

TSNRP ★ news

From the Director

SPRING/SUMMER 2013



CAPT John P. Maye

Since 2001, the TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) has held a Strategic Planning Meeting every 3 to 4 years. The meeting brings groups of stakeholders together to clarify TSNRP's mission and vision and to make recommendations for program improvements.

TSNRP conducted its most recent Strategic Planning Meeting in September 2012.

During the meeting, the attending stakeholders separated into four primary working groups, with each group addressing one of the following topic areas:

- Mission, Vision, Values, and Priorities
- Research and Researcher Development
- Technological Innovations
- Operations Assessment and Enhancements

Ideas flowed freely, resulting in many excellent recommendations that will guide TSNRP over the next few years. For example, TSNRP will:

- Begin moving toward a complete online electronic grant submission process,
- Charge the Resource Center with developing more online education programs,
- Incorporate video teleconferencing technology whenever possible to increase access for military

members hindered by Department of Defense travel restrictions,

- Support the continuance of the evidence-based practice curriculum, and
- Pursue health information technology research and collaborations with nursing informatics personnel.

The Strategic Planning Meeting occurred simultaneously with the celebration of TSNRP's 20th anniversary. Ada Sue Hinshaw, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing and an instrumental leader in establishing TSNRP, delivered an extraordinary commemorative address. She provided a unique view of an organization that began as an idea among a group of military nurse scientists and has evolved into a premier funding agency for military nurse researchers.

Serving as the TSNRP Executive Director during the past 2 years has been an honor and a pleasure for me, and I look forward to watching this organization continue to develop and grow. I would like to thank TSNRP's staff for their exceptional support and guidance throughout my tenure.

In April 2013, TSNRP welcomed LTC Michael Schlicher, AN, USA, as its seventh Executive Director. Please join me in congratulating him.

Thank you all for your continued support of TSNRP.

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



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Evidence-Based “Design” Research: A New Frontier for Military Nurse Scientists

LTC MeLisa Gantt, AN, USA

Just minutes outside of Washington, D.C., is a military medical treatment facility called Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH). Part of the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical Command, FBCH is the first in a new generation of military medical treatment facilities committed to providing patient- and family-centered care in an evidence-based design (EBD) setting.

So what is EBD? According to the Center for Health Design, “EBD is the process of basing decisions about the built environment on credible research to achieve the best possible outcomes.”

EBD presents a great opportunity for nurse scientists because it involves blending evidence-based outcomes within a research framework. In addition, EBD projects and studies often fall into the category of quality improvement or institutional review board–exempt research, which is conducive to completing numerous high-impact projects and studies quickly. Nurses often lead EBD projects and studies, giving nurse scientists the unique opportunity to collaborate with architects and Department of Facilities staff.

How do we capture and quantify EBD data?

One approach is to identify a design feature and assess whether it does what it was designed to do.

For example, FBCH has a unique color-coded way-finding system that helps staff, patients, and visitors navigate the facility. A simple way to



Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Virginia

quantify this system is to collect data via (1) satisfaction surveys on the ease of navigating the facility or (2) knowledge surveys in which room numbers are listed and respondents must indicate each room’s location.

A second approach to quantifying EBD results is to obtain patient, staff, or organizational outcomes as they relate to specific design features in a facility; replicate the assessment in a similar facility that lacks those features; and then assess whether a significant statistical difference exists between the two facilities.

One example of this approach is the 2011 TRICARE Management Activity–funded study Healthcare Environments–Baseline Assessment for Safety and Quality, known as the HE-BASQ study. This collaborative effort by Noblis, Inc., the Georgia Institute of Technology’s College of Architecture, and five hospitals assessed the impact of hospital design on (1) patient transport, (2) staff injuries from patient handling, and (3) noise level. The study will be

replicated at an EBD facility and the outcomes will be statistically compared to assess whether EBD made a difference. HE-BASQ Phase I findings are available at <https://facilities.health.mil/Repository?search=&searchTitles=&searchDocID=8025>.

With several military medical treatment facility building projects under way, nurse scientists are the ideal candidates to help identify and assess outcomes that will help validate taxpayers’ return on investment and the building of better hospitals for staff, warriors, and their families.

LTC MeLisa Gantt, AN, USA, is chief of the Department of Research Programs at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

The views expressed in the article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or the United States Government. ★



TSNRP Holds First Video Teleconference

LTC Betty Garner, AN, USA

28 November 2012

Lights! Camera! Action!

Everyone's heart is beating faster.

