President’s Message

According to social educator, researcher and author, Susan V. Bosak; “Legacy is an interconnection across time, with a need for those who have come before us and a responsibility to those who come after us”. As we celebrated our 30th Anniversary ENRS Scientific Sessions in Newark NJ; I was reminded of the lasting legacy of Promoting Health through Nursing Science in our region and inspired by the promise of the future contributions that are sure to come.

This year’s conference theme was “Celebrating 30 Years of Nursing Science: Building a Legacy of Innovation, Dissemination and Translation.” We welcomed 10 Past Presidents of ENRS, Lillie Shortridge-Baggett, Keville Frederickson, Kathryn Hedgus, Suzanne Smeltzer, Dottie Jones, Mary Sullivan, Judy Erlen, Nancy Redeker, Susan Loeb, Wendy Budin; and over 700 conference attendees including 200 “first timers”. Dr. Susan B. Hassmiller’s opening keynote address; “The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action” challenged us to work towards building a Culture of Health that places well-being at the center of every aspect of life. In the Plenary Panel presentation Innovation, Dissemination and Translation: A Conversation with ENRS Nurse Scientists: Dr. Catherine Bender, Dr. Pamela Hinds, Dr. Patricia Eckardt moderated by Dr. Zane Robinson Wolf; panelists described innovative programs of research that have advanced care for individuals, families, and communities; and successful strategies used for dissemination and implementation of their research findings into practice. Our 30th Anniversary Dinner celebrated the legacy and the future of ENRS starting with the opening remarks by Dr. Patricia Grady, NINR Director. We toasted the Past Presidents who each shared a unique memory of their time leading ENRS. The hard work and vision of these leaders serve as the foundation of ENRS; and we are all very grateful. It was truly an exceptional celebration ending with recognition of our distinguished research awardees for 2018. In a special Closing Keynote “The Nurse Scholar’s Policy Journey” on Friday, Delaware Lt. Governor Bethany A. Hall-Long inspired us by describing the importance of nursing engagement in the political and legislative process.

Other highlights of the 30th Anniversary program included: poster presentations from research scientists and clinical experts including the work of BS, MS, DNP, and PhD students; six stimulating workshops on cutting-edge research issues, and individual consultations with funding representatives from NINR, Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. We also launched our brand new website www.enrs-go.org that will allow all of us to stay connected throughout the year; and will serve as an important platform for our 17 Research Interest Groups (RIGs). Throughout the conference, I sensed a special energy and excitement that seemed to grow each day. Many have taken the time to express their appreciation for the many opportunities to meet experts, network and share ideas.

As Chair of this year’s conference, I would like to acknowledge the tireless commitment and express gratitude to this year’s planning committee members, Rosanna DeMarco, Toby Bressler, Wendy Budin, Elizabeth Chin, Marilyn Hammer, Judith Herrman, Lisa Kitko, Christine Kovner, Anne Bradley Mitchell, Helene Moriarty, Donna Nickitas, Kristen Sethares, and Mary Rodgers Schubert, along with our abstract reviewers, generous sponsors and exhibitors, and our amazing management team at Fernley & Fernley.

As I take on the role of President, I want to express my gratitude to outgoing president Dr. Rosanna DeMarco for her extraordinary leadership and vision; and generous mentorship. I also want to welcome our new Board members President-Elect Dr. Ann Marie Mauro and Dr. Ann-Margaret Navarro (Member-at-Large); who will join returning board members Dr. Marilyn Hammer (Secretary), Dr. Donna Nickitas (Treasurer) and Dr. Maureen George (Member-at-Large). I am honored to be your ENRS President; I look forward to working with the Board to harness the energy of our 30th Anniversary Scientific Session as we continue to stay focused on our member-driven strategic plan and the ENRS mission of Promoting Health through Nursing Science.

In closing, I urge you to stay connected, seek out opportunities to collaborate, share your unique expertise and continue to build the ENRS legacy of the next 30 years! I look forward to seeing you next year in Providence, RI at our 31st Annual Scientific Sessions, April 3–5, 2019!

Sincerely yours,

Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, CRNP, FAHA, FHFSAn, FAAN
President, ENRS