Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Research Committee  
Proposed SIG Structure  
Advancing Science & Practice SIG

Purpose:  
The purpose of the Advancing Science and Practice SIG is to provide an opportunity for collegial collaborations mentorships, and the undertaking of appropriate, expertise-related projects/activities for ARN members who have the expertise and interest in advancing science and practice to discuss research, quality improvement (QI), evidence-based practice (EBP) and program evaluation projects from the perspectives of the ARN organization, the individual and/or a team.

Composition:  
The Advancing Science and Practice SIG is comprised of three cohorts representing different levels of education and practice expertise. Coordinators, appointed by the Research Committee, will oversee the cohorts at the annual conference and throughout the year using the ARN networking platform.

**Cohort I:** Members who are novices in research, QI, EBP, and program evaluation and are interested in informational discussions on these topics

**Cohort II:** Members who have background in conducting QI, EBP and/or program evaluation.

**Cohort III:** Members who have background in conducting research.

Oversight:  
The Research Committee has direct oversight of the Advancing Science and Practice SIG. Such oversight includes (a) the appointment of coordinators for each cohort, (b) facilitating the needed resources (e.g., networking platforms, selected conference slots, or other innovative venues), and recommending topics or projects (e.g., white papers, mentorships, proposed research, etc.) relevant to the expertise of the cohort members.

Coordinator Responsibilities:  
- Invite a small group of ARN members who represent Cohort I & III to provide support and “buy in” to the new SIG structure/approach.
- Assist in communicating with ARN members a message that promotes the SIG structure as both inclusive and meeting different group’s scholarly interests.
- Oversee the planning and implementation of the cohort discussions and activities at the annual educational conference in collaboration with the Research Committee.
- Facilitate online discussion of topics relevant to the cohort’s expertise (e.g., white papers, research or QI/EBP projects, mentoring, etc.).
- Serve as the cohort contact regarding projects/activities requested by the Research Committee.
- Submit a mid-year and annual report to the Research Committee.
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Entry point into SIG:
- Individuals with interest but little experience or training in basics of identifying, appraising, and implementing existing evidence into practice.

Cohort 1:
EBP Basics & Implementation (developing PICO, etc.)

Cohort 2: Quality Improvement and Assurance (improvement science & implementation science)

Cohort 3: Research
White papers, research agenda, research studies

- Individuals with experience in EBP/QI who want to improve organization-specific practice processes and develop a high reliability organization.
- Individuals who have identified a lack of evidence in a particular area of practice and who want to design studies to extend the generalizable evidence base.