And then sighs are heard as the first-ever video teleconference (VTC) is connected among three sites for the TSNRP Scientific Merit Review Meeting held in Washington, D.C.

What a historic moment!

Using VTC technology, TSNRP held a scientific review in November that tapped into the expertise of three nurse scientists/faculty members from two geographically distant locations: the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in the United States and the Landstuhl Regional

Medical Center (LRMC) in Germany. The personnel involved included Becky Christian, PhD, MSN, of UAB; Patricia Pearce, PhD, MPH, of the UAB VTC site; and LTC Betty Garner, AN, USA, of LRMC.

The idea of using VTC resulted from conversations among CAPT John P. Maye, TSNRP's Executive Director, and three nurse scientists from LRMC. Their concerns about the effects of budget decreases and travel constraints on the involvement of reviewers in the TSNRP Scientific Merit Review Meeting set the wheels in motion. Within a short period, through coordination at VTC sites, the idea became a reality.

Although this new technology displaces face-to-face networking among

civilian and military nurse scientists, the benefit of accessing around-the-globe expertise for timely and high-quality scientific review for TSNRP grant proposal submitters is invaluable. TSNRP can now look forward to continued involvement from "across the pond" in evaluating scientific rigor and military feasibility.

Special thanks go to the TSNRP staff for coordinating this event and to the VTC site support personnel at UAB and LRMC for making this event a success.

LTC Betty Garner, AN, USA, is a nurse scientist at the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. ★

In Memoriam: Senator Daniel Inouye

Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii)—World War II hero and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient—died of respiratory complications on 17 December 2012. He was 88 years old.

Re-elected in 2010 to a ninth term with 75 percent of the vote, he served almost 50 years in the Senate. Prior to that, he was Hawaii's first congressman.

Senator Inouye was gravely wounded during action in Italy in World War II and had a deep and abiding appreciation for military nursing and medical treatment

services. He was instrumental in the establishment and continued funding of TSNRP and was one of its strongest supporters.

In 2002, Senator Inouye was honored for his support of military nursing and military nursing research at a tribute conference titled "Advanced Nursing Practice Excellence: State of the Science," where the three Nurse Corps Chiefs—BG Barbara Brannon, BG William Bester, and RADM Nancy Lescavage—presented him with a crystal award etched with the three Nurse Corps insignias.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) summed up his colleague with these words: "He was the kind of man, in short, that America has always been grateful to have, especially in her darkest hours: Men who lead by example and expect nothing in return."

TSNRP offers its deepest condolences to Senator Inouye's family and to his many friends and colleagues. He will be profoundly missed. ★



Publications and Presentations

Newly Published Final Reports

Congratulations to the following military nurse researchers for completing the Final Report process. Their TSNRP Final Reports were assigned NTIS accession numbers and entered into the NTIS and CINAHL databases, with links on TSNRP's Web site.

