process for its subject matter expert reviewers.

Members of all three RIGs are looking forward to finishing up the calendar year in full force—the teams are always looking for new members to help their causes. Please contact Megan Foradori, Research Agenda Program Coordinator for TSNRP, at megan.foradori@gmail.com if you are interested in joining a RIG. ★

2004

- Introduces new and improved Web site (www.usuhs.mil/tsnprp).

2005

- Holds first Research Development Course.

2006

- LTC Deborah J. Kenny becomes the fourth TSNRP Executive Director.
- Evaluation Group for Analysis of Data recommends strengthening relationships and increasing visibility.

2007

- Introduces Evidence-Based Practice Award funding.



Newly Funded Studies

TSNRP recently awarded grants to the military nurse scientists listed below. These grants will enable them to conduct research or evidence-based practice projects on their respective topics. Please join us in congratulating these new TSNRP grant recipients.

U.S. Army

CPT John Buonora, AN, USA, “Discovery of Novel Biomarkers for Brain Injury”

LTC MeLisa Gantt, AN, USA, “Binaural Beat Technology: A Complementary Path to Post Deployment Wellness”

COL (ret) Petra Goodman, AN, USA, “Reiki for the Management of Neuropathic Pain in Soldiers with Extremity Trauma”

MAJ (ret) Mary McCarthy, AN, USA, “An RCT of Nurse Coaching vs Herbal CAM for Soldier Weight Reduction”

LTC Kristal Melvin, AN, USA, “Reintegration: A Mixed Methods Exploration of Military Couples after Deployment”

LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, AN, USA, “Effectiveness of

Biomodulator in Treating Chronic Pain and Reducing Medications”

CPT Johnnie Robbins, AN, USA, “Implementing an Evidence-Based Preceptorship Program in a Military Burn Center”

MAJ Meryia Throop, AN, USA, “Exploring the Patient Perspective in a Restructured Military Facility”

LTC Lori Trego, AN, USA, “Using RE-AIM to Implement a Women’s Deployed Health Promotion Program”

LTC Christopher Weidlich, AN, USA, “CPSP as a Mediator of Resiliency and Coping Among Military Health Care Personnel”

U.S. Navy

CAPT(ret) Sandra Bibb, NC, USN, “Using BRFSS Data to Study the Relationship Between Access and Total Force Fitness”

LCDR Eric J. Bopp, NC, USN, “Is Combat Exposure Predictive of

Higher Preoperative Stress in Military Members?”

CDR Carole Daniel, NC, USN, “Effect of Psychosocial Factors on Acute and Persistent Pain Following Childbirth”

CDR Michelle Kane, NC, USN, “Joint Multi-Disciplinary Evidence Based Practice Complex Wound Care Guideline”

CDR Heather King, NC, USN, “Acupuncture for Disturbed Sleep in Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder”

U.S. Air Force

Lt Col Nicole Armitage, USAF, NC, “Experience of Postpartum Active Duty Women in Training for the Fitness Assessment”

Col Mona Pearl, USAF, NC, “Working Dogs for Wounded Warriors: Effects of Animal-Assisted Therapy on PTSD”

2008

- *Battlefield and Disaster Nursing Pocket Guide* published.

2009

- Lt Col Marla De Jong becomes the fifth TSNRP Executive Director.
- Receives permanent funding with a \$6 million obligation from Army, Navy, and Air Force Nurse Corps Chiefs.
- Holds Strategic Planning Meeting, which yields TSNRP research priorities.

2010

- Research interest groups (RIGs) are officially launched.
- Institutes the Military Clinician-Initiated Research Award.
- Sponsors first Research Strategies for Clinicians course.

2011

- CDR John P. Maye becomes the sixth TSNRP Executive Director.

2012

- Begins new initiative to expand reach of educational programs by offering grant writing and research videos on TSNRP Web site.



