

SSWR NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 2

December, 2000

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Atlanta on the Horizon

– See you Soon!

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

In the Future: Increased Visibility and Expanded Affiliations

Nancy Hooyman

President, SSWR

Other articles in this newsletter convey my excitement about the 2001 Annual Conference in Atlanta, and my hope that each of you will join us. Although conference planning has dominated my Presidency since July 2000, I want to share with you some of my priorities for the next 18 months. The Board and I are committed to ensuring that conference presentations and membership reflect the increasing diversity of social work researchers, both in terms of cultural and intellectual experiences and backgrounds. The plenary session on "Working with Culturally Diverse Populations," the increased number of abstracts reflecting diversity by ethnicity/race and by types of research methodologies, and varied interest groups reflect our efforts related to diversity. Our commitment is coupled with our underlying value of pursuing excellence in social work research, evidenced by the quality of presentations and annual awards at the conference.

Now that SSWR is a strong and growing membership organization, it is appropriate that we enhance our national visibility and leadership. As a board member of the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, I am eager to build a new and stronger linkage with IASWR. The number of SSWR members who participated in the IASWR strategic planning

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SSWR News is the newsletter of the **Society for Social Work and Research**. It is published twice yearly. Contributions by members are greatly appreciated.

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT IN THE FUTURE

Continued from previous page.

IASWR. The number of SSWR members who participated in the IASWR strategic planning process and SSWR membership on the IASWR board are two tangible indicators of a new and proactive partnership. Membership support is evidenced by the fact that every member who was contacted by the IASWR President to serve on the strategic planning committee readily agreed. We are also eager to work with IASWR to develop a database of faculty researchers, that can be used when IASWR is meeting with federal and private funders and professional associations.

We also will be partnering more directly with the ANSWER coalition in working for the National Center for Social Work Research. For example, SSWR needs to be more widely recognized within the federal funding community. In addition, President-elect Paula Allen-Meares and I both recently wrote to Dr. Steve Hyman, Director of NIH, regarding the elimination of separate funding for the NIMH Research Development Centers (see p. 5). We requested that SSWR be part of a meeting with him and other social work research leaders. As THE membership organization of social work researchers, we want key decision-makers to be aware of the rich and diverse resources and expertise represented by our members.

At the same time, we must not lose sight of our primary mission to promote quality social work research. As we have become more widely known, we are receiving a growing number of requests to assist with individual projects, identify resources, and permit linkages to our WEBSITE. Given our volunteer structure, I have to be strategic about any new initiatives, and have had to say "no" more than would be desired.

My transition to the role of President has been greatly eased by the generous guidance of immediate past President, Allen Rubin. Allen built a legacy of quality conferences that is a challenge to surpass! Both the Board and I are grateful for Allen's leadership as President and his helpfulness during this transition period. I also look forward to working with President-elect Paula Allen Meares, dean of the University of Michigan School of social Work, who will assume the Presidency July 1, 2002. And special thanks to Kathleen Moffett-Durrett, our new newsletter editor. The board and I are appreciative for her leadership on the newsletter.

My best wishes to each of you for a joyous New Year, and I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta.

A Professional Membership Society for Social Workers Who are Interested in Research

Jeanne Werner

The Society for Social Work and Research was founded in 1994 as a free-standing organization that works collaboratively with other organizations that are committed to improving the support for research among social workers.

SSWR's Membership Benefits

- Reduced registration fee at annual SSWR conference
- SSWR newsletter
- Free subscription to the bimonthly journal: ***Research on Social Work Practice***
- Reduced subscription price for the NASW journal, ***Social Work Research*** (the same price as NASW members)
- Reduced subscription price for the Springer Publishing Company's publication, ***The Journal of Social Work Research and Evaluation: An International Publication*** (20% reduction)
- Inclusion in SSWR membership directory
- Support social work research
- Make visible your support for social work research, especially at the national level

SSWR's Overall Goals

- To foster a support and linkage network among social workers in 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, especially at the federal level
- To promote advances in the knowledge base of the social work profession
- To encourage the betterment of human welfare through research and research publications

