



SSWR NEWS

Society for Social Work and Research

Volume 10, Number 1

Message from the President...*Paula Allen Meares*

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We hope that you will join us at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), January 15–18, 2004, at the Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme of this year's conference is *Using Diverse Methods to Build Knowledge*. As always, the SSWR Board is committed to ensuring that conference presentations reflect the quality and intellectual diversity that characterize our vibrant organization, and the urgent issues facing the profession and society.

We encourage you to attend the pre-conference workshops, many of which are presented by the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, on Thursday, January 15, 2004. Topics include an overview of NIH funding opportunities, social work research opportunities at the CDC, and how to develop your research question and specific aims. We will also feature pre-conference methodology workshops on January 15 – watch for further information on these. One of the leading experts on HLM, Professor and Research Scientist Stephen Raudenbush from the Institute of Social Research at University of Michigan, will be leading one of the workshops.

On Friday, January 16, 2004, we are very excited to offer a special symposium on Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with Joan Levy Zlotnik, the Executive Director of IASWR, SSWR submitted an R13 conference grant to NIDA, requesting special funding for this daylong session, and we are thrilled that NIDA has funded this important symposium. I want to personally thank Joan for her leadership and support of the society.

This year's Presidential Plenary session will feature Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health. He will be speaking about his priorities for the NIMH, and his belief in the importance of social work research and practice in meeting these goals. Dr. Insel has been a staunch supporter of social workers and a strong believer in the importance of social work research in the treatment and prevention of mental illness, as well as in the fight to improve mental health services and service delivery. We are very honored to have him join us. His presentation, titled *From Science to Service: Mental Health Care Following the Decade of the Brain*, should not be missed.

Special guests at this year's conference include Professor Claudia J. Coulton, the Lillian F. Harris Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, at Case Western Reserve University, who will be presenting the Aaron Rosen Lecture, and Dr. David Fanshel, Professor Emeritus of the Columbia School of Social Work, who will receive this year's Distinguished Achievement Award, recognizing his contribution to social work research.

Before saying more about the 2004 conference, I want to recognize current and past Board members for their commitment and support of the goals and ideals of SSWR. I wish to thank Vice President Lynn Videka, who is serving as our Program Chair, and has been facilitating the review of conference abstracts and proposals. I am so pleased, and we are so lucky, to have her expertise and energy in this vital role. Thanks also to Jeane Anastas, last year's Program Chair, who has been invaluable in offering advice and support to Lynn and the program committee. Lynn has put together an outstanding program committee, consisting of Julian Chow, Jeanne Marsh, Deborah Padgett, Karen Sowers, Mark Fraser, and Joan Zlotnik.

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Conference Update

Lynn Videka, Vice President & 2004 Conference Chair

I am pleased to report that the planning for the 8th Annual SSWR Conference is well under way. Seven hundred sixty-four abstracts have been received. This is an all-time high; interest in participating in the SSWR conference continues to grow as our conference continues to flourish.

A Conference Planning Committee has been inaugurated this year. Members are listed in President Allen-Meares' column. The committee has been responsible for creating new preconference methodology workshops, for nominating reviewers, and for recommending policies regarding conference reviews and other conference matters.

New this year will be two SSWR-sponsored preconference methodology workshops, to be offered on January 15. While these sessions will require additional fees to cover workshop-specific costs, and enrollment will be limited and based on a first-come-first-serve basis, we believe you will find them exciting and worthwhile. Watch your email for registration information, since these preconference methodology sessions were not included in the preliminary program.

The two methodology preconference workshops certainly reflect the conference theme, "Using Diverse Problems to Build Knowledge." Stephen Raudenbush will offer an all-day, hands-on workshop on hierarchical linear modeling. Raudenbush, Professor of Education and Statistics and Senior Research Scientist at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, has been a pioneer developer of modern HLM methods. He is the author of *Hierarchical Linear Models: Applications and Data Analysis Methods* (2001, Sage Publications).

In addition to Raudenbush's quantitative workshop, Robert Stake will offer an all day session on case study methodology. Stake, Professor of Education and Director of the Center for Instructional Research and Curriculum Evaluation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is the author of *The Art of Case Study Research* (1995, Sage Publications).

IASWR will continue to sponsor pre-conference sessions, including some advanced and specialized sessions that are new this year. Another new feature this year is the NIDA-funded special symposium on Substance Abuse and HIV-AIDS. The Symposium, the product of collaboration between SSWR and IASWR, will feature interdisciplinary presenters who are leading HIV researchers.

The conference format will remain similar to that of previous years, with papers, workshops, symposium, and poster sessions. There will be scintillating methodological sessions in addition to substantive sessions on topics of interest central to social work including child welfare, domestic violence, education, welfare and work, cultural diversity, family issues, mental health, social work practice, and substance abuse. The professions major research awards will be presented, including the Outstanding Dissertation and Outstanding Published Research Awards, the Aaron Rosen Lecture, and the SSWR Distinguished Achievement Award.