- LTC (ret) Janice G. Agazio, AN, USA. *Deployment of Military Mothers during Wartime*, TSNRP study N09-P02, NTIS accession #PB2013-102742.
- COL Sara T. Breckenridge-Sproat, AN, USA. *Feasibility of a Mind-Body Intervention to Promote Wellness in Injured Soldiers*, TSNRP study N09-C06, NTIS accession #PB2013-103202.
- LT Donna Burge, NC, USN. *The Effect of a Bio-Behavioral Intervention on the Release of Cytokines*, TSNRP study N09-C07, NTIS accession #PB2013-101322.
- LTC Betty Garner, AN, USA. *Sleep Disturbances in U.S. Soldiers after Deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq*, TSNRP study N08-P07, NTIS accession #PB2013-101320.
- MAJ Linda Gowenlock, AN, USA. *Evaluating Evidence-Based Intervention to Prevent Fall and Pressure Ulcers*, TSNRP study N08-C03, NTIS accession #PB2013-101319.
- MAJ Donald Kimbler, AN, USA. *Therapeutic Targeting of P2X7 after TBI*, TSNRP study N10-P10, NTIS accession #PB2013-103246.
- MAJ (ret) Mary McCarthy, AN, USA. *The Impact of Sweat Calcium Loss on Bone Health in Soldiers: A Pilot Study*, TSNRP study N06-P09, NTIS accession #PB2013-105804.
- LTC Leigh McGraw, AN, USA. *Performance of Novice Army Nurses in a Combat Casualty Stress Scenario*, TSNRP study N09-P10, NTIS accession #PB2012-113496.
- LTC Kristal Melvin, AN, USA. *Couple Functioning and Posttraumatic Stress in OIF/OEF Veterans and Spouses*, TSNRP study N10-009, NTIS accession #PB2012-113497.
- Col (ret) Deborah Messecar, USANG. *Family Reintegration Following Guard Deployment*, TSNRP study N05-P15, NTIS accession #PB2013-103245.
- COL (ret) Patricia Patrician, AN, USA. *Military Nursing Outcomes Database (MILNOD IV) Analysis and Expansion*, TSNRP study N03-P07, NTIS accession #PB2013-101323.
- CAPT Janet Pierce, NC, USNR. *Lung and Diaphragm Damage at Varying Oxygen Levels and Ventilator Modes Post Hemorrhagic Shock*, TSNRP study N08-012, NTIS accession #PB2013-101318.
- LTC Felecia Rivers, AN, USA. *Military Nurses' Experience in Disaster Response*, TSNRP study N08-P12, NTIS accession #PB2012-113495.
- Col (ret) Mary C. Ross, USAF, NC. *Impact of Deployment on Air Force Nursing Retention: Completion Phase*, TSNRP study N08-P10, NTIS accession #PB2013-101286.
- LTC Michael Schlicher, AN, USA. *Efficacy of Silver Nanoparticle Gel on Bacterial Hand Flora: A RCT*, TSNRP study N09-002, NTIS accession #PB2013-101321.
- Lt Col Antoinette M. Shinn, USAF, NC. *Surveillance of Embedded Metal Fragments*, TSNRP study N11-C18, NTIS accession #PB2013-103479.
- Lt Col Candy Wilson, USAF, NC. *Military Women's Health and Illness Behaviors in Deployed Settings*, TSNRP study N08-P03, NTIS accession #PB2013-103478.
- LCDR Kenneth A. Wofford, NC, USN. *The Influence of Elective Surgery on Functional Health in Veterans with PTSD*, TSNRP study N11-P02, NTIS accession #PB2013-103480. ★

Calendar

June 2013

Evidence-Based Practice Course
17–19 June
Lakenheath Air Force Base, England

July 2013

Research Grant Camp
North Island Naval Air Station
15–19 July
Coronado, California

August–September 2013

Virtual Post-Award Grants Management Workshop Series
Dates TBD





Published Articles and Presentations by TSNRP Nurse Scientists

Published Articles

2012

Kimblar, D. E., Shields, J., Yanasak, N., Vender, J. R., & Dhandapani, K. M. (2012). Activation of P2X7 promotes cerebral edema and neurological injury after traumatic brain injury in mice. *PLoS One* 7(7), e41229.

Melvin, K. C., Gross, D., Hayat, M. J., Jennings, B. M., & Campbell, J. C. (2012). Couple functioning and post-traumatic stress symptoms in US Army couples: The role of resilience. *Res Nurs Health* 35(2), 164–177.

Lance, J., McCabe, S., Clancy, R. L., & **Pierce, J.** (2012). Coenzyme Q10—A therapeutic agent. *Medsurg Nurs* 21(6), 367–371.

Pierce, J. D., McCabe, S., White, N., & Clancy, R. L. (2012). Biomarkers: An important clinical assessment tool. *Am J Nurs* 112(9), 52–58.

Yost, T. L. (2012). Nursing care of service members with head injury during the Vietnam War. *J Neurosci Nurs* 44(3), 157–163.

2013

Mann-Salinas, E. A., Baun, M. M., Meininger, J. C., Murray, C. K., Aden, J. K., Wolf, S. E., & Wade, C. E. (2013). Novel predictors of sepsis outperform the American Burn Association sepsis criteria in the burn intensive care unit patient. *J Burn Care Res* 34(1), 31–43.

Thimmesch, A. R., Shen, Q., Clancy, R. L., & **Pierce, J. D.** (2013). Effects of three controlled mechanical ventilation modes on rat lung hydrogen peroxide and apoptosis during hemorrhagic shock. *Open J Mol Integr Physiol* 3(1), 27–35.

Presentations

2012

Garner, B., O’Riley, C., Landia, C., & Steele, N. (30 April–3 May 2012). “Cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) in soldiers with insomnia: A pilot study.” Biennial Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Course, San Antonio, Texas.

Mann, E. (24–27 April 2012). “Prediction of sepsis in the burn intensive care unit patient.” American Burn Association 44th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington.

Shen, Q., & **Pierce, J.** (13–15 September 2012). “Measuring leukocyte mitochondrial superoxide using flow cytometry.” State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research, Washington, D.C.