SSWR's Immediate Goals

- To continue to sponsor national meetings for sharing research in all aspects of social work, teaching and learning research methods and techniques, and networking
- To maintain a directory and data base of social work researchers
- To continue to publish a newsletter that will provide information about new programs, funding opportunities, training and post-doctoral programs, employment, and advocacy efforts
- To facilitate the availability of the SSWR membership list to funding agencies as a resource for social workers who could serve on grant review committees, panels, and task forces
- To continue to sponsor an awards program for outstanding contributions to social work research
- To collaborate with the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research and ANSWER, especially related to the National Center on Social Work Research

Letter from the President

The SSWR 2001 conference is shaping up to be even better than past years. Deborah Padgett's article on the abstracts process details the number of sessions, and the preliminary program highlighted a number of topics and themes. We are pleased with the high caliber of the submissions, and the peer review process, albeit not perfect, typically results in quality presentations.

A number of changes have been made in response to member's feedback which we hope will be successful this year

- The banquet has been replaced by a Presidential Reception on Saturday night. This will provide an opportunity to enjoy poster sessions and to honor the awardees without sitting through another chicken dinner. We will begin with light refreshments and a chance to mingle and view posters. At 7:00 p.m., the formal part of the evening will begin with my welcome and presentation of awards. Please plan on join in honoring your colleagues on Saturday evening. The reception will end at 8:30, still allowing you time to enjoy downtown Atlanta.
- **Two Presidential plenaries are scheduled:**
- Bridging Research and Practice on Saturday at 4 p.m., immediately preceding the poster sessions and reception and featuring Dr. Nola Proctor, Dr. Luis Zayes and Dr. Janet Williams.
- Research with Culturally Diverse Populations on Sunday at 8:20 AM, featuring Dr. Karina Walters, Dr. Michael Spencer and Dr. Lonnie Snowden, with Dr. Lewayne Gilchrist as moderator

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- Both of these topics are so central to our research and educational missions in the 21st century that we wanted an opportunity for the whole membership to convene and grapple with the issues raised. Time will be available during the plenaries for questions and discussion. We hope that the plenaries will set a framework for continuing dialogue around these issues during the conference.
- The preconference institutes on Friday and Saturday mornings will include workshops by the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR), as has been the case in the past. In addition, the Hartford Geriatric Scholars Program for faculty, the Hartford Geriatric

Fellows Program for doctoral dissertations and the Project on Death in America funded by the Soros Foundation will conduct informational sessions about the programs and application process on Saturday morning.

- The registration process and sessions are starting earlier than in past years, with registration available for those who arrive late Friday afternoon. Those who arrive early and want a chance to meet colleagues are encouraged to stop by the no host reception Friday night. Check with the hotel for location.
- The exhibit area is greatly expanded, with many exhibitors registered at this point.
- A free Teacher and Employee Registry will be maintained in the exhibit hall. This will be a great resource for doctoral candidate identification as well as for candidates to determine which social work programs are interviewing.

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- The membership meeting has been moved to Monday morning as a continental breakfast. We hope this change will make it easier for members to attend. The board and I need to hear from you about how we can ensure that SSWR and especially this conference are meeting your interests and serving to advance social work research. Please plan on attending and share with us how to make the 2002 conference even better.

Given the exciting rapid growth in SSWR membership, we have set aside a block of rooms at the Embassy suites at Olympic Park. The phone is 505-223-2400 or 1-800-EMBASSY. This is directly across the street from the Omni and overlooking Olympic Park. Be sure to mention the SSWR block of rooms to get these rates and access.

The 2002 conference is scheduled for Feb. 16-19, 2002, in San Diego. (Because of limited room availability, we are meeting from Wednesday evening through Sunday morning (so that the Saturday night stay over is possible). We continued to hear members' preferences that the annual conference remain in the winter, rather than be moved to fall when so many other meetings are scheduled. The abstract submission process will be detailed in the conference program, available in Atlanta.

I am most appreciative to the University of Georgia Continuing Education Program and to Deborah Padgett, co-chair for the conference, and Jeanne Anastas, who is in charge of the awards recognition program, for their incredible time and energy in ensuring the success of this conference. and special thanks to the Georgia social work programs for their reception on Sunday evening as well as their efforts to ensure that we enjoy the richness of experiences available in Atlanta.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

National Institute of Mental Health Changes Application Procedure

The National Institute of Mental Health has published notice (MH-00-014) that its Division of Services and Intervention Research (DSIR) will change its support for the following Center grant mechanisms:

PA-99-074
PAR-99-130
PAR-98-020
PAR-94-073

No applications for any of these specific programs were accepted after November 5, 2000. Following the recommendations of the National Advisory Mental Health Council, a new comprehensive Program Announcement

is under development and will be issued this year.

