

## Gerontological Nursing Science Research Interest Group (RIG) Meeting Minutes

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Meeting Room A

Saturday March 29, 2016, 1-2 pm

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Current Chair, Rebecca A. Lorenz, opened the meeting by welcoming all members in attendance, and introducing the following:

Chair Elect: Marianne Smith

Past Chair: Debi Sampsel (not present)

Awards Chair: Siobhan McMahan

Student Chair: Chankni Patel (not present)

Minutes: Kristine Williams/Barb St. Marie

### 2. Background and goals

A very brief review of the section purpose, goals, and four main focal areas was provided to frame later discussion and planning related to communication within the RIG membership, and ways to better support the focus of connecting members throughout the year.

### 3. 40th Anniversary Salute to Gerontological Nursing at MNRS

Helen Lach provided an historical perspective of progress being made in gero nursing research. Lach collaborated many former leaders, particularly Phyllis Gaspar, to create a brief sketch of "then and now." Building on work conducted by Gaspar and her own experiences, Lach reported on four time points: (1) 1984 Minneapolis conference when only 20 older adult focused abstracts were found, and no paper or poster sessions had a specific gerontological focus, and most studies were descriptive and correlational; (2) 1993 Cleveland conference when 74 abstracts had an older adult focus, and three paper sessions, two symposia, and one poster session were specific to gero care and treatment; topics expanded greatly, including instrument development, intervention interventions studies, and community settings; (3) 2004 St. Louis conference that included 63 abstract with a focus on older adults care, along with three paper/symposia, 1 poster, and emergence of many new public health issues and topics; and (4) 2014 conference that included 74 abstracts with an older adult focus, six specific sessions, a broad cross-section of topics, methods (n=24 intervention studies), public health issues, and inclusion of older adults in other focal areas, such as cancer care. Lach concluded by noting that gerontological nursing research is thriving within MRNS, and by listing individuals who have served as the RIG chairs since 1992.

### 3. Summary of 2014-2015

**A. Awards.** Lorenz offered special thanks to the Awards Committee for their work throughout the year: Siobhan McMahan, Chair; Kristine Talley, Carol Rogers, Fawn Cothran, Debra Jansen, Olimpia Paun. Committee Chair McMahan reported that submissions were received in one of four categories: New Investigator. This award was given to **Kathy Wright, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC, PMHCNS-BC, Case Western Reserve**. Dr. Wright provided a short overview of her research, *Understanding Chronic Stress, Allostatic Load and Health Outcomes in Low Income Older adults*, and was given a certificate.

Lorenz then honored **Siobhan McMahan, PhD, MPH, GNP**, for her receipt of the MNRS John A. Hartford Foundation Award, which will be presented at the general awards ceremony.

**B. Archival Task Force.** Lorenz thanked Debi Sampsel, Chair, and others for their contributions over the year. Sampsel was not able to attend MNRS this year but sent a report. One key issue is finding suitable online storage for important documents. "Box" was suggested

by the task force as an option. Lorenz asked for input from members, and general consensus was that Box is usable and the task force should pursue investigation of it as an option for online RIG document storage and archiving. Kitty Buckwalter also noted that general MNRS archiving will soon be underway in collaboration with Bridget Lusk at University of Illinois, Chicago Nursing History Center. As an MNRS Board member, Helen Lach volunteered to be a liaison related to the larger process of MNRS archiving that may be relevant to the RIG.

**C. Section Leadership 2016-2017.** A slate of nominations was presented to members. Lorenz asked for additional nominations from the floor, particularly for the unfilled Nominations Committee Chair. Yvonne Lu self-nominated for that position. There were no additional nominations, resulting in the final slate:

Chair Elect: Carol Rogers, PhD, RN, University of Oklahoma

Award Committee Chair: Olimpia Paun, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, Rush University

Nominations Committee Chair: Yvonne Lu

Student Chair: Chandi Mukesh Patel

K. Buckwalter called for a verbal vote of consensus; all present were in favor of the leadership slate (no nays” or abstentions).

**D. Information Exchange.** Several members offered updates.

- Kristine Williams, University of Iowa, provided a short update on National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing, inviting members to contact her directly if they have questions.
- Olimpia Paun, Rush University, noted that she is leading an initiative to form a Geropsychiatric Nursing Interest Group with the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She is interested in identifying geropsych nurses who are member in both MNRS and APNA. Please contact Olimpia if you know of possible gero focused APNA members.
- Marianne Smith, University of Iowa, added that student conference scholarships are available through APNA, creating a great opportunity for graduate students.
- Kitty Buckwalter reported that a paper on the GeroPsychiatric Nursing Collaborative will soon be published in JAPNA, providing context for progress made in this specialty area.

#### **4. Plans: 2016-2017**

Smith and Lorenz introduced four goals for the upcoming year: (A) increased communication, planning and discussion throughout the year; (B) enhanced committee work; (C) greater membership involvement in awards and leadership nominations, and (D) development of a high quality (guaranteed) gerontological symposium in 2017.

**A. Increased communication** was tied to the Section’s focus of “connecting members with an interest in gero nursing throughout the year.” Smith noted that a big concern has been fluctuations in the RIG membership list maintained by MNRS. If members don’t renew on time, they are dropped from the list and miss communication. Members also need to double check that the Gero RIG is selected for membership when renewing. Additional questions related to members preferred form of communication, including using of the gero list-serve (which is “blind”, meaning senders do not know who is receiving), Linked-in (recommended by MNRS but difficult to use; or direct email (not through the list-serve, but using individual members email addresses). Discussion included points related to possibly using Google groups, Twitter, or other social media. Tom Blodgett suggested that there may be a need for a “communications committee” to further explore members’ preferences for strategies that may be used throughout the year. Smith asked if he would be willing to lead such a group, and he agree.

Members concurred that using email and list-serve are preferred over Linked-In. Tom Blodgett will organize a Communications Committee, and serve as the Chair.

**B. Enhanced committee work** was addressed in the context of strategies that may be used to increase communication throughout the year. These included (1) Increased use of small group planning for nominations, awards, educational programs, dissemination, student involvement; and (2) Use of a survey to gather information about members' interests that could then be shared using a newsletter format that featured members.

Members agreed these approaches were acceptable. No additional ideas were offered.

**C. Greater membership involvement** was reviewed in context of Focus #2, Recognition and awards. The lack of award nominations in 3 of 4 categories in the last year was briefly reviewed. All Section members were asked to actively work to identify and nominate deserving candidates. Focus #3, promoting student involvement, also required that all Section members actively work to engage/encourage student involvement.

No additional strategies to achieve these goals were identified.

**D. Guaranteed Symposium (2017)** was discussed in the context of possible theme ideas that were identified in last year's meetings: (a) aging in place/technology, smart and connected health; (b) functional activity interventions; (c) value based purchasing in acute and post-acute care; (d) precision health care/tailored interventions, with narratives from recipients of care and direct care workers; (e) health systems and transitions in care, measurement and outcomes. Additional ideas that were generated by Section members prior to the meeting included frailty, sleep, social determinants of health, and depression. Discussion included points related to the symposium having a clinical vs. systems focus, needing to identify a leadership team that is willing to lead the topic selected, questions of whether the committee might direct the topic and content, and the possibility of blending topics.

Members agreed on the following:

**Topic:** Transitions in Gerontological Care across the Health Care Continuum (which may include micro to macro level perspectives)

**Co-chairs:** Lori Popejoy and Rebecca Lorenz

**Members:** Nancy Ambrose Gallager, Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskyi, Marianne Smith

## **5. Meeting Adjourned**

Members were invited to continue conversations and planning activities informally.