Hobfoll, S., Vinokur, A., **Pierce, P.**, & Lewandoski-Romps, L. (4–7 June 2012). “The triple stress of family life, work, and war in Air Force men and women.” 2012 International Nursing Conference, Jerusalem, Israel.

Yost, T. (20 April 2012). “Qigong as a novel intervention for service members with mild traumatic brain injury.” Western Institute of Nursing Conference, Portland, Oregon.

Yost, T. (30 April–3 May 2012). “Qigong as a novel intervention for service members with mild traumatic brain injury.” Biennial Phyllis J.

Verhonick Nursing Research Course, San Antonio, Texas.

Yost, T. (30 April–3 May 2012). “The experience of service members living with mild traumatic brain injury.” Biennial Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Course, San Antonio, Texas.

2013

Mueller, G. P., & **Buonora, J.** (6–7 March 2013). “Immune response biomarker profiling for traumatic brain injury.” Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, Washington, D.C.

Kennedy, H., & Braun, L. (17–19 April 2013). “Power, energy, & bonds: Military providers’ perceptions of group prenatal care.” Eastern Nursing Research Society 25th Annual Scientific Sessions, Boston, Massachusetts.

Bennetts, P., Shen, Q., Thimmesch, A., Clancy, R., & **Pierce, J.** (19–23 January 2013). “Effects of ubiquinol on reactive oxygen species and cellular injury in rats following hemorrhagic shock and fluid resuscitation.” Society of Critical Care Medicine Critical Care Congress, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Shen, Q., Hiebert, J., Pierce, T., Clancy, R., & **Pierce, J.** (19–23 January 2013). “Reduction of myocyte hydrogen peroxide and mitochondrial damage in rats following hemorrhagic shock and fluid resuscitation with ubiquinol.” Society of Critical Care Medicine Critical Care Congress, San Juan, Puerto Rico. ★

Promotions

LTC Kristal Melvin, AN, USA

LTC Terri Yost, AN, USA

Col Susan Perry, USAF, NC

Recent Retirements

COL Linda Connelly, AN, USAR

Col Michaela Shafer, USAF, NC



Awards and Honors

CAPT(ret) Maggie Richard Receives Alumni Excellence Award

CAPT(ret) Maggie Johnson Richard, NC, USN, recently received the Texas Woman's University (TWU) Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award. CAPT(ret) Richard is only the third recipient of the award, which recognizes a distinguished career in the military and nursing.

CAPT(ret) Richard has been a TSNRP principal investigator and has collaborated with other military nurse scientists on their projects and publications. She serves on the TSNRP Scientific Merit Review Panel and has been on the faculty of the Evidence-Based Practice Workshop. She also participated in the TSNRP 2012 Strategic Planning Meeting.

CAPT(ret) Richard served for 26 years in the Navy, retiring in 2012. During her time in the Service, she

was a community health nurse at the Branch Medical Clinic in Chinhae, Korea; the director of managed care at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam; and the head of the Nursing Research Service at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. She also served as a special adviser to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy, the director of the Navy and Marine Corps Human Research Protection Program, the military nurse representative on the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research of the National Institute of Nursing Research, and the Navy representative on the Department of Defense Leadership Cabinet for Research Protection.

CAPT(ret) Richard is currently associate professor of nursing at Morgan

State University in Baltimore, Maryland, and Howard University in Washington, D.C. She has been a principal and associate investigator in quantitative and qualitative research. Her teaching covers a variety of areas, including research methods, research practicum instruction, evidence-based practice, and leadership.

CAPT(ret) Richard received her undergraduate degree in nursing from TWU and her MSN in community health from Old Dominion University. She earned her PhD in nursing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where she won the 2003 award for best dissertation.

TSNRP congratulates CAPT(ret) Richard on her recent award. ★

Lt Col (ret) Joseph Schmelz Named Assistant Vice President of Research Operations

TSNRP congratulates Lt Col (ret) Joseph O. Schmelz, USAF, NC, on his recent promotion to Assistant Vice President of Research Operations at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSC).

Lt Col (ret) Schmelz joined UTHSC in 2006 as director of the Center's institutional review board (IRB) and later became director of its Research Regulatory Programs, which oversee 2,000 human and 700 animal research studies. He has been a leader in research subject protections at UTHSC and has worked to reduce regulatory barriers that impede research.

Lt Col (ret) Schmelz has been an integral part and a strong supporter

of TSNRP for many years. He has conducted several TSNRP studies, mentored numerous military nurse scientists, and served as a member of the faculty for the TSNRP Post-Award Grant Management Workshop, where he has taught human subjects protection and addressed issues related to animal care and use. He also has taught at the TSNRP Research Grant Camp and has served on the Scientific Merit Review Panel.