Nancy Hooyman, SSWR President, and Paula Allen-Meares, SSWR President-Elect have written Steve Hyman, Director NIH, regarding the elimination of separate funding for the Research Centers.

Inquiries regarding this notice may be directed to Junius J. Gonzales, MD (jgonzale@mail.nih.gov), Barry D. Lebowitz, Ph.D. (blebowit@mail.nih.gov), or Benedetto Vitiello, M.D. (bvitiell@mail.nih.gov).

*New Collaboration with the
Institute for the
Advancement of Social Work Research*

Many social work educators and researchers are, at times, not clear on the differences between SSWR and the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR). While SSWR is an organization of individual members committed to advancing quality social work research and scholarship, IASWR is composed of the major social work leadership organizations: CSWE, NASW, NADD, BPD, and GADE. I often think of the interconnection as follows: IASWR is working at a national level to create and strengthen the resources through federal and foundation funding that will support the scholarly efforts of SSWR members. In other words, as individual SSWR members, we benefit from the outcomes of IASWR's efforts, such as the NIMH Social Work Research Development Centers, the NIDA development centers, and the CDC funding. A related article by the new Executive Director of IASWR (see p. 14) identifies the goals and current activities of IASWR. And, of course, our doctoral students and junior faculty benefit directly from the various IASWR-sponsored technical assistance workshops, including those at the annual SSWR conference. Many SSWR members are involved with IASWR, either through subcommittees in the strategic planning process or the IASWR Technical Assistance Advisory Board.

In recognition of the ways in which the two organizations mutually support each other's goals, the SSWR Board voted unanimously to provide \$10,000 in support of IASWR. This serves as tangible recognition of how the national efforts of IASWR can and will benefit SSWR's members. At our January board meeting, we will be exploring other ways that we can collaborate, while still retaining our distinctive identities and missions. We welcome your insights and feedback about how to foster collaborative efforts that will serve to support your research goals, either by emailing me at any time (hooy@u.washington.edu) or by attending the membership breakfast meeting at the SSWR conference on Monday, January 22, 8:30 am.

Nancy Hooyman

Practice Guidelines: Whither Social Work

Jeane W. Anastas, MSW, Ph.D.
Vice-President, SSWR

Among the concerns of SSWR is the effective dissemination of research findings into social work practice. Although in many areas we lack adequate research to guide practice, there are now, indeed, many areas in which recent research has much to offer that can enhance the effectiveness of practice in the field. Because of quality assurance, cost-effectiveness, and ethical concerns, some in the behavioral health field have advocated for the development and use of practice guidelines that encapsulate “best practice” models for use by front-line practitioners.

For this reason, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) has been supporting the work of a new organization, the Practice Guidelines Coalition. This multi-disciplinary group intends to develop user-friendly guidelines for practice in behavioral health that are based on the best available research addressing assessment and treatment. Unlike many existing guidelines, those developed by the Coalition will also be non-proprietary. In other words, availability of the guidelines developed by the Coalition will not be limited to members of specific professional organizations or employees of specific service delivery systems, and their development will not be funded by commercial entities, such as pharmaceutical companies.

SSWR has sent a representative to each of the two meetings of potential Coalition member organizations held to date. At the meeting held in Washington, D.C., in October, SSWR and NASW were the only

two social work organizations with representatives present. The first two products developed by the coalition—draft practice guidelines for panic disorder and for chronic back pain—were presented at the meeting.

The methodology used in writing them was very well considered. Each panel included members of consumer groups and consumer representatives, organizations that deliver services (i.e., agencies or managed care entities), individual behavioral health professionals, and scientific experts and was responsible for writing a guideline. While practice guidelines may or may not be research based, guidelines developed by the coalition are specifically anchored in the relevant research literature as identified, evaluated, and interpreted by a separate panel of scientists that summarizes the credible existing research evidence on the issues for the panels.

