President’s Message

“A truly good mentor is hard to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget,” (unknown)

At all stages of one’s nursing career, mentors play an important role. Whether you are a nurse scientist, nurse leader in evidenced-based practice, nurse educator, clinician, or student; you can probably think of at least one or two individuals who have been influential in your nursing career. These mentors may be faculty, nurse managers, or nurses with whom you work side-by-side. Through their generosity of time and talent, they share their expertise and wisdom, help you navigate difficult situations, and challenge you to think innovatively or with imagination. Finding a great mentor may seem challenging; but they are all around us in the ENRS community. In support of the ENRS mission to Promote Nursing Science in the Northeastern United States, one of our strategic goals is to provide a networking forum for nursing scientists. We operationalize that goal in several ways, including our support of mentoring opportunities. Our 17 Research Interest Groups (RIGs) represent major areas of nursing research, and offer an opportunity for members to share expertise and first-hand knowledge of the latest research trends at our annual meeting, and throughout the year through RIG specific pages on the ENRS website. One of our newer RIGs, formed in 2017, is the Health Services Research (HSR) RIG, which provides a forum for members to learn about current health services policy, practice, and advanced research methodologies, and provides opportunities for early and mid-career scholars to build on their abilities to conduct HSR. At the 2018 ENRS meeting, members of the HSR RIG collaborated to present a symposium titled “Emerging Methodologies to Overcome Complexities in Health Services Research and Policy Analysis.” They also coordinated a meeting with the Midwest Nursing Research Society Health Services Research-Research Interest Group, and American Academy of Nursing expert panels to discuss a future initiative across national nursing organizations. Through these activities nurse scholars at all stages of their career are able to collaborate in order to promote nursing science focused on health services research. Another one of the ENRS RIGs, the Family/Community-Participatory RIG, aims to promote the development of a cohesive group of researchers, theorists, and clinicians by addressing critical issues related to the science of family and community based participatory research. The goals of this RIG include serving as research advocates and mentors; providing a forum for critique of scholarly work, and facilitating collaboration. Since its inception in 1995, the Family/Community-Participatory RIG has conducted approximately 120 presentations, 18 symposia, and 7 pre-conferences. These are just two examples of the extraordinary work being done by the RIGs. Check out the other 15 RIGs. Membership in an ENRS RIG is a great way to connect with a mentor.

In addition, the ENRS Annual Scientific Session brings together scholars in all stages of their careers each year. Our 31st Annual Scientific Session will take place April 3-5, 2019 in Providence, RI. Under the expert leadership of Conference Planning Committee Chair, and ENRS President-Elect Dr. Ann Marie Mauro, the team of conference planners has reflected that transforming nursing science to meet complex healthcare needs will require imagination, innovation and engagement. In today’s world, promoting health through nursing science necessitates creating new ways of thinking, and engaging individuals, families and communities in research as well as in their healthcare. The 31st Annual Scientific Sessions will feature presentations by nurse scientists and leaders in all sectors of education and clinical care, and highlight innovative programs of research, engagement methods, dissemination strategies and theoretical and methodological perspectives that will transform nursing science.

As we prepare for the 31st Annual Scientific Session – Transforming the Future of Nursing Research: Imagination, Innovation, and Engagement, I encourage you to explore the many resources that ENRS offers. If you are searching for a mentor, investigate the RIGs as a way to meet others with shared interests. Get involved in the RIG activities, contact the leaders or join the discussion groups. Plan to attend our conference where you will have the opportunity to meet experts and, network with others from our region and of course, find a mentor! If you are a senior scientist, I urge you to share your expertise by presenting your scholarly work at the annual conference, actively participate in the RIGs or serve as a mentor if asked. Mentoring emerging scientists, future leaders in evidence-based care and students is truly rewarding and essential to the ENRS mission. Our vibrant ENRS community has exceptional talent that will transform the future of nursing research and promote health through nursing science.

Best~

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President, ENRS