Welcome to the first edition of the “UNITED” School of Nursing’s REGS to Research newsletter. REGS=Research, Evaluation, Grants, & Scholarship.

This newsletter comes out three times a year and includes general news and grants and funding priorities from NIH and other funding agencies, resources and faculty accomplishments.

The newsletter compiles information that crosses the desks of Research Deans Margaret W. Sullivan and Janet Bowne, but faculty are welcome and encouraged to submit items that they feel useful to their colleagues.

Cheryl Thiemann (thiemac@sn.rutgers.edu) organizes the content, so feel free to submit items and news to either Cheryl or Cathy Rivera (carivera@rutgers.edu).

The purpose is for you to be aware of general happenings and news in the research community nationally, as well as in our school. We keep an archive of the newsletter in our office and it will also be available to you soon via a link on our new Office of Research and Scholarship webpage. –MWS–

AND NOW...A WORD FROM OUR FACULTY

Dr. Sallie Porter—
My Summer Experience at the NIH National Institute of Nursing Research Summer Genetics Institute. (pg. 2)

Dr. Melanie Percy—
My Experience at NIH’s Health Disparities Course (pg. 3)
NIH National Institute of Nursing Research Summer Genetics Institute  

Sallie Porter DNP, PhD, APN

This past June I spent the entire month learning about genetics at the Summer Genetics Institute. [http://www.ninr.nih.gov/training/trainingopportunitiesintramural/summergeneticsinstitute#.VBdOSNEtAzg](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/training/trainingopportunitiesintramural/summergeneticsinstitute#.VBdOSNEtAzg). Genetics Institute (SGI) is really a bit of a misnomer now as the scientists in the field are paying attention not just only to single genes, but genomes, epigenetics, and proteomics. The class included 25 PhDs (mostly nurses with one non-nurse in our group; about half already had their PhD; the other half were currently enrolled in a nursing PhD program. I was the only person with a non-nursing PhD and the only person with a DNP as well; in addition, child health was well represented with at least a quarter of the group having a pediatrics background). The 8-credit course (many 8 AM to 6 PM days) was intense and included lectures, lab work, and field trips. As someone who hadn’t been in a science lab since 1980, the laboratory part was the most challenging and included doing work with malaria vaccine, Fragile X, and Alzheimer’s. Even lab safety rules have changed since I was an undergraduate.

What I learned and how it applies to teaching: Genomics is just going to grow and be even more important to nursing and health (already we see the buzz words personalized medicine everywhere). What we know about genomics is ever evolving and becoming more detailed. We need to find a way to keep up-to-date ourselves and to provide students with state-of-the-art information. Basic science courses will need to improve. As a school, for certain, we need to include genetic, genomic, and epigenetic concepts through-out the graduate and undergraduate curriculum.

Since SGI, one of the ways I am incorporating genomic information in my teaching is in my APN Role Transition course. I include information on genograms and Lynch Syndrome when discussing elements of the family history in the billing and coding unit. In my child health courses, I go beyond information on dominant and recessive inheritance, but also cover imprinting, mutations, and polymorphisms.

Beside genomics, the NINR staff, including Director Patricia Grady, shared information about the process of getting funded by NIH with our small cohort. The NINR staff was friendly and encouraged everyone to reach out to them over the phone with questions: I think they really like to put a face or a voice to an idea or proposal. Particular areas of interest to NINR right now include: symptom science, health and wellness, end-of-life and palliative care, and chronic condition self-management, but they are always interested in hearing about innovative, cutting-edge strategies. NINR funds research from ‘womb to tomb’ and are moving from ‘bedside to curbside’ interventions (i.e., hospital to community). NINR will be offering the BIG DATA boot camp again in July 2015, but sign-up quick as all slots were filled within eight hours of registration opening this past April. Also look for some new development programs for ‘mid-career’ researchers.

A few things of note shared by NINR staff: think about ‘Team Science’ and how to build your research project team and the role each person will play; make sure your proposal is well-written and has a consistent feel to it; and ask research friends to do a ‘mock review’ of your proposal (this isn’t SNs internal review process, but more a give-and-take sort of session). NINR really seemed to value what I would call a nursing school’s ‘research infrastructure’ including current NIH funded researchers on board (I think they like to give money to people at least associated with someone with a track record: ‘mentorship is key’; however mentors can come from outside of a particular school). Be sure to visit the NINR website [http://www.ninr.nih.gov/](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/). There is a ton of useful information available on it and NINR is on twitter, too: https://twitter.com/NINR.

