



## FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGERS DESK...

*Just this once!*

It was a yin and yang thing when the TSNRP staff said, "Aloha" to Lt Col Diep Duong, TSNRP's Director Extraordinaire for the last three years ... happy for her as she left for her new assignment as an International Health Specialist in Honolulu, HI, but sad for the staff, losing an extraordinary and forward-thinking leader.

Lt Col Duong's accomplishments while at TSNRP were numerous and far ranging, including, to name but a few, aligning TSNRP's mission and goals with that of the three services; creating regional nursing research "pods"; creating three new funding categories aimed at increasing the cadre of military nurse researchers and answering service-specific questions; creation of "Grant Camp," an intensive 2-phased grant writing workshop; creation of the Research to Practice Initiative through the Resource Center; and perhaps, most importantly, ensuring high quality TSNRP-funded research, and disseminating it throughout the health-care community. Her extraordinary leadership captivated those of us around her, and catapulted TSNRP into its 2nd decade.

We look forward to hearing about the many things Lt Col Duong will accomplish in her new assignment within the international health arena, and, in doubt, her continuing support of TSNRP!

*Aloha, a hui hou , Lt Col Duong, and mahalo!*

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## News From TSNRP.....

### *Congratulations to TSNRP FY2003 Funded Investigators!*

TriService Nursing Research Program is pleased to announce the funded investigators for FY 2003. This was an extremely competitive process, congratulations to all on a job well done!

CDR Denise Boren—*Experience of Active Duty Military Caregivers of Women with CHF*

MAJ Judy Criner—*Coping Stages by Military Women with Stress Urinary Incontinence*

Lt Col Terry Dresma—*CCAATT Nurses' Deployed Experience*

COL (ret) Mary Jo Grap—*A Peri-intubation Intervention to Reduce Oral Flora & VAP*

COL Eileen Hemman—*Evaluation of the Combat Medic Skills Validation Test*

LTC Hyacinth Joseph—*Prostate Cancer Knowledge, Beliefs & Screening*

CAPT Major King—*Bioterrorism Education for Military & University Nurses*

LTC Patricia Patrician—*Military Nursing Outcomes Database: Analysis & Expansion*

MAJ Jacquelyn Russek—*Resiliency in Army Reserve Families before Deployment*

CDR Jacqueline Rychnovsky—*Postpartum Fatigue in the Active Duty Military Woman*

Maj Mona Ternus—*Air Force Combat Casualty Aeromedical Nursing Post-9-11*

Col Mary Ross—*Recruitment Decision Making for Military Nursing Careers*

Col Mary Ross—*Using After-Action Reports for Readiness Competency Training*

To do successful research, you don't need to know everything, you just need to know of one thing that isn't known.

**Arthur Schawlow**

Check the website for more information on the research proposals ... <http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrf/funded/fy2003/>  
This was a very competitive process, so congratulations to all on a job well done!

## ***TSNRP INVESTIGATOR GUEST EDITOR FOR CRITICAL CARE JOURNAL***

Lt Col Liz Bridges, USAF NC, PhD, RN, CCNS was the guest editor for the June 2003 issue of *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*. The issue was devoted to Military and Disaster Nursing. Eight other TSNRP-funded researchers also contributed to the issue:

- ❑ Preparing to Respond: Joint Trauma Training Center and Warskills Simulation Labs  
*Sandra Bruce, Elizabeth J. Bridges, and John B. Holcomb*
- ❑ The Relationship between Pro-Inflammatory Mediators and Heat Stress Induced Rhabdomyolysis in Exercising Marines  
*Rebecca A. Phillips*
- ❑ Care of the Critically Ill Patient in a Military Unique Environment: A Program of Research  
*Joseph O. Schmelz, Elizabeth J. Bridges, Diep N. Duong, and Cathaleen Ley*
- ❑ Managing Critical Care Casualties on Board the the Navy's Hospital Ships  
*Denise Boren, Ronald Forbes, Patrice Bibeau, Robin McKenzie, and Karen McKinsey*
- ❑ Military Nursing at the Forefront: The Army Forward Surgical Team  
Charlotte Hough, Michael Sadler, and Patricia A. Patrician
- ❑ Global Reach: USAF Aeromedical Evacuation  
*Penny F. Pierce, and Karen G. Evers*
- ❑ The Army Chemical/Biological SMART Team (SMART-CB): The Nurse's Role  
*Kenny Barajas, Warren A. Stewart, and Elmer W. Combs*
- ❑ Peace Making/Peace Keeping Missions: Role of the US Army Nurse



## News From the Resource Center.....

### ***TSNRP-Funded Investigators Present Symposium at International Research Con-***

A panel of TSNRP-funded military nurse researchers presented the symposium, "The Role of Health Promotion and Physical Fitness in Military and Civilian Personnel: Preparation for Homeland Defense" at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Research Congress of Sigma Theta Tau International in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., on 10 July 2003.

COL (ret) Christine Wynd, panel coordinator, was joined by 4 military nurse scientists in presentations addressing the current state of the science regarding military health promotion efforts, and evaluation of those efforts.

- ❑ *Promotion of Healthy Behaviors in Army and Civilian Health Care Personnel: The Effects of Individual Motivation and Organizational Culture*, COL (ret) Christine Wynd, PhD, RN
- ❑ *Health Promotion in Military Women*, LTC (ret) Janice Agazio, DNSc, RN
- ❑ *Factors Associated with Physical Activity and Exercise in Active Duty Females*, COL Laura Brosch, PhD, RN
- ❑ *Health Promoting Behaviors and Mobilization Readiness: An Adherence Model for Regular Physical Activity in Military Reservists*, MAJ Mary Ellen Simpson, PhD, RN
- ❑ *Factors Associated with Successful Institutionalization of Health Promotion Programs*, CAPT Margaret Holder, PhD, FNP-C

The research studies also addressed efforts to uncover the most salient factors for promoting health in military populations.

Kudos to the entire panel for presenting excellent examples of military nursing research at such a prestigious gathering of nurse researchers!

**The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not "Eureka!" ("I found it!") but rather "hmm...that's funny..."**

***Isaac Asimov***

## In the Spotlight...



*In this column we spotlight a TSNRP nurse researcher and his/her current study. This issue's spotlight is on Maj Linda Schwartz and her FY00 study "The Vietnam Nurse Health Study."*

Major Linda Schwartz, DrPH, feels that "people who die for their country should know it," and this drives her to research what Agent Orange does to human female bodies. This toxic herbicide was used in the Vietnam War, including in some U.S. bases, often entering people's bodies without their awareness. Later studies showed how exposure affects men, but none were conducted on women — until Maj Schwartz came along.



Maj Schwartz didn't serve in Vietnam, although she was a nurse posted in Japan treating the war injured, but many of her nursing compatriots did and they later fell ill. "They had strange and exotic diseases," she says. "No one had done research on the health of these women. Women have a physiological difference from men and you can't generalize ... More than anything else, more than compensation, the lingering questions that women veterans have about their health deserve an answer."

The U.S. military sprayed Agent Orange in Vietnam to defoliate the countryside and deprive the enemy of hiding places. It contains dioxin, a known carcinogen that remains potent for 20 to 30 years, and is one of the few chemical compounds that can transcend the placental barrier. It was discontinued in 1971. "People did not realize how very detrimental to health this would be," she explains "One of the concerns is its generational effect, not only on children but also grandchildren" of the women who breathed or ingested the chemical.