It was pointed out in the October coalition meeting that approximately 75% of the behavioral health care service delivery in the United States of America today is done by social workers. The plan now is to develop the internal organization of the Coalition and to ask interested professional (and other) organizations to become members, thereby insuring their ongoing input into the development of the many additional practice guidelines to be developed in the future. We are pleased that the Coalition has reached out to include SSWR as a “scientific” member organization within social work and that you, our members, have been recognized in this way.

Continued on the next page.

Practice Guidelines

Continued from previous page.

Can SSWR play a role in ensuring that social work research is included by the Coalition in what is reviewed, in enhancing the involvement of our members who are knowledgeable about research in specific behavioral health issues on the Coalition's scientific and guideline-writing panels, in disseminating the work of the Coalition in the social work academy and within the profession, on in reflecting the perspective of the social work profession as areas are defined and prioritized in the guideline

development process? These are key questions that will guide the SSWR Board of Directors as it considers whether or not becoming a member of the Coalition is in our members' best interest and is an appropriate activity for this organization to take on. If you have feedback for the Board on this issue, please contact us through the website or individually. Meanwhile we will continue to keep you updated on the work of the Coalition and the nature of SSWR's continuing involvement in it.

SSWR WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gary Holden

New York University

Editor's note: *In January, Allen Rubin appointed an ad hoc committee charged with evaluating the SSWR website and making recommendations about the ways in which the site could be improved. Members of the committee were Gary Holden (chair), Wallace Gingerich, Dan Herman, Joanne Levine and David Patterson. Ralph Louis of SSWR and Jim Post provided valuable assistance. As part of their work, they conducted a survey of SSWR members. A summary of the Committee recommendations follows:*

Based on discussions among SSWR WWW Committee members and their survey of the SSWR membership (see p. 9), the Committee has come to believe that SSWR should proceed with modest development of the WWW site to meet members' expressed needs without requiring excessive expenditure of the organizations resources. We recommend the following activities be made available on the site over the next twelve months.

- Update of the appearance of the site
- Update or addition of the following features
 - registration for the annual conference
 - publication of the SSWR Conference and monograph of abstracts
 - ability to update membership information

- SSWR membership list with brief biography and contact information
- discussion forum for social work research
- an electronic version of the SSWR Newsletter
- an expanded list of "links"

The Committee recommended that four to six months after these changes are made, membership be surveyed regarding site revisions. At that point further modification will be considered to reflect the changing needs of the membership and maximize SSWR use of the Web's developing resources.

Finally, 23 national and international organizations were proposed for additional links along with 11 U.S.A. government sites. The Committee included a variety of sites (31) dealing with funding, research, and references.

SSWR World Wide Web Survey Results

The member survey regarding SSWR WWW site features was conducted in the Fall 2000 as an element in the ongoing development of the site. The SSWR Website Committee reported that of the 18.8% of members who responded, 89.6% listed college/university as their primary work setting. The mean hours per day of general WWW use was 2.84, with a median of 2.0.

Members reported higher than average importance for 12 activities some of which were included in the committee report (see previous page). Items which included membership interaction with the Website included application for membership, payment online for dues and conference registration. Members also want to be able to update membership information and have a forum/ mailing list to discuss social work research. To facilitate member communication, the development of a list of SSWR members with biography and contact information ranked high and some members wished to see a data set repository to facilitate research education. There was a recommendation for a job listing/job seeking service.

Finally, the respondents wished to see several changes in publishing capacity and format: publication of the SSWR conference and monograph of abstracts; a registry of current studies being conducted by SSWR members and discontinuation of the print version of SSWR News with a web-based on-line replacement, available only to members.

AWARDS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Research Prizes to be Awarded

Every year, the Society for Social Work and Research honors outstanding published research by social workers at its annual conference. Members of SSWR volunteer to serve on the Awards Committee. First committee members review a year's worth of published articles in a range of journals within social work and related fields to identify outstanding articles authored by social workers. Exemplary articles that the reviewers nominate are then re-read by three others on the Awards Committee and rated for quality. Those articles that get the highest average ratings on criteria set by the Awards Committee and endorsed by the SSWR Board of Directors are the ones that receive the awards.

A total of 88 articles were nominated this year dealing with an extremely wide range of topics. Given the quality of the articles nominated, the final selection of winners will indeed be difficult. However, the Committee is confident that the awards this year will be as inspiring as they have been in the past.

