

Western Institute of Nursing 2008 Pre-Conference Summary

My name is Connie Nguyen-Truong and I am currently a 3rd Year Post-Baccalaureate to PhD Student. I would like to take this time to acknowledge the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAAN) and the Graduate Nursing Senate for funding my conference and professional development.

I attended the pre-conference on April 16 and a Full Thursday conference on April 17. The topic for the pre-Conference was about developing a funded program of research. The full Thursday conference consisted of 2 main concurrent sessions and the general topics pertained to how to incorporate writing and research into undergraduate nursing courses and confidence in nurses.

I would like to specifically focus my conference summary on the pre-conference. Barbara Smothers, PhD, Assistant Director of Extramural Activities, National Institutes of Nursing Research (NINR) and Lois Marshall, PhD, RN, LSM Educational Consulting were Presenters at this pre-conference. This was truly informative as it assisted me in understanding more about how to develop a funded program of research.

Lois Marshall, PhD, RN, LSM

Dr. Marshall primarily discussed about small grants that are available at Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (e.g. \$2, 500). She discussed that it is important to follow all the Guidelines and Program Instructions when preparing an application for grant funding. For example, if an abstract has a maximum word limit, then this needs to be followed in a strict manner. If not, then the reviewers will question the ability of the individual to follow program instructions. If a grant funding specifically states that certain costs will not be covered, then it should not be included in the budget. If it does get included, then the reviewers will question that the individual did not read the guidelines or the program instructions. Both Dr. Marshall and Dr. Smothers emphasized these kinds of issues in their respective presentations. Dr. Marshall informed that Sigma Theta Tau has a mentoring program. An individual can visit the Sigma Theta Tau International website and call regarding their mentoring program. Dr. Marshall will try to match the individual to a mentor who has similar research interests. This mentor can assist the individual during their grant funding application preparation.

Barbara Smothers, PhD

The new website address for the NINR is www.ninr.nih.gov The NINR mission is to (1) support/conduct research and research training (clinical, basic) and (2) promote and improve health across the life span (individuals, families, communities, populations). The guiding strategies include the following: integrating biological & behavioral sciences, designing & using new technologies, improving research methods, and developing future scientists. Please refer to the funding opportunities and notices website, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html> Currently, the NINR funding priority is F32, Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Smothers would like to also encourage individuals to apply for the Career Development awards (also known as 'K' awards). She emphasized the K99/00, Pathway to Independence and this includes two phases: (1) Phase I: 1-2 years mentored career development and (2) up to 3 years transition to independence.