Abstract reviews have been completed, and presenters have been notified regarding their submissions. Many thanks to the hardworking conference abstract review committee. Their names are listed below:

Neil Abell, Florida State University
 Leslie Alexander, Bryn Mawr College
 Jeanne Anastas, New York University
 Barbara Berkman, Columbia University
 David Biegel, Case Western Reserve University
 Beverly Black, Wayne State University
 James Blackburn, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
 Gary Bowen, University of North Carolina
 Denise Burnette, Columbia University
 John Brekke, University of Southern California
 Jill Berrick, University of California, Berkeley
 Stan Bowie, University of Tennessee
 Bonnie Carlson, University at Albany, SUNY
 Julian Chow, University of California, Berkeley
 Paul Colson, Columbia University
 Terri Combs-Orme, University of Tennessee
 Kevin Corcoran, Portland State university
 Ram Cnaan, University of Pennsylvania
 Sandra Danziger, University of Michigan
 Martha Dore, Casey Family Programs
 James Drisko, Smith College
 Nabila El-Bassel, Columbia University
 Diane Elze, Washington University
 Joyce Everett, Smith College
 Antoinette Farmer, Rutgers University
 G. Lawrence Farmer, Rutgers University

Mark Fraser, University of North Carolina
 Ricky Fortune, University at Albany, SUNY
 Zvi Gellis, University at Albany, SUNY
 Wallace Gingerich, Case Western Reserve University
 Shenyang Guo, University of North Carolina
 Jan Hagen, University at Albany, SUNY
 Eric Hardiman, University at Albany, SUNY
 Jesse Harris, University of Maryland
 Wen-Jui Han, Columbia University
 Todd Herrenkohl, University of Washington
 Gary Holden, New York University
 Nancy Hooyman, University of Washington
 Jeff Jenson, University of Denver
 Melissa Jonson-Reid, Washington University
 Lani Jones, University at Albany, SUNY
 Waldo Klein, University of Connecticut
 Michael LaSala, Rutgers University
 Daniel Meyer, University of Wisconsin
 Gerald Mallon, Hunter College
 Ruth McRoy, University of Texas, Austin
 William Meezan, University of Michigan
 Robert Miller, University at Albany, SUNY
 Nancy Morrow-Howell, Washington University
 Lucy Newman, University at Albany, SUNY
 Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Virginia Commonwealth University

Paula Nurius, University of Washington
 John Orme, University of Tennessee
 Martha Ozawa, Washington University
 Deborah Padgett, New York University
 Janet Perloff, University at Albany, SUNY
 Kathleen J. Pottick, Rutgers University
 Cheryl Regehr, University of Toronto
 William Reid, University at Albany, SUNY
 Michael Reisch, University of Michigan
 Al Roberts, Rutgers University
 William Rowe, University of South Florida
 Allen Rubin, University of Texas, Austin
 Mary Ruffolo, University of Michigan
 Andrew Safyer, University at Buffalo, SUNY
 Roberta Sands, University of Pennsylvania
 John Schuerman, University of Chicago
 Carolyn Smith, University at Albany, SUNY
 Sharon Smith, Rutgers University
 Phyllis Solomon, University of Pennsylvania
 Karen Sowers, University of Tennessee
 Gail Steketee, Boston University
 Barbara Thomlison, Florida International University
 Richard Tolman, University of Michigan
 Lynn Warner, Rutgers University
 Wilma Peebles Wilkins, Boston University
 James Herbert Williams, Washington University

The conference site is the beautiful Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans' Garden District. The conference promises to be intellectually stimulating in an enjoyable environment conducive to meeting old (and young) colleagues and to making new colleagues and friends. I hope to see you there!

Special Features at the 2004 Conference

- Early registration. You will be able to pre-register on Thursday, January 15, 2004.
- A greatly expanded exhibition area.
- Pre-conference workshops, on Thursday, January 15, 2004, presented by IASWR, and new this year, pre-conference methodology workshops presented by SSWR.
- A time to network and socialize on Thursday, January 15, 2004 (cash bar).
- A number of events planned specifically for doctoral students, including a Doctoral Student Panel and President's Reception on Thursday, January 15, 2004, and the Outstanding Dissertation Award, to be given during the Awards Ceremony Friday evening, January 16, 2004.
- The Hartford Geriatric Social Work Initiative's breakfast meeting on Friday morning, January 16, 2004, to provide information about this exciting opportunity for doctoral students and faculty interested in social work research on aging.
- Continuing education credit, provided by the Tulane University School of Social Work for workshop participants. There is no fee for these CEU's, but there is a fee for the certificate.
- We have asked schools and job candidates to refrain from interviewing during conference sessions, and to confine these activities to the days of the pre-conference workshops, the afternoon of the membership meeting, and appropriate meal times during the conference so that all can fully participate in the conference activities.
- SSWR/IASWR and NIDA Substance Abuse/HIV/AIDS Symposium on Friday, January 16, 2004.
- The Presidential Plenary on Friday, January 16, 2004, entitled *From Science to Service: Mental Health Care Following the Decade of the Brain* featuring Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health. The Presidential reception will follow Dr. Insel's remarks on the International Terrace of the Fairmont Hotel.
- Dr. David Fanshel, Professor Emeritus of the Columbia University School of Social Work, will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award.
- Several interest groups are scheduled to meet at mid-day on January 16 and 17, 2004. We hope that you will attend the interest group meeting(s) of your choice and visit the poster exhibits at that time.
- The Aaron Rosen Endowed Lecture, scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2004 will be given by Dr. Claudia Coulton of Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School for Applied Social Science.
- The membership breakfast meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2004. During the meeting, the SSWR Board will take care of official business, and report to you on the status of the Society and the results of our strategic planning meetings. Ample time will be left to hear from you about how we can ensure that SSWR, and especially the conference, is meeting your needs. We truly want to know how to make the conference better. ■

NEW ABSTRACT WORD LIMIT

Based on requests from the membership, all abstracts submitted for future conferences will be limited to 500 rather than 300 words. This will ensure that those who submit abstracts will have an opportunity to present their ideas more fully than in the past. It will also give reviewers more complete information upon which to base their recommendations.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education Credit will be provided by the Tulane University School of Social Work. A CE participant form must be completed and turned in at the end of the conference. Indicate on your conference registration form that you want a continuing education certificate.