Last year, and this, special efforts have been made to ensure that journals that specialize in content related to diversity issues are included among those reviewed and that we continue to reflect diversity among the members of the Awards Committee itself. By the time you read this article, the process for this year will be nearing its conclusion, but any SSWR members who are interested in serving as Awards Committee members next year should contact Jeane W. Anastas, Vice-President of SSWR and faculty member at the Ehrenkranz School of Social Work at New York University. She can be reached at 212/992-9711 or by email at jwa1@is2.nyu.edu. New names will then be added to the list for next year's review process. In the meantime, help us honor the exemplary work of our social work colleagues in research by attending the awards ceremony at the conference in Atlanta and saluting some of the best.

ATLANTA CONFERENCE ON THE HORIZON

Jeanne Werner

ATLANTA -- Braves baseball, the 1996 World Olympics, CNN, the civil rights movement, and Coca-Cola all invoke images of this great southern city. Now, add to the list the 5th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research and you have the ingredients for a successful and fun-filled professional meeting.

Atlanta has long been known as a prime site for meetings, conventions, and trade shows, and is consistently ranked as one of the top five convention cities in the country. Atlanta continues to host more than 2,500 conventions annually, bringing more than three million visitors to the city each year. Why has this southern city become such a hot spot? Simply stated, Atlanta has more restaurants, entertainment venues, and cultural attractions than any other city in the Southeast. Many of these attractions are within 10 minutes of downtown and almost all are accessible via MARTA, Atlanta's rapid rail and bus system.

While in Atlanta for the SSWR conference, conference attendees can enjoy world-class restaurants, festive nightlife, and an abundance of cultural attractions. SSWR attendees may be particularly interested in a tour of the Sweet Auburn District, the center of African-American enterprise in Atlanta from the 1890s to 1940s. This area includes the Auburn Avenue Research Library, the first African-American research center in the South, and the 4-block Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic site, featuring the King Visitor's Center and the King Birth Home.

Also, Atlanta boasts an array of theatres, museums, galleries, and concert halls where a diversity of art, drama, music, and dance can be experienced. These include the High Museum of Art, the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, the Margaret Mitchell House and Museum, and the historical Fox Theatre.

Directly across the street from the Omni Hotel at the CNN Center, the site of the 2001 SSWR Conference, is Centennial Olympic Park. This 21-acre site was one of the most popular spots in the city during the 1996 Olympic Games. The park features Quilt Plazas and Water Gardens that weave together to tell the dramatic story of the 1996 Olympics.

If shopping is your passion, you will find various shopping districts in Atlanta featuring everything from antiques to the latest fashions. Atlanta has more than 53 enclosed malls, including Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza, two upscale malls located in Buckhead – just a short MARTA ride away from the site of the SSWR conference.

Ever considered participating in a national talk show? You'll have an opportunity in Atlanta – just sign up to be a part of the audience at TalkBack Live, the live talk show broadcast from the Cable News Network (CNN) Center. The CNN Center offers studio tours, and broadcasts TalkBack Live from the CNN atrium.

Finally, for you sports fans, the Omni Hotel at CNN Center is located adjacent to Phillips Arena, Atlanta's new sports complex. It is the home of the Atlanta Hawks basketball team and the Atlanta Thrashers hockey team. If one of the teams is in town during the SSWR conference, you may be able to take in a game and have the convenience of only walking a few minutes from your hotel room.

Attendees at the 5th Annual SSWR conference will certainly benefit professionally from the conference but will also get to visit a great city as an added bonus. We can't predict perfect weather, but we can predict you'll have a good time. See you in Atlanta!

Atlanta is Happening!

5th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research

“Making the Connection: Social Work Research and Practice”

January 19-22, 2001
The Omni Hotel at CNN Center
Atlanta, Georgia

John A. Hartford Foundation Funds Geriatric Social Work

Geriatric Social Work

Faculty Scholars Program

Receives \$5.6 Million from

John A. Hartford Foundation

September 15, 2000, the John A. Hartford Foundation awarded the Gerontological Society of America \$5.6 million to support the continuation of the Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program. Barbara Berkman, D.S.W., Helen Rehr/Ruth Fizdale, Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work, is the Principal Investigator. The Scholars Program addresses the current shortage of social work faculty and mentors with geriatric expertise by fostering an intellectually stimulating, mutually supportive network of colleagues involved in research and teaching in geriatric social work. A major component of the program is the research project. Each scholar designs and implements a significant research project that addresses the effectiveness of social work practice in enhancing the physical and psychological well being of older adults and their caregivers. The scholars are paired with national social work research mentors who provide ongoing substantive and methodological review of the scholar's research.

