Gerontological Nursing Academic Capacity Survey
A New Annual Feature

An exciting new annual feature debuts in this issue of Research in Gerontological Nursing (RGN) on the following pages. The Gerontological Nursing Academic Capacity Survey idea emerged at a Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative meeting held in August 2008. The survey was one of many strategies proposed in response to the challenge of recruitment of students, fellows, and faculty committed to academic geriatric nursing careers nationwide.

We envision this overview of academic nursing centers, gerontological programs, and faculty expertise as a useful guide that can link potential doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows with appropriate schools and mentors. In preparation for this initial feature, we surveyed the 10 Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, as well as the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University. We selected these centers because they have graduate programs in gerontological nursing and also, in part, because quick turnaround to publication mandated easy access to data regarding key elements (e.g., degree programs, tracks, courses, resources, faculty research foci) of gerontological nursing excellence. Subsequent spring issues of RGN will expand the database by inviting additional schools of nursing throughout the United States to describe their gerontological nursing programs. Interested schools can e-mail their contact information to rgn@slackinc.com to receive the survey in the fall. Schools included in previous issues will be asked to update their data for each annual issue.

RGN is most grateful for Patricia Archbold, DNSc, RN, FAAN, Program Director, Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity; the staff of the American Academy of Nursing Coordinating Center; and John Beilenson, President, Strategic Communications & Planning, for their leadership in bringing this important project to fruition. We anticipate this annual feature will provide a rich snapshot of geriatric academic nursing programs and will serve as a resource for students, fellows, and others looking to match up with outstanding programs nationwide.

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