CONFERENCES

2005

Miami, FL
Hyatt Regency Miami
January 13-16, 2005

2006

San Antonio, TX
Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk
January 12-15, 2006

2007

San Francisco, CA
Hyatt Regency San Francisco at
Embarcadero Center
January 11-14, 2007

2008

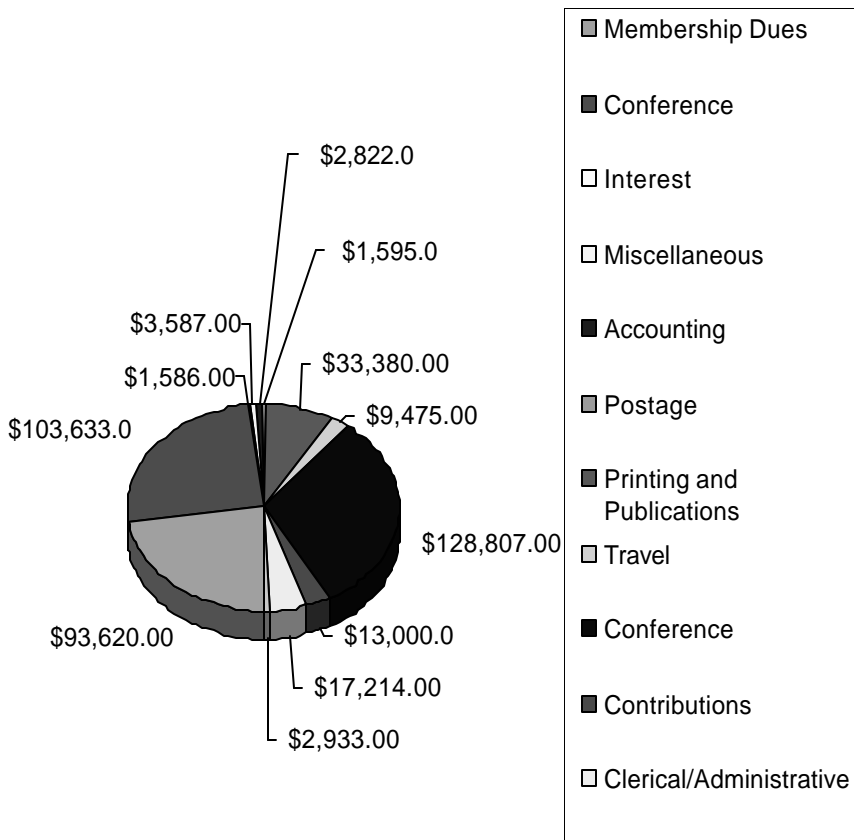
Planned for Washington DC. Dates and Location to be determined

Financial Report—Calendar Year 2002

Dan Herman, Treasurer

The financial condition of the organization is strong. Our fund balance, which was \$159,705 at the end of last year, is approximately \$200,000 as of 9/20/03. We anticipate that expenses will increase somewhat over the next two years as we continue to develop the infrastructure needed to serve our large and growing organization. We expect that the dues increase that was recently instituted, in combination with increased revenue from the annual meeting, will permit us to meet these expenses.

Revenues	
Membership Dues	93,620
Conference	103,633
Interest	1,586
Miscellaneous	3,587
Total Revenue	\$202,456
Expenses	
Accounting	2,822
Postage	1,595
Printing and Publications	33,380
Travel	9,475
Conference	128,807
Contributions	13,000
Clerical/Administrative	17,214
Miscellaneous	2,933
Total Expenses	\$209,226
Net Projected Deficit for Year	\$6,770



A projected Revenue-Expense summary for the organization is as follows:

	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Total Assets	\$166,475	\$159,705
Total Liabilities	0	0
Fund Balance	\$166,475	\$159,705

Update for Student Members

T. Chedgzsey Smith-McKeever Student Member-At-Large

I want to begin by thanking you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to represent you on the Board of the Society for Social Work and Research. Since I was elected to the position of Doctoral Student Member-at-Large, SSWR has grown as an organization and has, in turn, continued to find ways to strengthen its commitment to its student members. The Society sees doctoral students as very important and valuable members of the social work research community. I am proud to have been a member of the Board during the time that SSWR began to recognize students with the Dissertation Research awards. It is my hope that in the future SSWR will also be able to offer dissertation research grants. As I now become a "Non-Student" Member of SSWR, I will continue to work toward that goal.

2004 Conference News

As with each SSWR conference, the 2004 Conference will offer workshops of special interest to our Doctoral Student Members. This year's IASWR pre-conference workshops will provide students with information on research opportunities and priorities at The CDC and NIH Institutes and Centers, as well as offer training on the NIH review process and proposal development.

On Thursday afternoon a special panel for doctoral students will convene at 4:00 pm to present students with information to aid them in their transition from students to research professionals. Along with presentations by previous panelists on completing the dissertation, getting published, and the academic job interview processes, this year's panelists will include Dr. Ruth McRoy of the University of Texas at Austin who will discuss employment at a Research I Institution, and Professor Waldo Johnson of the University of Chicago, who will discuss the tenure process for new faculty.

The Doctoral Student Panel will be immediately followed by SSWR President's Annual Doctoral Student Reception, which will give doctoral student members the opportunity to meet and

socialize with SSWR Board Members.

Job Seekers' Registry

Both job seekers and perspective employers alike let us know in their conference evaluations how valuable the Job Seekers' Registry has been for them. In an effort to better organize and facilitate the job interview process, we have implemented a new system for the Job Seekers' Registry. Starting with the 2004 conference, position announcements for employers who will be conducting interviews at the conference will be posted on the SSWR web-site in early November. This will provide job seekers the opportunity to contact schools and schedule interviews prior to the conference. Job seekers' CVs, along with information on how to contact them during the conference, will be made available to perspective employers throughout the conference as well. This service is made available to SSWR student members at no charge.