The Scholars Program was originally funded in 1998 to support ten faculty scholars from social work programs in the United States of America. This first cohort of scholars includes:

Margaret Adamek, Ph.D. (Indiana University)
Denise Burnette, Ph.D. (Columbia University)
Letha Chadiha, Ph.D. (Washington University)
Nancy P. Kropf, Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
Ji Seon Lee, Ph.D. (Fordham University)
Philip McCallion, Ph.D. (University of Albany)
Matthias Naleppa, Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Cynthia Cannon Poindexter, Ph.D. (Boston University)
Stephanie A. Robert, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Jeanette Semke, Ph.D. (University of Washington).

These ten scholars will be making a progress presentation of their research at a poster session at the SWRR Annual Meeting in January.

Applications for the new 2001 Scholars Program are due February 1, 2001. The application is available on the GSA website (www.geron.org/socialwork.html).

Questions may be directed to
Dr. Barbara Berkman at bb151@columbia.edu.

Journal of Gerontological Social Work

invites submission of papers for a
forthcoming journal issue on
**GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATION**

**Deadline for submissions
March 1, 2001**

For further information,

Rose Dobrof
(rosedobrof@hejira.hunter.cuny.edu)

Joanna Mellor
(jmellor@lighthouse.org)

ANSWER—ACTION NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION & RESEARCH NATIONAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH ACT UPDATE

The mission of the **ANSWER** coalition is to increase legislative and executive branch advocacy on behalf of social work education, training, and research. This mission is accomplished through collaboration among social work education, research, and practice organizations; social work education programs; and other interest groups.

Membership in **ANSWER** consists of organizations that endorse the mission and the **ANSWER** agenda provide annual financial support. Membership organizations include the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Council on Social Work Education, Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education, National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, National Association of Social Workers, and Society for Social Work and Research.

As **ANSWER**'s top priority, many social workers have successfully educated their members of this Congress about the importance of passing the National Center for Social Work Research Act (S178/HR 3214). The bipartisan legislation now has 32 Co-sponsors—4 Senators and 28 Representatives, six of whom are Republican, (see p.13)as a result of social work efforts.

Social workers have been told by the bills' co-sponsors and other members of Congress that they can see how the proposed National Center would help health and social service providers better address problems—from access to adequate health care, to child abuse, to prevention of gun violence. These are issues of importance to the legislators. Concerns that have been expressed in regard to the legislation include caution about creating a new federal program and uncertainty about the appropriateness of placing the National Center within the National Institutes of Health.

It is critical that social workers gain the attention of Congress very early in the new session if the legislation is to move successfully through the legislative process in 2001. **ANSWER** is working with legislators to introduce the bill early next year. Social workers should strengthen relationships now with members of their congressional delegations to help facilitate moving the legislation early. The following activities are suggested:

1. ***Meet with members of your congressional delegation in their home districts/states***
Educate them about the value of the National Center. If they are already supporting the center as a co-sponsor, let them know about plans to move quickly in the new year. Be sure to talk about how the National Center will benefit constituents.
2. ***Invite members to your school or practice site.***
Most members like visits; and you can use the visit to help educate about the need for social work research.
3. ***Monitor your local House and Senate re-election campaigns.*** Schedule meetings with likely new members of Congress before the election, or after the election, with those newly elected.
4. ***Collect good examples of the value of social work research—***effective social work research that has been done, and ways of demonstrating the need for social work research or a National Center for social work research. Pass the examples on to your organization's **ANSWER** representative.

SSWR current **ANSWER** representative is Nancy Hooyman.

For further information, please e-mail Sue Hoehstetter (Shosh4Prog@aol.com).

Sue is **ANSWER**'s legislative assistant.