I want to thank SN for the opportunity to attend SGI, for coverage of the clinical course I was scheduled to teach this summer, and to my Summer 2014 Child Development and Behavior students and Primary Care of Children II students who were flexible with our learning times. Special thanks to Mercedes Echevarria, Cheryl Holly, Melanie Percy, Susan Salmond, Margaret Sullivan, and Maureen Thomas for their encouragement and assistance. If you want to learn about some interesting genomics resources, please contact me at portersa@sn.rutgers.edu.
My Experience at NIH’s Health Disparities Course

Melanie Percy PhD, RN, CPNP, FAAN, FAANP

This summer I was fortunate to be selected to attend the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, Translational Health Disparities Course, held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. Faculty, providers, and researchers, from a variety of disciplines, were invited from around the country for this two week course. The information provided promised a broad, interdisciplinary approach to defining and examining health disparities in healthcare practice and research. Lively, interactive sessions were the norm as audience members were invited to question and discuss ideas with the presenters. Exceptionally valuable features were presentations by NIH program directors, inviting applications for research and promising assistance with research ideas.

The application was simple, and included several short essays describing the applicants’ background, activities in health disparity practice and/or research, as well as a letter of support. There were many benefits realized from attending this course, including the wealth of information presented, the broad interdisciplinary approach and the opportunities to network with colleagues and NIH program officers. I was disappointed in the scarcity of open challenges from the presenters and the audience about the continuing presence of health disparities and why little has changed in the past 40 years. A few examples of best practices that addressed health disparities in a meaningful way were presented. Their focus on community-based participatory research was exciting and may point the way to new approaches to these age-old problems.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN PEDS @ RWJMS

The events listed below are part of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds

Where: Clinical Academic Building, 125 Paterson Street, Conference Room 1302
When: Thursdays—8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.

♦ 10/9/14—”Autism: The Micro-Movements Perspective”—Elizabeth Torres, MD, Asst. Professor, Department of Psychology, Rutgers School of Arts & Sciences
♦ 10/23/14—”Linguistics”—Karen Stromswold, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, RWJMS
♦ 10/30/14—”How to Measure Professionalism in a Residency Program”—Paul Schwartzberg, DO, FAAP, Clinical Asst. Professor, RWJMS

REMINDER...REMINDER....REMINDER

There have been changes to the health sciences libraries webpage since July 1, 2014. If you have not done so already, please update your library bookmarks with the following URL’s:

· www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith
· www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rwj
· www.libraries.rutgers.edu/health_sciences_distance_learning
REGS TO RESEARCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Human Subjects Protection Training Being Upgraded

The highly regarded program for human subjects protection education currently used by every Big Ten university, which is provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), is being adopted at Rutgers. As of September 1, the Rutgers Human Subjects Certification Program (HSCP) online training through Sakai will be replaced by the CITI education modules. As in the past, this training is mandatory, but only a refresher course will be required for researchers who had previously completed the HSCP. Read more here. CITI education certification is mandatory for IRB applications and is tracked automatically once the refresher course is taken.

RESOURCES

* Whether you're a senior faculty member, a recent Ph.D., a grad student or a research staffer, the search for sponsor information is the first step toward external funding success. All Rutgers faculty, staff and students have free subscriptions to COS-PIVOT, a powerful search engine for finding funding opportunities and scholar profiles from within all of Rutgers and outside of the university. Also, be sure to join our public SAKAI site, Funding Sources - ORED Resources, for links to open searches for most federal funding agencies.

* The “inter-university consortium for political and social research (ICPSR)” is a good research tool. The ICPSR maintains a data archive of more than 500,000 files of research in the social sciences. It hosts 16 specialized collections of data in education, health, criminal justice, substance abuse, terrorism, and other fields. http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/membership/about.html

NIH NEWS

The NIH has launched PubMed Commons: A blog for scientists in August, 2014.

To encourage such exchanges, NIH’s National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) recently developed PubMed Commons, a resource that gives researchers the opportunity to engage in online discussions about scientific publications 24/7. Specifically, this service allows scientists with at least one publication to comment on any paper in PubMed—the world’s largest searchable database of biomedical literature, with more than 3 million full-text articles and 24 million citations.