In 2000, Maj Schwartz received a TriService Grant for her research, which runs through 2004. Her research, entitled "Vietnam Nurses Health Study," is designed to document any adverse health effects in women who were exposed to Agent Orange. She is using an Exposure Opportunity Scale developed by the U.S. Air Force to delineate variations in exposures to Agent Orange and is comparing the self-reported health problems of nurses who served in Vietnam, those who served in the military but not Vietnam, and civilians. She is also collecting data about the women's offspring. Helping on the research is Dr. Candice Ross of the Air Force Reserves.

Maj Schwartz decided at age 13 that she wanted to be a

nurse. In high school, she read a *Reader's Digest* article about flight nurses and "it became my dream to be a flight nurse," she recalls. She earned her nursing diploma in 1966, joined the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps, took a flight nurse training course, and eventually served as a flight nurse. "I lived that dream for seven years, then it all went very wrong."

The accident happened when she was traveling in an aircraft on active duty. A door blew off at 30,000 feet and a full day passed before she had access to treatment. This left her with decompression sickness in the brain and spinal cord, causing symptoms similar to a stroke. "I was disoriented, had problems with memory. It took three years before I could even think my way out of a paper bag," she says. "I really couldn't go back to practicing the care of patients."

Gradually, she clawed her way back to health, receiving "invaluable help" from the Yale School of Nursing, where she had begun her masters in nursing. Ultimately, she earned her Ph.D. in public health from Yale University. It was while she was at Yale that she became interested in veterans' issues, "because I was a disabled veteran and I was interested in what was happening to my friends who were in Vietnam."

In the latest recognition of her efforts on behalf of veterans, Maj Schwartz in May 2003 became Connecticut's Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs — the first woman commissioner in the 139 years the post has existed.

Maj Schwartz has preliminary results from her study, pointing to increased rates of cancer among those women exposed to Agent Orange. Ultimately, she hopes to submit her study to the National Academy of Sciences "with the idea in mind that it will be reviewed along with other gender specific diseases related to service in Vietnam. We will be contributing to that body of knowledge. I think that's a very important thing."

**Keep in touch!!!**



Update your contact information through our website at [www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/updatecontact.html](http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/updatecontact.html)

## MORE TSNRP GOINGS...

Elizabeth November, Grants Management Specialist, recently left TSNRP to pursue graduate work at St. Louis University. Elizabeth is doing a double Masters in Law and Public Policy! We think TSNRP prepared her well for writing legal briefs!

### Call for Abstracts

**17th Annual Pacific Nursing Research Conference**, co-sponsored by the Tripler Army Medical Center and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. Nurses are invited to submit abstracts for poster or podium presentation for the 19-20 March 2004 conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. This conference is dedicated to sharing nursing research findings and to fostering the utilization of research findings by clinicians. Check the Henry M. Jackson Foundation's website ([www.hjf.org/events/index.html](http://www.hjf.org/events/index.html)) for more information.

**Submission Deadline: 17 October 2003**

### Call for Abstracts

37th Annual Western Institute of Nursing's Communicat-  
ing Nursing Research Conference, "Hallmarks of Qual-  
ity: Generating and Using Knowledge," April 22-24,  
2003, Portland, Oregon.

WIN has announced a new on-line abstract submission program. For more information, go to: [www.ohsu.edu/son-win](http://www.ohsu.edu/son-win) and click on "On-Line Registration for Abstract Submission."

**Submission deadline: 5:00 PM, October 15, 2003.**

## *TSNRP ANNOUNCES NEW AWARD CATEGORY*

### NOVICE INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Masters-prepared military nurse clinicians with limited experience in conducting a research study are highly encouraged to submit research proposals, and are eligible for up to \$100,000 in support of a 1-year research proposal. The proposal must be modest in scope, and may be the first phase of a larger project. The research team must include an experienced, doctorally prepared nurse researcher who provides research mentorship for the principal investigator.

Letters of Intent are requested by 29 August 2003

**Application Deadline is  
4 November 2003 by 4 P.M. EST**



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Check our website in mid-June  
for the FY03 funding awards!

[www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp](http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp)