



## Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science News



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Happy new year to all our members and friends. The holiday season has just concluded and I am mindful of the things I am thankful for: good health, family, friends, and colleagues. I am also thinking of the many challenges for those who are disadvantaged by prejudice, discrimination, ill health, and lack of access to quality healthcare. Please remember those less fortunate and help the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) reduce inequality and improve healthcare through nursing research.

The new year provides an excellent opportunity for me to “re” introduce the Council to readers of *Nursing Outlook*. Despite the fact that the Council is 17 years old, I am still frequently asked, what is the Council and why should I be a member? The mission of the Council is to promote better health through nursing science and our vision is to be recognized as the collective, national voice for nursing science. This past fall our Operating Committee, led by Dr. Nancy Fahrenwald, updated the Council Operating Principles.

The goals of the Council are to:

- 1 Be a strong voice, nationally and internationally, in support of the development, conduct and utilization of nursing science
- 2 Share, translate and disseminate nursing science
- 3 Facilitate and recognize life-long nursing science career development

The Council is an open member organization (fellowship in American Academy of Nursing is not required) and there are numerous benefits to membership in the Council including:

- 1 Attendance at all conferences and meetings at the discounted registration rate

- 2 Invitations for committee and sub-committee participation, including conference planning sub-committees
- 3 Be named in and have access to an online Council Membership Directory
- 4 Receive any Council ‘members-only’ and general communications
- 5 Nominate or apply for Council awards
- 6 Apply for grants co-sponsored by the Council and partner organizations
- 7 Vote on official Council business, if conducted
- 8 Receive a subscription to the Council’s official journal, *Nursing Outlook* for the length of the membership period
- 9 Serve on the Leadership Council in an elected position

Personally, I would say that the opportunity to network and work closely with scholars from around the country is an outstanding benefit. If you are not a member, please consider joining now. If you are a member, please consider volunteering for a committee or running for a seat on the Leadership Council.

The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science is governed by the Leadership Council, a group of elected and appointed leaders which include: The Chair, Chair-Elect, Councilor of Finance and Records, and Councilor-at-Large, Presidents of the regional nursing research societies (ENRS, MNRS, SNRS and WIN), representatives of the American Nurses Foundation (ANF) and Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), and a liaison from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). With the exception of the NINR liaison, all other members of the Leadership Council are voting members. This leads me to an update on the call for nominations, followed by an introduction of the Council’s newest special interest group

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## Nominations Committee and Call for Nominations

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The Nominations Committee, comprised of members Drs. Patricia Stone (ps2024@cumc.columbia.edu), Linda Weglicki (weglicki@muscc.edu), Judi Vessey (judith.vessey@bc.edu), Susan Loeb (svl100@psu.edu), and Marti Rice (schauf@uab.edu) (Chair) have put out a Call for Nominations for the open positions of Chair-Elect, Councilor-at-Large, and two positions on the Nominations Committee.

The Chair-Elect serves a two-year term starting in October, 2019, assuming the Chair position in October 2021. Criteria for serving include being a member of the Council for at least two years, being a Fellow and a member of the American Academy of Nursing, have served on the CANS Leadership Council or held a research leadership role in a national organization, and have participated in Council activities.

The Councilor-at-Large position is a three-year term starting in October 2019 with responsibilities including: Member of Leadership Council (monthly conference call meetings; two in-person meetings (Spring) and Fall (with conference); Chair of Program Committee, liaison to Conference Planning Committees (State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research and the Advanced Methods Conference) and liaison to special Council initiatives. To be eligible, the nominee must be a Council member in good standing for a minimum of two years, and have prior experience in planning and implementing annual meetings, conferences, or programs.

The Nomination Committee positions are a two year term, beginning in October of 2019. Position responsibilities include: Soliciting nominations, verifying members' eligibility for office, and determining the election slate. To be eligible the nominee must be a Council member in good standing for a minimum of two years.

The deadline for nominations is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. For more information about the application process and required materials, please visit [www.nursingscience.org/nominations](http://www.nursingscience.org/nominations). Voting is scheduled for April and May with notification of election results in late May. Please contact any of the Nomination Committee members if you have questions.

