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*President's Message*

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Recently I read a letter written by a president of another organization to which I belong, who started her column by asking, "What's new?" That question got me to thinking about what's new when it comes to ENRS. For starters, I asked myself, "Is ENRS the same organization it was when it was founded more than 20 years ago?" My answer to that question is an emphatic, "No!" ENRS has evolved as nursing science has evolved. ENRS is reaching out to nurses within the region who are engaged in research and embracing them and their work.

In keeping with the "what's new" theme, the ENRS Board and members approved a new vision statement for the organization, "Promoting Health through Nursing Science". We envision an action oriented organization that provides opportunities for dissemination and networking. Toward the goal of having a forward looking agenda, the ENRS Board will be undertaking a review of the mission statement and the strategic plan. The Board will meet in October 2009 to make recommendations regarding these documents that guide the work of ENRS to present to the membership for their approval.

What's new regarding our finances and membership? Is ENRS in any financial difficulty? Our current members number almost 800; our goal is to retain our current members and continue to recruit new individual and organizational members. I want to assure everyone that our finances are stable. Like other organizations we have lost money on our investments. Our conservative investment approach has protected ENRS to some degree such that we can move forward with the planned Board initiatives rather than cutting back or staying the course. The ENRS Board is very mindful of its fiduciary responsibility to its members.

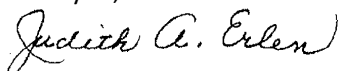
Two initiatives that the Board has begun to address include a revitalization of the research interest groups (RIGS) and the development of new awards to recognize the outstanding achievements of nurses within our region. Our Board liaisons are working with the RIGS and the Awards Committee on these efforts.

I want to alert members to the call for podcasts that will be forthcoming that asks for depictions of nursing research or the nurse as scientist. Undergraduate students will be invited to develop a short podcast to submit to ENRS. The Board will select the winner and this person's entry will then be judged at a national level and presented at the 2010 State of the Science Congress. Please encourage your students to use their creativity and respond to the call for podcasts when it is announced.

On October 14, 2009 the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science will be sponsoring its very timely special topics conference, *Technology, Genetics and Beyond: Research Methodologies of the Future*. Do not miss this opportunity to hear from experts in nursing discuss the use genetic markers in health care research and emerging technologies for data gathering and interventions. The conference will be held at the Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC. Registration is available at [www.nursingscience.org](http://www.nursingscience.org). A highlight of this conference will be the poster presentations of NINR pre-doctoral and postdoctoral trainees. These individuals are the future nurse researchers. Several of these scholars displaying their research are members of ENRS.

ENRS is at the forefront of nursing research. Our nurse scientists are contributing to the body of knowledge that is promoting health. ENRS is fulfilling its mission and keeping abreast of new developments. The Board is meeting the challenge to keep ENRS a vital and viable member organization despite the national and international economic situation.

Thank you,



Judith A. Erlen, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President, ENRS