

TSNRP Grant Camp, Research Interest Group–Sponsored Courses, and a Look Ahead to 2018

Shannon Sarino, TSNRP Outreach Coordinator, and Megan Foradori, RN, MSN, Research Interests Coordinator



Students, faculty, and TSNRP staff gathered for this class picture during the 2017 Research and Evidence-Based Practice Grant Camp.

2017 Research and Evidence-Based Practice Grant Camp

The annual TSNRP Grant Camp was held 10–14 July 2017 at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California. Grant Camp is specifically for master's and doctorally prepared military nurses and graduate nursing students who plan to submit a research grant application in response to a TSNRP Funding Opportunity Announcement.

This year, the course agenda and curricula were updated to expand the amount of time available for mentoring but still include faculty lectures on critical aspects of grant writing. Fifteen students attended this year, and the faculty members included active duty and retired military and civilian subject matter experts, including COL Michael Schlicher, AN, USA; CAPT Heather King, NC, USN; and Col Marla De Jong, USAF, NC. CDR Virginia Blackman, NC, USN, also attended as an individual grant team's mentor and served in a junior faculty role, which TSNRP Executive Director

Lt Col Jennifer Hatzfeld, USAF, NC, looks to continue in the future.

Each day, students worked with their assigned mentor to refine their plan for how to answer their research or PICOT (population, intervention, comparison, outcome, time) question and discuss how to go about completing their specific grant application. When the group came together, faculty delivered lectures on topics that included preliminary studies; design and methodology—quantitative, qualitative, and evidence-based practice; data analysis; animal and human research protections; timeline; and budget.

“The support during the week came at just the right time. Being in school, and removed from the military environment, I loved being in a room of people who want to make military nursing better. I do think Grant Camp should be mandatory between the first and second year of PhD programs because of the support and the reminders of where we should focus our efforts. The days are long, but I thought it was well organized



2017 Research and Evidence-Based Practice Grant Camp students and faculty gathered each day for a series of lectures on topics that included developing specific aims or a PICOT question, study design and methodology, budget, and the grant review process.

and the attention to each section was just enough,” said CPT Angela Samosorn, AN, USA.

At the conclusion of Grant Camp, students left with a solid framework and idea of how to submit a TSNRP grant application and further develop their project, as well as encouragement from Lt Col Hatzfeld to maintain the momentum on their grant proposal and future scholarly work.

“What I learned from this year’s Grant Camp is that the real value of the course is not always measured in terms of the number of grant applications that are submitted to TSNRP, but by the continued development of military nurse scholars,” said Lt Col Hatzfeld. “From the comments made by both the students and the faculty throughout the week, it was clearly a successful course.”

Biobehavioral Health RIG Explores Military Nurse Researchers’ Connections

If you’ve ever been to the Dissemination Course and bumped into a colleague from the past, moved to a new duty station to find a familiar face, or asked to be connected to someone you know is working in a space you’d like to explore, you know that the military research world can feel small. But have you ever wondered how well the community is connected—between individual people, in mentoring relationships, in Research Interest Groups, and in roles? A small project team within the Biobehavioral Health Research Interest Group (BHRIG) is working on a social network analysis effort to learn more about the ties among and between military nurse researchers.

BHRIG leaders Col (ret) Penny Pierce, USAF, NC; Lt Col Jackie Killian, USAF, NC; COL Angela Simmons, AN, USA; and CAPT Anita Smith, NC, USN, worked with social network analysis researcher Felix Kabo, PhD, at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research to plan a project to learn more about the network of military nurse researchers. The team identified other key members of the network to join a working group for a social network analysis of the community to be completed in 2018. CAPT Deborah Roy, NC, USN; CAPT Lisa Braun, NC, USN; Col Susan Dukes, USAF, NC; MAJ Chris Stucky, AN, USA; Lt Col Laurie Migliore, USAF, NC; and Maj Sarah Huffman, USAF, NC, agreed to join the BHRIG leaders and TSNRP RIG coordinator Megan Foradori on the project.

Members of the working group, representing all three Services and many areas of interest, met for the first time this summer at the Institute for Social Research to learn more about emerging research methodology, explore applications of the techniques, and plan the project in more detail. Under the instruction of Dr. Kabo and Col (ret) Pierce, the group studied the basic concepts and discussed the connections they’d like to explore further, including obvious captures (such as research mentors in the community, RIG memberships, and interactions across Service branch lines) and items to allow the team to learn more about the community (such as TSNRP grants awarded and deployments/military moves during



Lt Col Jackie Killian proudly shows the results of her work using the UCINET program; the visual demonstrates nurses who have attended the TSNRP Dissemination Course in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

the time period of interest). “This will really bring transparency to our connections,” Lt Col Killian said. Energized by the task ahead, team member CAPT Braun said she was “really excited to see the hubs that emerge in this community.”