As in the past, schools and job candidates have been asked to refrain from interviewing during conference sessions. These activities, if possible, should be confined to the days of the pre-conference workshops, the afternoon of the membership meeting, and appropriate meal times during the conference. While doctoral students are often not in the position to turn down interviews offered at other times that conflict with conference sessions, we hope that this norm at the conference will be adopted by prospective employers.

SSWR Student Representative Elections

You may have noticed that in the revisions to the SSWR Bylaws a proposal was made to change the Doctoral Student Member-at-Large position from a four-year to a two-year period. This change was suggested by the Board so as to ensure that the Doctoral Student Member would be a student during their entire time on the Board, and to give more students the opportunity to have the experience of serving on the Board. Elections for the SSWR Board will take place soon. Serving as the Student Member-at-Large has been a wonderful opportunity for me, and I encourage you to consider running for the position. ▶

Membership to Vote on Bylaw Changes

By Bill Meezan, Secretary and Chair Bylaws Revision Committee

During the course of the last year, it became apparent to the SSWR Board of Directors that there was a need to revise the Bylaws of the organization to provide for greater specificity in the Society's governance structure, further articulate procedures, and guarantee greater accountability to the membership. If approved by the membership, a more complex but well-articulated set of governing principles and structures will be put into place.

A number of general changes are reflected in these proposed Bylaws. They define a quorum of the Board and establish that a majority vote of the Board is needed to pass motions and take actions. They allow for the business of the Board and votes of the membership to be conducted electronically via email. They reorganize the Bylaws so that all of materials pertaining to the same issue appear in the same article. Further, a number of Articles in the Bylaws have been renamed in order to more accurately de-

scribe what that Article is about. Finally, the Articles of the Bylaws are renumbered so that the Articles are now numbered consecutively in the document.

More specific changes are also proposed in the revised Bylaws. Specifics present in the Bylaws are brought into conformity with the current Membership Brochure, which has changed over the years. The new Bylaws provide for the election of a Vice-President Elect, a new Board Position, so that the Vice President is not burdened for more than one year in his/her capacity as the Chair of the Program Committee (see below). The terms of the Secretary, Treasurer and 4 of the 5 Members-at-Large are extended to three years to ensure that the officers have sufficient time to master their jobs and to guarantee continuity of membership on the Board. And, while the student Member-at-Large's term remains two years due to the uncertain length of student status, election to this position is limited to a second or third year doctoral student to ensure that the he/she is 'in touch'

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2004 Awards Process Underway

As in previous years, an Outstanding Research Award and Outstanding Social Work Dissertation Awards will again be presented at this year's conference. Jeanne Marsh, Chair of the Awards Committee and a Member-at-Large of the Board, will present these awards following the Presidential Plenary on January 16, 2004. The Awards Committee would like to thank Dr. Waldo E. Johnson for his help in coordinating activities associated with the review process, and the following members of the society who reviewed manuscripts so that a true peer review process could determine those who will be honored:

Rick Barth, *University of North Carolina*
 Amy Butler, *University of Iowa*
 John Brekke, *University of Southern California*
 Bonnie Carlson, *University at Albany*
 Robert Chaskin, *University of Chicago*
 Terri Combs-Orme, *University of Tennessee*
 Kevin Corcoran, *Portland State University*
 Maria Vidal de Haymes, *Loyola University*
 Jorge Delva, *University of Michigan*
 Sadhna Diwan, *University of Chicago*
 Martha Dore, *Casey Family Programs*
 Kathleen Ell, *University of Southern California*

Sarah Gehlert, *University of Chicago*
 Zvi Gellis, *University at Albany*
 Sean Joe, *University of Pennsylvania*
 Susan Lambert, *University of Chicago*
 John Orme, *University of Tennessee*
 Elsie Pinkston, *University of Chicago*
 Miriam Potocky-Tripodi, *Florida International University*
 Mary Ruffolo, *University of Michigan*
 Tina Rzepnicki, *University of Chicago*
 Andrew Safyer, *University at Buffalo*
 Brenda Smith, *University at Albany*
 Barbara Thomlison, *Florida International University*

Report from the Awards Committee

Jeanne Marsh
Member-at-Large and Chair, Awards Committee

The following awards were announced at the Seventh Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC, January 2003:

2003 Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Steven P. Segal, Professor
 School of Social Welfare
 University of California at Berkeley

2003 Outstanding Research Award

Dr. Sondra G. Beverly, Assistant Professor
 School of Social Work
 University of Kansas

2003 Outstanding Social Work Dissertation Award First Place

Dr. Michelle Wolf Acree, Assistant Professor
 School of Social Work
 Western Kentucky University

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Virginia Commonwealth University

Honorable Mentions

Dr. Lawrence M. Berger, Post-doctoral Fellow
 Woodrow Wilson School
 Princeton University
 Dissertation Chair: Dr. Jane Waldfogel, Columbia University

Dr. Christopher Masi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
 University of Chicago
 Dissertation Chair: Dr. Edward Lawlor, University of Chicago

Dr. Younghee Lim, Post-doctoral fellow
 Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
 Case Western Reserve University
 Dissertation Chair: Dr. Rebecca Kim, Ohio State University

Congratulations

David Fanshel
 Professor Emeritus
 Columbia University School of Social Work

For being chosen for this year's Distinguished
 Achievement Award

Claudia J. Coulton
 Lillian F. Harris Professor
 Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
 Case Western Reserve University