Perspectives and Reflections from Former TSNRP Executive Directors

In preparation for TSNRP's Strategic Planning Meeting and 20th anniversary, *TSNRP News* interviewed the five former Executive Directors—COL (ret) Catherine Schempp, Lt Col (ret) Diep Duong, CAPT(ret) Patricia Kelley, LTC (ret) Deborah Kenny, and Col Marla De Jong—and asked them to share with us their perspectives on TSNRP, their goals for the organization, and the challenges they faced while in office. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the program were evident as they reflected on and discussed their experiences and perspectives regarding TSNRP, especially in light of the tremendous growth that the program has undergone since its inception. In their roles as TSNRP's Executive Directors, these five military nurse scientists served not only as exceptionally driven change agents but also as executors of the future of the program. Their commitment to military nursing research and to the military nurse scientists who conduct this research serves as the flame in the lantern that passed in 2011 to CAPT John P. Maye, TSNRP's current Executive Director. As we celebrate TSNRP's 20th anniversary, there is no better time to pause and reflect on TSNRP's past and the former Executive Directors who brought us this far.

COL (ret) Catherine Schempp, AN, USA, TSNRP Executive Director 1997–1999

“As the first Executive Director of TSNRP, I set out to create a strong platform for the research work that military nurse researchers had been

conducting through TSNRP funding since the program's inception in 1992. Using the 1996 Institute of Medicine report, *The Report for Research in Military Nursing*, I assessed TSNRP's support to the military research community and subsequently instituted measures to create a stronger infrastructure for fostering a productive research program. Working with the Executive Board of Directors, I formalized processes for the review and award of TSNRP grants, expanded the Call for Proposals, and explored new and creative funding categories. Stronger partnerships were established and were engaged in the peer-review process.

In addition, TSNRP held the first Dissemination Conference to demonstrate the strength of the work and the effectiveness of the research through the evidence of the research findings. I identified new marketing strategies to sustain the TSNRP initiative. Ultimately, TSNRP developed a new logo to better brand the program. With the help of the Advisory Council, TSNRP held a Nursing Research Priority Setting Conference that set the military research agenda for future funding priorities. We conducted several internal audits to identify grant compliance as well as several formal oversight audits. Based on these audits, I developed a Post Award Conference that addressed recurring compliance issues.

The timing of my tenure was at a critical crossroads for the program. Although the program was under way, we needed to enhance the momentum and support to ensure growth in the military research

community and to sustain the investment in TSNRP. Consequently, I established a National Center for Military Nursing Excellence to foster capacity development, coordinate evidence-based practice (EPB) efforts, and expand dissemination of research findings. I view my tenure as TSNRP's first Executive Director as a truly memorable experience in which I served as a change agent to ensure the long-term viability of TSNRP and to build on this key research initiative.”

Lt Col (ret) Diep Duong, USAF, NC, TSNRP Executive Director 1999–2003

“During my tenure as TSNRP Executive Director, I sought to emphasize the connection between research findings and clinical practice and to increase the roles and contributions of MSN-prepared nurses. This passion led to the creation of the TSNRP Resource Center for Excellence in Military Nursing. The Resource Center and regional research Pods were funded through a Research to Practice (EBP) proposal that I authored. My goal was to provide resources and education to nurse clinicians to improve the quality and quantity of proposals they would submit. It was essential to include practicing clinicians to help facilitate the implementation of research and evidence-based findings into practice. Additionally, the Pods were created to connect MSN- and BSN-prepared nurses with PhD-prepared nurses, active duty nurses with reservists, novices with experienced scientists,



and nurses at medical centers with their colleagues at universities. These regional research groups were established to maximize collaborations between Army, Navy, and Air Force nurse scientists; provide mentorships; and support the sharing of resources.”

CAPT(ret) Patricia Kelley, NC, USN, TSNRP Executive Director 2003–2006

CAPT(ret) Patricia Kelley’s connection to research was an outgrowth of her “desire to answer the most pressing health care questions and to improve the human condition by improving health care outcomes.” She believes that “research and knowledge development are crucial to achieving the goal of maximizing health.” As TSNRP’s Executive Director, she was “always inspired by the wonderful and exciting ideas that nurses put forth to improve the science, and was honored to facilitate and support nurse researchers in achieving their goals.” She partnered military nursing scientists with senior nursing faculty at the top 10 schools of nursing in the United States, thus building on her two predecessors’ endeavors to enhance the quality of TSNRP-funded studies. CAPT(ret) Kelley subsequently continued the EBP initiatives through TSNRP’s sponsorship of EBP education for military nurses. These courses, taught by renowned EBP consultants, helped to expand the organization’s programs of research and enhanced collaborations with multiple universities. Finally, she enlisted the services of impartial third-party evaluators to assess the quality of applications that were submitted and of TSNRP operations in general.