There are a lot of reasons to participate. Authors of biomedical research papers can update and receive feedback on their papers from fellow scientists around the globe. Comments can guide further research by identifying and sharing links to other relevant papers, linking to datasets, replication efforts, or blogs. Researchers can also link to articles in non-biomedical journals that might otherwise be overlooked.

CLICK HERE

PubMed Commons Blog
Dr. Lucille Eller was promoted to full Professor effective 7/1/14.

Dr. Courtney Reinisch was promoted to a Clinical Associate Professor effective 7/1/14.

Dr. Margaret Quinn was promoted to a Clinical Associate Professor effective 7/1/14.

Dr. Richard Pessagno was promoted to a Clinical Associate Professor effective 7/1/14. Dr. Pessagno was also recently appointed to represent the APNA as an expert in mental disaster relief at the American Nurses Credentialing Center National Task Force to develop a Disaster Relief Nursing Certification to be held in Washington, DC in October, 2014. He was also inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in June, 2014.

Dr. Felesia Bowen received a prestigious grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nurse Faculty Scholars program this year. The Nurse Faculty Scholar award is given to junior nurse faculty who show strong promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

Dr. Suzanne Willard was promoted to a Clinical Professor effective 7/1/14.

Dr. William Holzemer is being honored as a recipient of the 2014 NJ League of Nursing Nurse Recognition Award. Dr. Holzemer will receive this on 11/7/14 at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ.

Dr. Joyce Hyatt is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the Foundation of American College of Nurse-Midwives. She also received the Outstanding Mentor of the Year for her commitment and dedication to the Midwives of Color Mentoring Program.

Dr. Cheryl Holly has been appointed to the position of Interim Associate Dean, Entry to Baccalaureate Practice effective 7/1/14.

Dr. Mercedes Echevarria has been appointed to the position of Associate Dean, Advanced Nursing Practice effective 7/1/14.

Dr. Karen D’Alonzo was approved for induction to the Stuart D. Cook, M.D. Master Educators Guild. The induction ceremony will be scheduled for Fall, 2014. Dr. D’Alonzo has also been selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). The induction ceremony will be held in October, 2014 in Washington, DC.

Dr. D.A. (Tony) Forrester has been selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). The induction ceremony will be held in October, 2014 in Washington, DC.

Dr. Mary Jo Bugel has been elected to be one of three Senators-at-Large in the RBHS. Dr. Bugel will serve for one year.

Dr. Edna Cadmus has been appointed the new Executive Director of the NJ Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN). The Center is responsible for collecting and analyzing Board of Nursing education and nursing workforce data essential to meeting the health care needs of the State. Dr. Cadmus will report to the Boards of Directors of the NJCCN and the Dean, School of Nursing.

Dr. Carrie Carretta has been accepted to the National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA) Leadership Institute to be held 9/29/14-12/12/14.
**GRANT AWARDS**

**Dr. Jill Cox** received a grant award from the Department of Health of the State of NJ. “Using Thermography to Detect Deep Tissue Injury in Pressure Related Areas of Discolored Intact Skin in Long Term Care Patients.” The term of the grant is one year.

**Drs. Maureen Esteves & Kathleen Zavotsky (Co-Project Directors)** are the recipients of the RWJUHF grant award. “Supporting the Path to Professional Nursing Programs at Rutgers.” The term of the grant is one year.

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**PUBLICATIONS**


**Edna Cadmus**, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN; Stephanie D. Conners, MBA, RN; Kathleen Evanovich Zavotsky, MSN, APN; Myrna Young, MSN, RN, CNOR; and Claudia Pagani, MSN, RN-BC. “Academic practice partnership: Transitions into Practice for New Nurses”. New Higher Learning – Nurse Management. Sept 10 2014. pgs 10-12. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 2014. [www.nursingmanagement.com](http://www.nursingmanagement.com)


Willard, S. (2014) Commencement speaker at Roxborough Memorial Hospital, School of Nursing, in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Willard addressed the 100th graduating class of this school. It holds a very good record of an almost perfect NCLEX pass rate. Dr. Willard is an alumna of Roxborough.

Pessagno, R. (2014). "How to Effectively Run Psychotherapeutic Groups." Keynote Speaker at the 2014 Spring Meeting held in May of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association in Cranbury, NJ.


Reyes, D. Plenary speaker at the “Breaking Barriers” Conference in Syracuse, NY and has also presented at the Buffalo Association of Nurses in AIDS Care on Thursday, September 25, 2014. The topic in both events was of cultural competence and diversity.