For being chosen to present this year's
 Aaron Rosen Lecture

ANSWER Update

Karen Sowers
Member-at-Large

Since the beginning of the year, the Action Network for Social Work Education and Research (ANSWER) Coalition, to which SSWR belongs, has been working hard on Capitol Hill to obtain co-sponsors for the National Center for Social Work Research Act (S.73/H.R.844). If passed, S.73/H.R.844 would authorize the establishment of a social work research center to support, promote, and disseminate research on the prevention and treatment of critical health and social problems. Originally the ANSWER Coalition sought to have the research center placed within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). However, NIH is in the process of consolidating programs and institutes rather than establishing new ones. Therefore, ANSWER's focus is expanding to include other potential locations to house the research center, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Both the Senate and House versions of the bill, introduced by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX) respectively, now have bipartisan support! In addition to Sen. Inouye's sponsorship, S.73 is now co-sponsored by Senators Mikulski (D-MD), who is a social worker, and Snowe (R-ME). H.R.844 currently has 40 co-sponsors, five of whom are Republicans. The ANSWER Coalition is especially pleased to have bi-

partisan support of the bills. Since the Republican Party holds the majority in the Senate and House, support of the bill by Republicans is essential for passage. The full list of co-sponsors may be viewed at:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/answer/legislation/cosponsors.asp>.

Co-sponsorship of the bills has increased mainly due to the efforts made by the ANSWER Coalition's member organizations, as well as by individual social workers across the country. During the ANSWER Coalition meeting in April 2003, participants visited the Capitol Hill offices of several Senators and Representatives to discuss the bills. This process was continued in September; when once again Coalition members visited Capital Hill. In addition to these meetings, individual social workers have written, called, and visited with their members of Congress in both Washington and in their home state offices. These advocacy efforts have proven to be effective and will continue through the end of the year.

To find out more about the ANSWER Coalition and the National Center for Social Work Research Act, including how you as an individual or as an entire social work education program can advocate for the passage of the legislation, please visit the ANSWER web page at:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/answer/default.asp>

Membership News

Rami Benbinishty at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has chaired a committee that met for four years to develop a new law on the Rights of Children in Out of Home Placements which addresses the needs and rights of children based on the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child. He also received the Rector's Prize at Hebrew University for his empirical work with **Anat Zeira** (Hebrew University) and **Ron Avi Astor** of the University of Southern California on school violence in Israel. This work has had a major impact on the public discourse and policy in this area.

Vantage Point, Inc., the agency begun about 4 years ago by **Kathleen Carty**, received a \$350,000 grant from the Department of Corrections in Rhode Island to conduct a batterers' intervention program with both male and female inmates over the next 5 years.

Cynthia A. Cook of St. Louis University has been awarded a one semester leave from faculty responsibilities to develop an NIH grant proposal on the effectiveness of social network intervention in improving the health-related quality of life in the medically ill elderly.

Jorge Delva of the University of Michigan has recently completed Wave II of data collection of a longitudinal study testing if the Florida anti-tobacco media campaign "truth" that targets youth has had an impact on adult tobacco attitudes, beliefs, and use. This year he also became the PI of a three-year randomized clinical trial, funded by the National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), to enhance the oral health and nutrition, and decrease tobacco use, among

1000 adult-child pairs of African Americans in the City of Detroit.

Diana Garland's (Baylor University) book *Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families: Living the Faith Everyday*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003) reports a qualitative study on faith as a systemic, constructed characteristic of families who are participants in American Protestant congregations.

Jane F. Gilgun of the University of Minnesota has presented a number of papers and workshops in Lancaster, UK, North Dakota State University, and Duluth, MN. She is on the planning committee for The First Annual International Conference on Qualitative Research to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in March 2004, and is program chair for the annual conference for the National Council on Family Relations for the 2005 conference to be held in Phoenix Arizona.

R. Kevin Grigsby, Vice Dean for Faculty and Administrative Affairs and Professor of Behavioral Science at the Penn State College of Medicine and Milton S. Hershey Medical Center was the invited speaker for the annual Hinkle Society Lecture

Gary Holden of New York University gave a virtual plenary presentation via Internet2 at a conference entitled International Social Welfare Policy and Practice for Vulnerable Groups: International Perspectives on Social Justice and Technology, at the Universities of Calgary and Regina in Canada on May 16.

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IASWRreporting...

Joan Levy Zlotnik
Executive Director, IASWR

In this our 10th Anniversary year, the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR) is pleased to provide the membership of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) with an update of our activities and plans. As part of our anniversary celebration, we will enjoy the special recognition by several of our supporting organizations at their annual meetings in the fall of 2003, and we look forward to continuing celebratory events in 2004.

IASWR and SSWR have joined together in a number of ventures during 2003 and have great plans for the 2004 annual conference. In addition to the day of IASWR-sponsored pre-conference workshops, we have organized the NIDA-funded symposium on January 16, *Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS – Medical and Social Consequences*. This is a “first” in many ways – the first time the SSWR conference is hosting a symposium track within the conference, the first NIDA conference grant awarded to IASWR supporting research dissemination, and the first focus on a specific issue area for extended and in-depth presentation of findings.

Another cooperative venture for IASWR, which grew from the encouragement of SSWR President-Elect Deborah Padgett in her role as representative to the IASWR board, was the two-session summer workshop *Rigorous and Relevant: Qualitative Methods in Social Work Research*. Deborah and James Drisko were the primary faculty, along with guest faculty Suzanne Heurtin-Roberts of the National Cancer Institute. The workshop was a two-day overview of qualitative methodology from epistemology, through design and analysis, to writing for publication. The evaluations by the 101 attendees at the two sessions were glowing, and included many requests for “more.” Almost 40% of the attendees were doctoral students.

IASWR was instrumental in arranging introductory meetings for leaders of the social work profession with Thomas Insel, MD, new director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Carolyn Clancy, MD, recently appointed director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Raynard Kington, MD, recently appointed Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health. IASWR also joined SSWR and other social work leadership organizations at the annual NIMH Research Roundtable, in which NIMH highlights latest recent research findings and invites dialogue with representatives from the national mental health advocacy and services community.

