



## RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

**Within 2 weeks of the Annual Conference, the RIG Chair who conducted the Annual RIG Meeting is responsible for submitting the RIG Annual Meeting Report to MNRS Staff at [info@mnrns.org](mailto:info@mnrns.org). This form must be used. Meeting Minutes should also be attached, if taken.**

**RIG Name:** Palliative and End-of-Life Care (PEOLC) RIIG

**Date Form Submitted:**

**Form Submitted by:** Maryellen Potts & Megan Miller (Co-Chairs)

Co-chairs: Megan Miller, Maryellen Potts, Co-Chairs-elect: Susan Thrane, Nadeen Alshakhshir, Past Chair: Rebecca Lehto

**RIG Leadership Present at  
RIG Chairs Meeting (Name):**

**RIG Annual Meeting Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021

**Current Total Number of  
RIG Members:** 68

**RIG Annual Meeting  
Attendance:** 23

### RIG Leadership for Past Year (Name & Credentials, Institution & Title, Email)

**Chair(s):** Maryellen Potts, PhD; University of Kansas, Assistant Professor, MPotts3@kumc.edu & Megan Miller, PhD, RN; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Miller89@wisc.edu

**Chair-Elect(s):** Susan Thrane, PhD, RN, CHPN, FPCH, The Ohio State University, Assistant Professor, Thrane.2@osu.edu & Nadeen Alshakhshir, BSN, MSN, RN, University of Wisconsin-Madison, PhD Student, alshakhshir@wisc.edu

**Past Chair(s):** Rebecca Lehto, PhD, RN, FAAN, Michigan State University, Associate Professor, lehtor@msu.edu

**Grants Committee  
Representative(s):** Chris Fortney, PhD, RN, The Ohio State University, Assistant Professor, fortney.19@osu.edu; Masako Mayhara, PhD, RN, Rush University, Assistant Professor, masako\_mayahara@rush.edu; Renee Kumpula, EdD, RN, PHN, University of Minnesota, Assistant Professor, renkumpula@gmail.com, rkumpula@umn.edu

### RIG Activity over Past Year

#### Summary of RIG

#### Research/Member Highlights:

The 2021 RIG Annual Meeting was led by Maryellen Potts & Megan Miller. We had 23 members in attendance. RIG members are active nurse scientists and students conducting a wide range of studies in practice and nursing education including funded studies across the lifespan. For 2020-2021, RIG members were involved with regular RIG Communications in emails or newsletters to members, a RIG member survey, additions to the RIG webpage, updates for the RIG publications list, and recognition of members in the Spotlight on the PEOLC RIG webpage including students. A Student Leadership Committee met over the past year to propose activities for student involvement. A notable achievement is that the PEOLC RIG was awarded a competitive symposium for the 3rd consecutive year. In addition to adding Co-Chairs for 2021-2022, we have filled seats on three RIG committees: a Review Committee, Awards Committee and Student Leadership Committee.

### *Summary of Symposium Activities:*

Facilitated review and acceptance of MNRS abstracts for 2021 conference sessions (Competitive and Guaranteed Symposia - our 3rd consecutive competitive symposium!) At the MNRS 2021 Virtual Conference we hosted a guaranteed symposium titled "Exploring Culturally Congruent Care for Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Patients and Families" and a competitive symposium titled "Innovative Models and Adaptive Strategies in Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Patients and Families". Each had a moderator from the PEOLC RIG Leadership Team and 4 presenters with high-quality research presentations. We also created a Competitive Symposium with Symptom Science for the first time. The call was composed, but unfortunately, we did not receive enough submissions. We plan to offer the opportunity for a combined symposium again next year.

### *Summary of RIG Award Activities:*

This year we reviewed and selected five RIG awardees for outstanding contributions to the field. These included 1) Mid-Career Award: Masako Mayahara; 2) Early Career Award: Susan Thrane; 3) Outstanding Publication Award: Nai-Ching (Allison) Chi (Interventions to Support Family Caregivers in Pain Management: A Systematic Review in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management); 4) Dissertation Award: Siobhan Aaron (title: End-of-life decision-making among patients with advanced stage cancer and their caregivers); 5) PhD Student Award: Alaa Albashayreh. We also standardized Award instructions, reviewed award criteria, and renamed awards with inclusive language.

### *Summary of Additional RIG Activities, as applicable:*

This year our RIG formed three committees: The Awards Committee (4 members), the Review Committee (3 members) and the Student Leadership Committee (4 members). We developed purpose statements for each of the committees and found that they were a wonderful way to engage our membership and delegate RIG responsibilities. We plan to continue using this committee structure moving forward and have already filled positions on each of the committees for the 2021-2022 year. We also utilized and updated the PEOLC-created template for MNRS RIG leadership team succession plan outlining roles and responsibilities for the RIG leadership team to enhance the flow of our RIG activities.

## **MNRS Charges of the Strategic Plan**

### *How does this RIG support Research & Implementation? (i.e. symposia, newsletters):*

Our RIG distributes regular newsletters featuring research bios of our members to help inspire collaborations. We also facilitate the scholarship and research contributions of members with competitive symposium; Encourage nomination of members for MNRS awards; Acknowledge contributions to the field with RIG awards; Use webpage/newsletter to highlight member achievements. We are also working to maintain and distribute a list of member publications to assist in identifying areas for collaboration.