Lt Col (ret) Schmelz served in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps for more than 20 years in various clinical and leadership positions. He founded the first nursing research program at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio and became the first nurse to command a Department of

Defense clinical research facility. He also was chief military consultant for nursing research and emergency/trauma nursing to the Air Force Surgeon General.

Lt Col (ret) Schmelz is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, a member of the American Nurses Association, and a Certified IRB Professional. He also is a site visitor for the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs and a member of the Cancer Trials Network of Texas Strategic Steering Committee.

Lt Col (ret) Schmelz earned his undergraduate degree in nursing from Western Carolina University and his PhD from Boston College. ★





LTC Schlicher Receives AMSUS Federal Nursing Award

LTC Michael Schlicher, AN, USA, is the recipient of the 2012 Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) Federal Nursing Award. This competitive award recognizes the accomplishments of a federal nurse who has made outstanding contributions as a scientist, clinician, educator, and health care leader. COL Glenda Lock presented the award to LTC Schlicher on behalf of the Army Surgeon General.

LTC Schlicher is the Executive Director of TSNRP. Before joining TSNRP, he served as chief of the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the regional nursing research consultant for the Pacific Regional Medical Command.

The American Association of Critical Care Nurses has recognized LTC

Schlicher nationally as an expert trauma/critical care clinician and educator, and he recently accepted the Biological Nursing Research Award from the Western Institute of Nursing for his work in nanotechnology. Just a year ago, LTC Schlicher received the South Texas Image Maker Award while serving at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. ★

TSNRP's Research Interest Groups Thrive

TSNRP's research interest groups (RIGs) continue their work in research, education, and networking within their specialty areas. Their enthusiasm is contagious! Particularly worth noting is the individual dedication of each RIG member to developing a strong team as well as a strong military nursing research program.

The **Military Women's Health RIG** continues to develop its extensive literature review, now with the aid of the Distiller Systematic Review online tool. The core leaders and subject matter expert reviewers have reported that the new system—featuring user-friendly review response entry and secure Web-based storage capabilities—has been a wonderful addition.

The team's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Military-Womens-Health-Research-Interest-Group/117532448302481)

enjoys continued success, attracting new readers and generating posts and comments.

In addition, the team plans to update its popular *Military Women's Health Researcher Guide* during 2013. The book was first self-published in 2010 to an enthusiastic reception. After the Military Women's Health RIG presented at a summit and health expo, copies of the book "flew off the table," according to those who attended.

The **Biobehavioral Health RIG** looks forward to another educational offering this summer in conjunction with the University of Michigan's Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Last summer's seminar, "Fundamentals of Survey Methodology," held during ICPSR's popular Summer Institute, proved to be extremely successful. It was both challenging and informative for everyone involved. This summer's

course will delve deeper into mixed methods and promises to be an enriching experience for those selected to attend.

The **En Route Care RIG** continues to explore ideas for possible future projects, including developing a white paper summarizing current evidence related to en route care, a research grant application, or a grant proposal to fund the writing of evidence-based en route care guidelines.

Members of all three RIGs foresee 2013 as a great year with much potential for growth in their respective specialty areas.

The teams are always in search of new members to help further their important work. If you are interested in joining a RIG, please contact Megan Foradori, Research Agenda Program Consultant for TSNRP, at megan.foradori@gmail.com. ★



TSNRP-Funded Nurse Scientists Inducted into Order of Military Medical Merit

TSNRP proudly congratulates COL Lori Trego, AN, USA, Chief of the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, and LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, AN, USA, Deputy Chief of the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at the Brooke Army Medical Center, on their induction into the Order of Military Medical Merit. In the words of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD), membership in the Order is bestowed on those who “through dedicated application

of talent, effort and spirit [have] made significant exemplary contributions” to the AMEDD.

The Order of Military Medical Merit (<http://ameddregiment.amedd.army.mil/merit/o2m3.html>) is a unique private organization founded by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Health Services Command in 1982 to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and *esprit de corps* among AMEDD personnel. Membership in the Order denotes distinguished service, as recognized by the senior leadership of

the AMEDD, by individuals who have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the AMEDD (for at least 10 years) with selflessness, and made a sustained contribution to the betterment of Army medicine. Members receive a certificate and a sterling silver medallion on a maroon ribbon signifying their membership in the Order. Members proudly display their medallions at formal AMEDD social functions. ★

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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