In recent months IASWR hosted a number of day-long workshops or meetings aimed at linking social work research with the practice community and other related disciplines. In June, the Casey Family Services supported a researcher-practitioner gathering around linking community and academe in researching children's services. More than thirty participants from New England social work education programs and child welfare agencies met at Casey's Lowell, MA offices, heard presentations on models for research and skill-building in research proposal development, as well as to gather in groups of mutual interests to explore ideas for future research projects in that region. Diane DePanfilis and Mary Ruffolo, SSWR members, served as expert faculty.

In July, the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control supported the convening of social workers and CDC staff to explore social work and public health

linkages. “*Social Work Contributions to Public Health: Bridging Research and Practice in Violence Prevention – Lessons from Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence*” was the theme for presentations by social work researchers from across the US, after which CDC staff joined in creating an agenda for more opportunity for CDC – public health - social work initiatives. The forum was one part of a year long project between IASWR and CDC to strengthen connections between CDC and the social work community. Another project product is a monograph detailing a range of research and training efforts across the social work community that highlight social work's contributions to the CDC Injury Prevention Agenda (to view the CDC agenda visit http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/research_agenda/Research%20Agenda.pdf). IASWR's monograph served as background for the meeting and will be available from the IASWR website at a later date. The more than 30 participants, including SSWR Board Member James Herbert Williams, created new networks and opportunities for collaboration. The commonalities of mission between social work and public health, and the large number of social work programs undertaking research and involved in community development and prevention efforts, provides an important venue for further collaborations with the CDC Injury Center and other CDC divisions.

Another focus area has been that of cancer-related research. Through a grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), IASWR reviewed literature on cancer-related research conducted by social workers, identified social work researchers, and offered suggestions for increasing this important arena of evidence-based practice. This follows the successful completion of the *Project SAFE* toolkit, funded by CDC, based on research by SSWR members Kathy Eil, Betsy Vourlekis, and Deborah Padgett.

The 2004 pre-SSWR conference workshops events, on Thursday, January 15, are presented in detail in the SSWR pre-conference booklet which you have already received. Again we have invited representatives from NIH to SSWR to present on funding mechanisms and research priorities. This year for the first time, CDC has been invited to inform SSWR conference attendees of research opportunities as well.

In our efforts to link research to practice and policy, IASWR has continued to collaborate with the ANSWER coalition. We also assisted the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)'s task force on the development of an NIH social work agenda, including hosting a discussion on social work research between OBSSR staff and IASWR's Scientific Advisory Committee at its meeting in January, 2003. The NIH plan for social work research has just been released, and excerpts appear in this Newsletter. The Congressional request did prompt the development of a cross-NIH task force focused on social work research which included representatives from several Institutes and Centers (ICs), some of whom were social workers, thus providing greater social work visibility and increasing intra-NIH cross-IC communications and planning.

The IASWR weekly online Listserv has expanded to reach more than 1450 subscribers. This alert service provides information and linkages regarding Calls for Papers, Conferences, Funding Opportunities, and resources of interest to social work researchers, students, and teachers of research.

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Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

Jeanne Marsh chairs the Awards Committee. I also serve on this committee along with James Herbert Williams. We would like to thank Dr. Waldo E. Johnson, Jr. of the University of Chicago for chairing the Outstanding Social Work Research Award subcommittee. His outstanding work helped us enormously in our task.

Karen Sowers is representing SSWR at ANSWER meetings, and Enola Proctor, James Herbert Williams, Shanti Khinduka, and I serve on the Rosen Endowed Lecture Committee. Julian Chow is organizing conference volunteers. All have done a stellar job.

Many thanks go to Bill Meezan for his excellent minutes and outstanding organizational skills, which he has put to use for the benefit of the Society. Bill served as the Chair of the Bylaws revisions committee, as the editor of the SSWR newsletter, and will be representing SSWR on the IASWR Board of Directors. President-elect Deborah Padgett is engaged in articulating infrastructure plans for the Board's consideration. Thanks also go to Dan Herman who has been an exemplary manager of the Society's financial affairs, and has helped to organize us as we move into a new era of prospective budgeting.

SSWR President Emeritus Nancy Hooyman has agreed to chair a committee on SSWR archives, an important new initiative of the Society.

I am pleased that Chedgzsey Smith has continued to ably represent doctoral students. She has been an excellent spokesperson, advocating program content that addresses the unique needs of this group. This year she has become even more involved, taking on a true leadership role. She has taken an important role in organizing the job registry, and has coordinated a panel designed to address the needs of doctoral students seeking research careers. Deans Karen Sowers and Bruce Thyer, and Professors Kevin Corcoran, Ruth McRoy and Waldo Johnson have agreed to serve on this panel which Dr. Smith-McKeever will convene and moderate. I want to applaud Kevin, Bruce, Waldo, Ruth and Karen for their continued service and support.

As you know, for several years the SSWR Board has operated without a consistent administrative infrastructure. Over the years, demands on this volunteer board have exceeded its capacity to respond to all of the many good ideas and projects

IASWR Reporting

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IASWR is grateful for the core funding from its supporting social work organizations, including SSWR, as well as 34 contributing social work education programs. Attempts continue to secure additional funding to allow for more efforts at developing and linking social work researchers, as well as to disseminate social work research to the public and private research, education and practice sectors. One of the oft-repeated words in the evaluations of the qualitative methods workshops was "more." As SSWR has found through its increasing membership and conference attendance, so has IASWR found that there is a call for "more" of what we do – link, facilitate, represent, teach, advocate, and influence. We look forward to providing "more" as we move into our second decade.▶

that have been proposed. We have accomplished several tasks that address this imbalance. First, to facilitate and organize conference planning, the Board decided last year to hire Travelink, Inc., a company that provides professional conference planning services. Headquartered in Asheville, North Carolina, Travelink was highly recommended by our previous conference planner, Dr. Jeanne Werner. Travelink did an amazing job with last year's conference, and we are very pleased to have them working with us on the 2004 conference and into the future.