LTC (ret) Deborah Kenny, AN, USA, TSNRP Executive Director 2006–2009

“My priority for TSNRP was to get it permanently funded. I knew that although Senator Daniel Inouye’s office put TSNRP into the U.S. Department of Defense’s budget every year as an earmark, the funding was not guaranteed. In fact, there was one year that TSNRP was not funded because the budget was not passed. Fortunately, CAPT Kelley had ensured that operations could continue. Having experienced the precedent of no budget, TSNRP recognized the importance of having a mechanism whereby it could have permanent funding. Thus, that became my goal. I made lots of waves; I briefed the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and got his ‘coin,’ but, most importantly, achieved permanent funding for TSNRP.”

Additionally, during her tenure, LTC Kenny continued to advance EPB initiatives and education programs, and she established the EBP grant award category, thereby building on the groundwork that the previous directors had laid.

Col Marla De Jong, USAF, NC, TSNRP Executive Director 2009–2011

“The founders of TSNRP and the former Executive Directors laid a great foundation for the program. TSNRP had a rich history of sponsoring much valuable research. Two of my priorities were to refine the grant award mechanisms and program announcements, and to make grant funding available to military nurse officers at all experience levels.” Hence, TSNRP developed the Military Clinician-Initiated Research Award, which is offered to military nurses at all stages

of their careers—from BSN-prepared novice nurse clinicians to PhD-prepared nurse scientists.

“The award is targeted to clinicians who are well positioned to identify clinically important research questions and conduct research to answer those questions. In addition, I endeavored to move from funding single research studies to fostering the development of programs of research. Several military nurse scientists have developed programs of research with TSNRP funding. I sought to implement that at the organizational level. This thinking led to the development of TSNRP research interest groups, or RIGs, in 2010. Although similar to the geographically oriented research Pods that Lt Col (ret) Duong initiated during her tenure as Executive Director, the RIGs consist of nurse scientists who share mutual research interests and are committed to establishing and maturing a salient program of research that aligns with the research priority of TSNRP. Based on research gaps and the interests of military nurse scientists, I instituted the Women’s Health RIG, the Biobehavioral RIG, and the En Route Care RIG. Among other things, these RIGs enable nurse scientists to form a community of scholars; access resources to improve research skills; systematically develop and conduct a series of increasingly complex and sophisticated studies to produce new knowledge and close research gaps; collaborate with stakeholders regarding research priorities and outcomes; advance nursing science; and infuse findings into practice, education, management, policy, and military doctrine. The RIGs enable TSNRP to support rigorous research and EBP projects, garner visibility and credibility as a funding agency, and demonstrate good stewardship of federal funding.” ★



Events and Deadlines

Calendar

October 2012

Funding Applications for FY 2013 Funding Cycle A

Due to TSNRP 2 October

November 2012

Karen Rieder Poster Session at AMSUS General Meeting

13 November
Phoenix, Arizona

Scientific Merit Review Panel Meeting

28–29 November
Washington, DC

December 2012

Letters of Intent to Submit Funding Applications for FY 2013 Funding Cycle B

Due to TSNRP 4 December

Advisory Council Meeting

Date TBD
TSNRP Office
Rockville, Maryland

February 2013

Funding Applications for FY 2013 Funding Cycle B

Due to TSNRP 5 February

Evidence Based Practice Workshop

20–21 February
San Antonio, Texas

March 2013

Scientific Merit Review Panel Meeting

Date and Location TBD

April 2013

Advisory Council Meeting

Date TBD
TSNRP Office
Rockville, Maryland

May 2013

Evidence Based Practice Course

1–3 May
Lakenheath Air Force Base, England

Know Your Specialty Leaders

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

U.S. Army

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