ANSWER—ACTION NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION & RESEARCH

National Center for Social Work Research Act

Co-sponsors List:

Senate

Hawaii: Inouye* (D)
Louisiana: Breaux (D)
Landrieu (D)

Maryland: Mikulski (D)

House of

Representatives

Alabama: Cramer (D)
Arkansas: Hutchinson* (R)
California: Lee (D)

Waxman (D)

Hawaii: Abercrombie (D)
Mink (D)

Iowa: Leach (R)

Massachusetts:

Tierney (D)

Michigan: Bonior (D)
Kilpatrick (D)
Rivers (D)
Stabenow (D)
Upton (R)

Missouri: Clay (D)

New York: Crowley (D)
Kelly (R)
Maloney (D)
Rangel (D)
Townsend (D)

Pennsylvania:

Greenwood (R)

Texas: Bentsen (D)

Frost (D)

Granger (R)

Green (D)

Rodriguez* (D)

Stenholm (D)

Virginia: Pickett (D)

Virgin Islands:

Christensen (D)

* Original Co-sponsors

Sample Letter:

Notes:

1. Please indicate on the letter if you would like to meet with the member of Congress at home or in Washington.
2. This letter is designed for a first meeting. Please amend for repeat meetings.
3. This letter is designed for a member of Congress who will be returning in January 2001. Please amend for a new member of Congress.

The Honorable Senator (or Representative) _____
U.S. Senate (or U.S. House of Representatives)
Washington, DC 20510 (or 20515)

ATTENTION: Scheduler

Dear Senator (or Representative) _____:

I am writing you today from the _____ (School of) Social Work (Program), to request a meeting with you about a very important issue. I believe that S.178/HR 3214, the National Center for Social Work Research Act, if enacted, would provide legislators and community workers with vital information that they can use to develop policies to effectively address complex social problems.

Although the 106th Congress is drawing to a close, I would like to meet with you soon to discuss this legislation and the important impact it could have on the social problems that you will have before you in the 107th Congress. The bills enjoy the bipartisan support of 32 members of Congress and will be reintroduced in 2001.

As you probably know, social workers work on the front lines to help people to cope with emergencies such as school violence, serious physical and mental health conditions, and child abuse. Social workers also help those who need to develop the everyday skills to lead healthy and productive lives. In the course of providing services and treatment, we have the opportunity to obtain information about the causes of the problems we see and the efficacy of various treatment and prevention activities.

That is why Senator Inouye (D-HI) and Congressmen Hutchinson (R-AR) and Rodriguez (D-TX) introduced legislation in 1999 to collect and disseminate information gained by social workers. I am requesting the opportunity to discuss with you how this legislation could help your constituents and the country. The bills have been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Public Health and the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health and Environment.

I look forward to discussing The National Center for Social Work Research Act with you and your staff. Please have your staff contact me at _____ to arrange a meeting. Thank you, very much.

Sincerely,

Report from IASWR

Joan Zlotnik, Executive Director

Institute for the Advancement of Social Work
Research, Washington, DC

As the new Executive Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR), I am pleased to provide my first article to the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) newsletter. On September 1, 2000, I assumed my exciting new position. I look forward to strengthening the linkages and collaborations between IASWR and SSWR.

I, also, look forward to working with key social work organizations, practitioners, educators and researchers to build an agenda for IASWR that focuses on developing a cadre of excellent social work researchers, the dissemination of social work research findings, and the creation of new avenues to carry-out research by social workers. I believe that the 13 years I have spent working at the national level at both NASW and CSWE have positioned me well for taking on this new challenge.

To move IASWR into the 21st century, the IASWR Board of Directors embarked on a strategic planning effort at its June 2000 meeting. David Biegel, IASWR President, has involved the Board, IASWR's Scientific Advisory Committee, and leaders of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) in four workgroups – 1) Mission, Values & Vision, 2) Research Development, 3) Research Dissemination and Agenda Setting, 4) Research to Policy. The Board will review the recommendations from these workgroups with the goal of finalizing a strategic plan at our November 2000 meeting. If you would like to have input into this process please feel free to contact David Biegel at deb@po.cwru.edu or me, Joan Zlotnik, at jzlotnik@naswdc.org.

