

# Research Interest Groups Connect at TSNRP Dissemination Course

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At any given time, TSNRP's Research Interest Groups (RIGs) carry out many collaborative projects across geographic boundaries. But when the time comes, once a year, for many of the RIG members to meet and recharge in person, you can bet it's the highlight of the RIG year. This spring was no different, as the RIGs met in Elliccott City during the TSNRP Research and EBP Dissemination Course.

During the course, members of the six RIGs—four established (Anesthesia, Biobehavioral Health, En Route Care, and Military Women's Health) and two emerging (Military Family and Health Systems/Informatics)—networked and planned their activities for the coming months. Each RIG had the opportunity to meet during three planned activities—networking breakfasts, focused breakout sessions, and RIG meetings—for those interested in their topical areas.

The individual RIG breakout sessions allowed each group to highlight the important work being done in its space. Each RIG helped select a set of four abstracts to highlight during RIG podium lectures. RIG leaders moderated these sessions to set the stage for those working in these topical areas and encourage discussion among attendees. For the **Anesthesia RIG** (ARIG), Lt Col Shawna Greiner, USAF, NC, hosted one of two breakouts. "The ARIG sessions were a great opportunity for federal nurses to disseminate anesthesia science among colleagues," she said.

As they do every year, each RIG took the opportunity to have a general meeting with course attendees involved and interested in its topic area. RIG leaders directed discussions on current projects and plans for future collaboration. For some, it was a first time to connect in person—and those personal connections built new partnerships within and between RIGs. After meeting with other like-minded nurse researchers, two nurse researchers interested in bringing those working in **Informatics** into the RIG arena—Maj Cubby Gardner and CDR Lalon Kasuske—met with leaders of the emerging RIG in **Health Systems**. Together, they decided that both groups could benefit from combining efforts. "We realized this was a golden opportunity to literally 'join forces' between our proposed RIGs. Our teams will be richer because we're working together, and I'm so excited about the perspective and knowledge that they bring to



CDR Lalon Kasuske, LTC Pauline Swiger, and Maj Cubby Gardner meet with attendees interested in the emerging Health Systems/Informatics RIG during its RIG breakfast.

the table," said LTC Pauline Swiger, AN, USA, a co-lead of the Health Systems/Informatics RIG.

New this year, each RIG invited those working in its areas of interest to join the group for a networking breakfast. **En Route Care** used the time to talk about interest in an emerging RIG workgroup, Disaster Response. "This was an opportunity for many of us who have thought of En Route Care only in the context of combat casualty care to see how other situations may require different en route care skills," said CDR Virginia Blackman, NC, USN. "Best of all were the opportunities to identify people with similar interests and expertise. These conversations are the essential first step to new research collaborations."

Additionally, the four established RIGs each offered a plenary lecture to highlight the work being done by each of the teams. One of the four featured a recently completed comprehensive scoping review of literature in **Military Women's Health**. The talk, led by CAPT(ret) Jacqueline Rychnovsky, NC, USN, and CDR Abigail Marter Yablonsky, NC, USN, outlined the impressive work of the project team at Naval Health Research Center to categorize, classify, and summarize military women's health research published between 2000 and 2015.

"The core members of the Women's Health RIG are grateful to the Army, Navy, and Air Force Nurse Corps Chiefs for their ongoing support through TSNRP to make our vision of completing this project a reality," said CAPT(ret) Rychnovsky. "We are also immensely thankful to Navy Medicine and the team of epidemiologists, public

health experts, and volunteer subject matter experts for the countless hours spent in reviewing and grading the evidence required to complete this one-of-a-kind scoping review, which will guide the military's women's health agenda for years to come."

A workgroup from the **Biobehavioral Health RIG**, including Col Brenda Morgan, USAF, NC; LTC Kristal Melvin, AN, USA; and CDR Blackman, prepared a presentation about the approval of survey research in the Department of Defense. "We had no idea how complex the process could be," said LTC Melvin, "but we also learned about some Service-specific resources and people who can help us to figure out the process." The lecture was well attended and received, and the presenters are pleased to share their tips and points-of-contact sheet with anyone interested. The team's helpful handout, featuring tips on the front side and helpful points of contact in the process on the back, is available for PDF download on the BHRIG's webpage at [triservicenursing.org](http://triservicenursing.org).

The exploratory **Military Family RIG** used its geographic proximity to the Baltimore-D.C. area to its advantage, inviting Johns Hopkins School of Nursing faculty member Dr. Deborah Gross to meet with the group. Dr. Gross developed the "Chicago Parent Program," a video- and group-based parenting skills training series for parents of young children. "We were so impressed by the amazing parenting work of Dr. Gross and her team," said CDR Yablonsky. "Since our day-to-day RIG activities are phone- and Internet-based, it was a real treat for us to meet Dr. Gross and her postdoctoral student Dr. Jennifer Trautmann for in-person questions and conversation."

After the Dissemination Course, the **RIG leaders** were invited to join TSNRP Executive Director Lt Col Jennifer Hatzfeld, USAF, NC, and TSNRP Research Agenda Program Coordinator Megan Foradori for an additional day to talk about the past year's RIG lessons



BHRIG Members Col Brenda Morgan, LTC Kristal Melvin, and CDR Virginia Blackman presented a lecture on navigating the survey approval process in the Department of Defense.

learned, plan for the coming RIG year, and discuss the RIGs' involvement in the 2018 Dissemination Course. To kick off the day, RIG leaders had the opportunity to experience some hands-on team building and learning. Attendees broke up into teams to take on the "Marshmallow Challenge," working together to build a tower with only spaghetti, string, and tape to support the weight of a marshmallow. Special congratulations to the winners of the challenge: LTC Swiger (Health Systems/ Informatics), LTC Melvin (Family), Dr. Nancy Steele (Women's Health), and LCDR Allyson Whalen, NC, USN (Family)!

To cap off all the RIG excitement this spring, the new RIG website has gone live! Log on to [triservicenursing.org](http://triservicenursing.org) to find out more about the RIGs' activities and upcoming events, interesting to RIG members and non-members alike. Anyone can access the public page, which has helpful military nursing research material, and RIG members can request a username and password through the site to sign in to each RIG's collaborative space. 🔥



Members of the Military Family Research Interest Group meet with Dr. Deborah Gross (pictured center-right) during their RIG meeting session to talk about the Chicago Parent Program and interest in bringing this education to military populations.