### *How does the RIG support a diverse membership (i.e. DNP, students, other new members, retainment, practice partners)?:*

To support a diverse membership, we communicate regularly with RIG members and are especially inclusive of student members who may have hesitation to actively participate. We recently formed a Student Leadership Committee to enhance student engagement within the RIG. We also revised the names and internal language of our RIG awards to be inclusive of members, particularly with pronouns, and we promoted both a DNP Project Award, a PhD Dissertation Award, a Graduate Student Award, and an Undergraduate Award. Our goal in this RIG is to value the contributions of all members and to foster and mentor those members who are students and emerging researchers. We believe MNRS leadership also needs to take stronger steps towards inclusivity, not only for DNP and student members, but for those potential members who have been affected by institutional racism.

### *How has your RIG worked to increase RIG membership and communications? (newsletter, website, communication reps, Groupsite and Listserv):*

Over the past two years our RIG has grown to offer a bi-monthly newsletter which features important RIG news, events and relevant topics, as well as features of our members. We have also expanded our PEOLC webpage. We communicate regularly via email and through our newly launched Groupsite to enhance information sharing and engagement throughout our RIG.

### *How are you supporting the MNRS goal of member engagement? (ex. Awards, symposia, mentoring, involvement, Groupsite activity/discussions/media/file sharing):*

We engage members through offering awards, hosting symposia, distributing regular newsletters, starting conversations through Groupsite, offering opportunities for joining committees. We also conduct an annual RIG member survey to gain input from our membership on directions for our RIG.

## **Planned RIG Leadership for Upcoming Year (Name & Credentials, Institution & Title, Email)**

**Chair(s):** Susan Thrane, PhD, RN, CHPN, FPCH, The Ohio State University, Assistant Professor, Thrane.2@osu.edu & Nadeen Alshakhshir, BSN, MSN, RN, University of Wisconsin-Madison, PhD Student, alshakhshir@wisc.edu

**Chair-Elect(s):** Nasreen Lalani, PhD, MScN, RN, Purdue University, Assistant Professor, lalanin@purdue.edu & Justina Yevu-Johnson, RN University of Missouri, PhD Student, jynf7@mail.missouri.edu

**Past Chair(s):** Maryellen Potts, PhD; University of Kansas, Assistant Professor, MPotts3@kumc.edu & Megan Miller, PhD, RN; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Miller89@wisc.edu

*Grants Committee  
Representative(s):*

Renee Kumpala, EdD, MA, RN, PHN, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Assistant Professor, renee.kumpala@mnsu.edu

**RIG Activity Moving Forward**  
*RIG Purpose:*

The purpose of the PEOLC RIG is to promote and support research focused on palliative and end-of-life care. Our membership includes nurses with a broad range of research experience, from tenured professors who are established researchers with experience in securing grant funding and methodological expertise, to practitioners with clinical expertise related to end-of-life research, and nursing students whose passion lies in this area. This broad range of experience is useful in networking and sharing ideas regarding both theoretical and practical concerns in end-of-life research.

*Planned RIG Symposium Title(s)  
and Theme(s) during Upcoming  
Year:*

This upcoming year we plan to submit for a combined symposium with the Symptom Science RIG. The RIG Leadership Team plans to coordinate another Abstract for the Competitive Symposium again in 2022. We will communicate within the leadership team and with RIG members to gather ideas for topics and format. Topics may include X, Y, Z...

*Planned RIG Award(s) during  
Upcoming Year:*

The RIG Leadership Team believes the current slate of awards in the RIG adequately reflect achievements among the membership. Therefore, the RIG plans to again encourage members to apply for RIG awards in the next cycle. In the upcoming year we plan to review and award the following RIG awards: 1) Distinguished Researcher Award, 2) Mid-Career Award, 3) Early Career Award, 4) Outstanding Publication Award, 5) Dissertation Award, 6) PhD Student Award.

*Planned RIG Webinars or Pre-  
Conference Workshops:*

We are discussing the possibility of offering RIG webinars to highlight the research of our RIG members throughout the year but do not have any plans currently in place.

*Additional RIG Goals and  
Objectives for Upcoming Year:*

Our goals for the upcoming year include 1) Increase awareness and visibility of PEOLC RIG and member contributions, 2) Utilize Groupsites/newsletters to increase interest and connect with membership, and 3) Increase active membership /new members and member collaborations. We will achieve these goals through the following activities... Know our members: Update membership database: during leadership team transition, before RIG awards, and before conference; Consult our members: Gather member survey data and publications: send out a yearly survey in November, collect publications and publish [before conference]; consider collaborative papers; Activate our members: Collect volunteers for abstract review and award reviews at conference, in early fall; collect volunteers for conference events in late fall survey; Increase members visibility: Facilitate the scholarship and research contributions of members with competitive symposium; Encourage nomination of members for MNRS awards; Acknowledge contributions to the field with RIG awards; Use webpage/newsletter to highlight member achievements

*RIG Goals and Objectives for Next  
Three Years including Strategic  
Plan Charges:*

Our Long-term Goals are to: 1) Continue to improve/increase communication and networking between RIG members both in and outside of the Annual Meeting and 2) Highlight the research and recognize the accomplishments of our members through all available mechanisms (e.g., MNRS website/MNRS Matters newsletter and Research Briefs/RIG newsletter)