Second, the SSWR Board held a strategic planning meeting in Washington, DC in January 2003 and another in Ann Arbor, MI in June 2003. We were able to discuss future plans, bylaws, election of officers, financial matters, opportunities for the Society to further its mission, and collaborations with other professional organizations/societies. Consequently, the Society's Bylaws have been examined and rewritten to reflect these discussions, and are currently under consideration by the membership for ratification. In reaction to new growth, added responsibilities, and a forward-looking vision, the bylaws are becoming more concrete in order to more accurately guide the Board of Directors, the Officers, and the Society as a whole as we maintain, and in fact, gain relevance in the social work community. If ratified, the new bylaws will include an articulation of the roles of Board members and the term of office connected to each position on the Board. It will establish and empower committees pertaining to nominations and elections, conference planning, awards, and finance.

I believe that we are moving forward as a stronger, more effective body, and it is our hope that this year's conference will be even more successful than the last.

This year I would also like to thank a number of individuals and organizations, in addition to our marvelous Conference Planning Committee, who have contributed to SSWR's Eighth Annual Conference. Very special thanks go to the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, Adele Godfrey-Certner, Ralph Louis, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and Tulane University Continuing Education Office. Tulane University is providing continuing education units for this year's conference.

As your President, I want you to know that the Society has been invited to attend a number of NIH and NIMH discussions and formal meetings. SSWR is recognized by these and other organizations as the body that represents and advocates on behalf of a scientific base for the profession of social work.

Please mark your calendars for the 2005 SSWR Conference to be held January 13-16, 2005, in Miami, Florida. Feedback from our membership indicates that the Annual Conference should continue to be held in the winter, rather than be moved to the fall when so many other meetings are scheduled.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!▶

JOB SEEKERS REGISTRY

Students looking for a position may email a one page CV for inclusion on an on-site registry available for consultation by potential employers. Indicate on your CV where you will be staying to facilitate making interview appointments. CV should be emailed to Chedgzsey Smith at chedgzse@uic.edu by January 5, 2004.▶

Membership News

(Continued from page 7)

Jeff Jenson received the University of Denver Distinguished Scholar Award for 2002-2003. He is the first social work faculty member to ever receive this award. He also received a grant from the Comprehensive Health Foundation in Seattle to conduct a randomized trial of a prevention curriculum in 26 elementary schools in Denver.

Mansoor A.F. Kazi, of the University of Huddersfield in England has received a grant to perform a Realist Evaluation of Rochdale Children's Fund, with Martin Manby (Nationwide Children's Research Centre) and Treena May. The project is funded by the British government's Child & Young Person Unit as is a similar project being carried out in Lancaster.

Michael C. LaSala of Rutgers University received an RO3 from NIMH for his study entitled "Lesbians, Gays, and Parents: Discovery and Adjustment," in which he will interview gay and lesbian youths and their parents about reactions, adjustments and changes in family dynamics after the discovery that they are gay or lesbian. He also presented a workshop at NIMH on doing interview research with gay and lesbian families at their Annual International Conference on the Role of Families in Preventing and Adapting to HIV/AIDS. In addition, he presented a plenary on doing therapy with gay and lesbian couples at the International Family Therapy Festival in Rome, Italy.

William Meezan and Bowen McBeath of the University of Michigan were awarded funding from the Aspen Institute's Michigan Nonprofit Research Fund, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Skillman Foundation, and the University of Michigan to fund the third year of data collection for their study of the impact of managed care on the delivery of services and the movement of children through the foster care system.

Cheryl Parks of the University of Connecticut was awarded a four year Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development (K-23) grant from NIH/NIAAA. The grant is entitled "Sexual Identity Development and Drinking: Cohort Risks" and the purpose is to develop a program of research on the effects of minority sexual

identity and culture on alcohol use and alcohol-related problems in women.

Susan J. Rose of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee has been funded through NIAAA as a Co-Investigator with Allen Zweben (Principal Investigator), Laura Otto-Salaj, Ron Cisler, and Lance Weinhardt on a five year study entitled "Brief HIV and Alcohol Combined Interventions for Women." This research will test the efficacy of a theory-based HIV risk reduction counseling intervention following state-of-the-art alcohol treatment compared to standard-of-care-like HIV risk education counseling following the same alcohol treatment.

Beth Rosenthal of St. Louis University has been awarded a semester's leave from faculty responsibilities to develop NIH grant proposal on the effectiveness of social network intervention in improving the health-related quality of life in the medically ill elderly.

Beth Spencerin Rosenthal at York College and The Graduate Center of The City University of New York served as Program Director for an \$8 million multi-disciplinary research program funded by NIH (National Institute of General Medical Sciences) during Academic Year 2002-2003. She also continued her own NIH-funded research program concerning the effects of community violence on mental health among urban adolescents.

Gail Steketee will be principal investigator at Boston University School of Social Work on a new NIMH R21 treatment development grant for 3 years to study "Treatment of Compulsive Hoarding." Her collaborators include Randy Frost of the Smith College Department of Psychology and David Tolin of the Hartford Hospital Institute of Living.

Martin B. Tracy of the University of Kentucky is involved in a research/training project as a consultant to the International Labour Organization. The Budapest office of the ILO has a contract with the European Union to identify "good practices" in government and non-government partnerships in delivering social services in eight Stability Pact countries of southeastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, and Serbia/Montenegro.▶

NIH Plan for Social Work Research

The first National Institutes of Health (NIH)-wide plan for social work research has been released. The Congress requested that NIH develop this document in the fiscal year 2003 Congressional Appropriations Committee Reports. Specifically, the Committee urged:

NIH to develop a social work research plan that outlines research priorities, as well as a research agenda, across NIH Institutes and Centers to be reported to the Committee by April 1, 2003 (Senate Report 107-216, page 155).