“This is systems science,” Dr. Kabo told the group. “It allows us to understand both the parts and the whole.” The approach speaks to a growing trend nationally to break away from methodologic individualism. Members of the project team are working hard to identify the target participants (doctorally prepared military nurse researchers) and put together an instrument to capture characteristics of these individuals to help learn more about the whole in the coming months. The working group hopes to contact those in the community of interest in the near future.

“It’s a great opportunity to demonstrate what we already know,” CAPT Roy said. “Nurse researchers are extraordinarily productive and vibrant. [This project] allows us to visually see the network and impact— and see gaps and barriers so we can improve.”

Military Women’s Health RIG Helps Researchers Write for Publication

While carrying out research has its challenges, sometimes writing up work for publication feels like an insurmountable hurdle. It was with that understanding that the Military Women’s Health RIG (MWHRIG) leads included mentorship of military women’s health writers in their RIG annual plan for 2017.

Two MWHRIG leaders, Col Candy Wilson, USAF, NC, and COL (ret) Lori Trego, AN, USA, teamed up with Nancy Lowe, PhD, at the University of Colorado College of Nursing to create an intensive, 2-day professional writing workshop for researchers interested in publishing their research findings in military women’s health. A renowned women’s health expert in international publishing, Dr. Lowe has been the editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing* since 2001 and has published 70 peer-reviewed articles in her career. “Dr. Lowe taught the participants about the development of scholarly writing skills as a foundation for scientific productivity,” COL (ret) Trego said. “She has provided publication mentoring and training for nurses for more than 10 years and has a well-established curriculum and repertoire of training materials at the post-graduate and doctoral levels. We feel incredibly fortunate to have had her lead this effort.”



Students, Military Women’s Health RIG leaders, and Dr. Nancy Lowe gathered for a photo during the Writing for Publication Workshop.

The workshop, held 20–21 September in Denver, was a chance for attendees to learn in an in-person environment, without the other personal and professional responsibilities that often impede researchers’ opportunities to sit down and write.

MWHRIG members LT Whitney Brock, NC, USN; CDR Jennifer Buechel, NC, USN; Lt Col Miev Carhart, USAF, NC; Col Linda Hagemann, USAF, NC; LCDR Yvonne Marengo, NC, USN; LTC Ida Montgomery, AN, USA; Maj Paula Neeman, USAF, NC; and Maj Heidi Radmer, USAF, NC, joined mentors Col Wilson and COL (ret) Trego for the session with Dr. Lowe. Participants were required to submit information about their intended manuscript in advance, including the purpose, target journal, outline, and paper introduction.

In addition to recommending the current American Psychological Association (APA) manual, Dr. Lowe recommended the following two texts for the attendees and anyone interested in developing professional writing skills in nursing:

- Oermann, M. H., & Hays, J. C. (2016). *Writing for publication in nursing* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Springer.
- Cook, C. K. (1985). *Line by line: How to edit your own writing*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

“Writing productively is essential to military nursing scholarship,” said workshop participant CDR Buechel. “Many individuals find the scientific writing experience to be overwhelming, time consuming, and discouraging. I am thankful that the leaders

of the Military Women’s Health RIG recognize that dissemination of research is critical to advance women’s military health, while simultaneously realizing that many researchers experience barriers to writing for publication. I am grateful for this opportunity to take time out to develop my writing skills at the RIG’s writing workshop.”

Planning for 2018

Looking ahead to 2018, the TSNRP Resource Center has an exciting year full of offerings planned, including a newly designed EBP Workshop that includes a 1-day course, as well as training for EBP coaches at the individual site. Plans are currently under way to offer the workshop at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in January 2018 and at Naval Medical Center San Diego in

February 2018. Military treatment facilities interested in hosting a TSNRP-sponsored EBP workshop should contact the Resource Center for more information.

In addition to the EBP Workshop, planning is under way for the next Research and EBP Dissemination Course, currently scheduled for 30 April–4 May 2018 in San Antonio, Texas; the 2018 Research and EBP Grant Camp, 9–13 July, in San Diego, California; and a new Scientific Writing Workshop tentatively scheduled for September 2018 in San Antonio, Texas. All of these courses are pending official approval, but look for registration information on the TSNRP website as the dates get closer. 🔥

Grant Camp Participants Tour USNS Mercy

The last day of Grant Camp featured an opportunity to get out of the classroom and visit the USNS *Mercy*, homeported in San Diego, California. The ship is a mobile surgical hospital providing medical services to support deployed troops, as well as humanitarian aid.



The USNS *Mercy*, one of two hospital ships in the U.S. Navy fleet, provides humanitarian aid in times of natural disaster, as well as support for deployed U.S. troops.

Grant Camp students and faculty and TSNRP staff received a tour of the hospital ship, organized by CAPT Heather King, NC, USN, and discussed its mobile capabilities and readiness.



Grant Camp faculty and students and TSNRP staff toured the USNS *Mercy* on the last day of Grant Camp 2017.