At the SSWR conference, IASWR will again sponsor a pre-conference technical assistance workshop on funding resources for social work doctoral students. Watch the IASWR listserv and website for more details. There will also be a session that will address proposed guidelines for qualitative research through NIH; potential funding opportunities from NIDA, NIMH, NIAAA and NIA, the social work research development program at NIDA, and outcomes from the IASWR-CDC four year demonstration project on breast and cervical cancer screening follow-up being carried out in several sites and moving toward replication.

This is a very opportune time to strengthen the visibility and influence of social work and social work research, and IASWR will work actively on this in Washington and in the broad social work and interprofessional communities. Renewed interest in community development, and a greater focus on the role of families, neighborhoods and social networks in the development of prevention and intervention strategies for health and mental health, social services, housing, aging, child welfare, economic self-sufficiency, substance abuse, and schools provide important opportunities for disseminating social work research as well as making the case for greater support for social work researchers.

Opportunities for advancing the scientific base of social work practice also exist due to the growing interest in the translation of research findings into practice and a focus on behavior and social sciences,

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IASWR Report

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not just the brain and neuroscience. The major focus at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to create a strategic plan to address “health disparities” should also provide opportunities to enhance social work research and to provide input from the findings of social work research. The strategic plan can be accessed at <http://www.nih.gov/about/hd/strategicplan.pdf>.

IASWR will continue its efforts to work closely with the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), to strengthen support for social work research, including promoting the maintenance of the NIMH Social Work Research Development Centers and the new NIDA Social Work Research Infrastructure Program. In addition, IASWR will be working to build new linkages within the federal government, with foundations and with other organizations. IASWR will also strengthen its collaborative endeavors with its founding organizations as well as with the Society for Social Work and Research. I look forward to an expanded presence for IASWR in building social work research opportunities, creating research agendas and disseminating the findings from social work research to practitioners, program administrators and policy makers.

As a small organization, IASWR's effectiveness is dependent on collaboration with others. IASWR can be a catalyst, collector, convener, broker, information resource, and coordinator. SSWR's members are an important resource to help IASWR carry-out its work and we hope that IASWR will also be a resource to you. We are working to update and expand our website, and also planning on building a database

that will include social work research findings across fields of practice. We are also looking to create a strategy to disseminate research findings in a format that can be easily accessed by both policy-makers and administrators.

Research on Family-Centered Practice

IASWR is just beginning a new project to identify research on family-centered practice. If you have research that you are involved with or if you have created a bibliography on this topic, please let me know by contacting me at 202 336-8393 or jzlotnik@cswe.org.

Now is a great time to think about how you can work together with IASWR. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you have suggestions about activities that IASWR might undertake. I can be reached at (202) 336-8393 or at jzlotnik@naswdc.org. The IASWR main email remains at IASWR@clark.net.

All SSWR members may find the IASWR weekly listserv of announcements a valuable resource – see the box below to join.

I look forward to new and exciting opportunities to work together with you.

Join the

IASWR Listserv

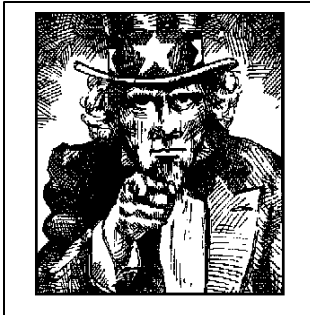
IASWR disseminates a weekly listserv that highlights funding opportunities, conferences, reports and information to support social work researchers. We would like more interested social workers to benefit from this resource.

To subscribe:

Email: Listserv@m.s.c.edu

Leave the subject line blank. In the message type:

SUBSCRIBE iaswrlst followed by your first and last name



This is the first issue of **SSWR News** edited by Kathleen Moffett-Durrett (enticed by picture at left) who has wielded the keyboard for many years.

Kathleen has answered the call to edit the SSWR News anticipating an important job, interesting tasks and lousy pay (what's new, eh?) Publishing credits include editorship of *The Notes from the Underground*, Dallas, 1960's, and eight years of publishing, editing, typesetting, news collecting, etc. etc. for the *Kentucky Chapter NASW News*. Kathleen has recently retired as Executive Director of Kentucky NASW and is up to her proverbial and literal ears as a student in the research based Ph.D. program at Kent School of Social Work in Louisville, Kentucky.



NEEDED:
book reviews for
next issue!!!!

HOWARD GOLDSTEIN

IN MEMORY

October 2000

Thank You

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