The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) convened a Social Work Research (SWR) Working Group composed of representatives from NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) and prepared the report. The report details NIH accomplishments relative to social work research, and outlines NIH research priorities in this area to date. Noting that NIH has long recognized the importance of social work research, which spans a number of Institutes and Centers, the report outlines a number of steps that NIH could take to further galvanize social work research at the NIH. The recommendations include:

Social Work Research

1. Establish a SWR Committee as a standing internal committee composed of IC representatives that continues to monitor the state of affairs in the field of social work research as it relates to health and the NIH research agenda. The committee would meet regularly to assess and initiate activities aimed at fostering social work research at the NIH.
2. Expand outreach activities to encourage the submission of investigator initiated research projects focused on studies of social work practice and concepts relevant to missions of each of the NIH Institutes.

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Membership to Vote on Bylaw Changes

(Continued from page 5)

with the concerns of their constituency. Finally, to diversify Board membership over time, the proposed Bylaws call for a limit of two consecutive terms for any Board member, and the inability to succeed oneself in the same capacity on the Board.

The proposed Bylaws also articulate a new pattern of succession should the President not be able to perform his/her duties that take into account the fact that in some years there is a President-elect on the Board while in other years there is not. When there is a President-elect, he/she automatically becomes President if the President cannot perform his/her duties. When there is no President-elect on the Board, the Vice President becomes the acting President until an election can be held for a new the President of the Society.

The new Bylaws, if adopted, will also formally establish a number of standing committees of the Board, specify their composition and their duties, and further specify the responsibilities of a number of the Board members. Newly formed committees include the Program Committee (to be chaired by the Vice President), the

Awards Committee (to be chaired by a member-at-large), and the Finance Committee (to be chaired by the Treasurer). Among the other members-at-large, one will serve as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, and one will coordinate volunteers at the annual conference. The Secretary will have responsibility for the Newsletter and other publications of the Society.

Procedures to be followed by the Nominations and Elections Committee are further spelled out in the proposed Bylaws. This Committee, if established, will decide on a double slate of candidates from those nominated (with write-ins permitted) to be presented to the membership for election. This change will help to avoid an unwieldy number of candidates standing for election, and will all but ensure that members of the Board will have received a true majority of the votes cast in an election.

Finally, to be responsive to the informational needs of the membership, the new Bylaws stipulate that the President is required to report to the membership each year at the annual meeting of the Society on the state of the Society and its likely future direction. They also cede to the membership the right to vote on issues critical to the organization and its functioning, making the governance procedures of the Society more democratic in nature.▶

NIH Plan for Social Work Research

(Continued from page 10)

3. Propose a new Program Announcement entitled *Developmental Research on Social Work Practice and Concepts in Health* to provide the impetus and resources to fully incorporate social work's unique concepts and perspectives into the NIH research portfolio and to build the scientific base to be used by allied health professionals.
4. Implement a competitive supplement for current Research Project (R01) grantees patterned after the minority supplement mechanism. Social work researchers would be added to existing research projects to increase mentoring, research training, and improve competitiveness for NIH funding. This program would also increase interdisciplinary approaches to research studies, adding the unique perspective of social work..

Research Infrastructure/Training

5. Develop and implement an NIH Summer Institute on Social Work Research offering new researchers intensive exposure to issues and challenges in the field of social work research. The program of the Summer Institute would include lectures, seminars, and small group discussions in research design relative to social work as it relates to health, discussion sessions on methodological approaches and interventions, and consultation on the development of research interests and advice on preparing and submitting research grant applications to the NIH.

Information Dissemination and Community Outreach

6. Plan a meeting at NIH, involving all interested ICs and an invited group of deans from schools of social work with doctoral programs to explore the needs of the social work research community and share information about the NIH grant process, highlight areas of research appropriate for social work researchers, and identify the kind of support faculty would need from school administrations in order to be successful in applying for and conducting NIH funded research.
7. Explore the possibility of a joint effort between NIH and social work research organizations to host a conference on the topic of advancing the social work research agenda. This effort would help train social work leaders who would work to build the knowledge base in regard to effective psychosocial interventions to best optimize the well being of individuals and their families.
8. Plan a trans -NIH conference showcasing social work research results relevant to health.
9. Develop and implement coordinated outreach efforts to universities that would include training on writing grants and provide information about research opportunities. This activity could include regional seminars to bring NIH staff to universities and assure that social work researchers are aware and knowledgeable about relevant research training opportunities sponsored by NIH Institutes and Centers.

The full report will be posted on the NIH website.▶

Travelink

Travelink Inc. is honored to be a part of the 2004 SSWR New Orleans Conference. We have enhanced the on-line conference registration process to ensure better communications and response time. The Exhibit Hall has been expanded and the response is exciting. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!



www.sswr.org

Building a Scientific Base for Action

The Society for Social Work and Research is a professional membership society for social workers committed to high quality research. Founded in 1994 as a free-standing membership organization committed to fostering high quality social work research, it works with other organizations committed to improving the quality of and support for social work research. With over 1200 members, the society strives

To foster a support network among social workers interested in or conducting research

To encourage more social workers to become engaged in research activities

To provide formal recognition of significant contributions to research by social workers

To advocate for increased research funding and research training programs, including legislation to establish a federally-funded National Center for Social Work Research

To promote advances in the knowledge base of the social work profession

To promote the application of culturally-sensitive and culturally-relevant research

To promote evidence-based social work practice

Address changes and membership inquiries should be forwarded to

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