## Why a Special Interest Group for Clinical Nursing Science?

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Despite advances in nurse engagement in health system-based research, attributed in large part to the Magnet<sup>®</sup> accreditation program, a gap exists in the avenues open to academically-qualified nurse scientists to connect with and mentor hospital and clinic-based nurses in advancing nursing science. The Magnet Recognition Program first influenced the need for and priority of health system-based nursing science through

designation of excellence for healthcare organizations in which nursing leaders successfully aligned strategic goals with improved patient outcomes at the organizational level. (Petit Dit Dariel and Regnaud, 2015) One key component of achieving Magnet<sup>®</sup> accreditation is evidence of ongoing, patient-centered nurse-led research that is designed, conducted and published by nurses employed at the hospital or health system level. The expertise and skills necessary to successfully achieve such a goal require development of a partnership between academic and health system nurses. Such partnerships are dependent on leaders who not only create a roadmap for program development, but also leaders who can engage and foster growth among aspiring nurse scientists in the clinical setting. To help develop such skills among members of the Council and to provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration between nurse scientists working in clinical settings, we proposed a Council special interest group (SIG) for *Clinical Nurse Scientists*.

The *Clinical Nurse Scientist* SIG contributes to achieving the mission of the Council through goals and activities that increase knowledge, mentorship skills and collaborative opportunities of its members. What is the expected impact of the SIG? The members of this SIG have the ability to advance the mission and understanding of the Council beyond the traditional academic setting to the clinical setting where nursing research is increasingly being conducted, coordinated, and facilitated by nurse scientists. We believe there are opportunities to introduce clinical setting nurse scientists to the Council and to encourage them to take advantage of the benefits of belonging to and spreading the mission of the Council.

## Objectives of the Clinical Nurse Scientist Special Interest Group

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The purpose of the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG is to engage the members of the Council in activities to advance nursing science through developing and mentoring nurses in the skills to conduct clinical research as well as personal and collective scholarship. All Council members who are employed to support nursing research in the clinical, health system setting or who have jointly appointed academic partnership positions with hospitals are eligible to join the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG. The Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG had its first meeting via conference call in August, 2018 with official recognition by the Council at the 2018 State of the Science Congress. Bradi Granger, PhD, RN, FAAN and Mary Fran Tracy, PhD, RN, APRN, CNS, FAAN are the SIG Chairpersons.

The objectives of the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG are to:

- 1 Provide opportunities for networking among nurse scientists based in clinical settings

- 2 Provide professional development programs
- 3 Provide opportunities for mentoring and problem solving among SIG members
- 4 Provide an avenue for investigators mentoring staff nurses to engage as research sites in collaborative, multi-site studies.

### Anticipated SIG Sponsored Activities

Expected SIG activities include:

- 1 Webinars for professional development for nurse scientists in the clinical setting
- 2 Conduct discussions and joint problem solving/networking related to issues to facilitate nursing research in the clinical setting with novice and experienced nurse researchers
- 3 Explore opportunities for collaborative research across institutions
- 4 Explore opportunities to present/facilitate educational sessions at the annual Council conferences

### Getting Involved

We are excited to develop the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG in 2019. Beyond developing activities as noted above, we look forward to exploring development of online content for our members. The Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG is actively recruiting members as well as exploring how we can partner with international colleagues who are confronted with similar challenges. We offer these suggestions to support the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG:

- Forward information about the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG to colleagues who may not be aware of the SIG or familiar with the Council
- Publicize and promote Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG events to clinical nurse scientists in your area
- Participate in Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG activities
- Send Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG questions or topics to address
- Volunteer to share your experience or expertise in a webinar
- Suggest topics for professional development webinars

We are grateful for the guidance and support we have received in the development of this special interest group dedicated to nurse scientists in clinical settings. We would like to especially thank Anna Alt-White, PhD, RN, FAAN, our Council liaison, who has provided us with continued encouragement and direction to turn our ideas into reality, and the Leadership Council Chair, Holli DeVon, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, for her ongoing support in establishing this new SIG. In addition, we extend our thanks to Rachael James, BSN, RN, Council Manager, for her assistance over the past year. We look forward to hearing your suggestions in developing the Clinical Nurse Scientist SIG and for your active participation!

### REFERENCE

- Petit Dit Dariel, O., & Regnaud, J. P. (2015). Do Magnet(R)-accredited hospitals show improvements in nurse and patient outcomes compared to non-Magnet hospitals: a systematic review. *JBI Database System Rev Implement Rep*, 13(6), 168-219.