**

*January 31, 2011*

Name: (*Hospital CNO/CNE/Director of Nursing/Director of Nursing Clinical Practice/College/University Dean/Director of Nursing Advance Practice /Doctorate of Nursing Practice programs/Nursing Employment agencies)*

Street Address*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

City: *(Round Rock, Austin, Temple)*

*Dear (Name of Organizational representative)*

Title of Study: Advance Practice Nurses knowledge and skills in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of service members.

Principal Investigator: Francine Clark Jones PhD RN

Dear *Chief Nursing Executive/Chief Nursing Officer (this salutation will vary based on facility representative):*

I am writing to let you know about an opportunity for Advance Practice Nurses at your facility to participate in a research study about knowledge and skills in the provision of treatment for service members. This study is being conducted by Francine Clark Jones PhD RN at Texas State University, School of Nursing. The study is anonymous and voluntary survey of knowledge and skills held by APNs. The survey can be completed in thirty minutes at a home computer.

Data derived from the study will inform APN nursing education program directors, educators and practitioners of potential gaps in curriculum and courses which may be required in preparation of nurses for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) as the terminal practice degree by 2015. The study is considered timely, particularly in light of the recent Health Care Reform bill H.R. 3962, Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2010. While we expect changes will be made to the new law, the American Nurses Association, Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse Practitioners Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing are preparing for the expanded role of DNP-prepared expert practice nurses (Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists) as primary care providers to broader and diverse populations. This population will also likely include treatment of increased numbers of U. S. Armed forces service members. These service members include those serving the U.S. in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and veterans of former wars.

The study has the approval of the Texas State University Institutional Review Board.

Your hospital/clinic/nursing home/HMO/college/nursing agency was selected from the telephone directory and World Wide Web internet directories of health care and health care-related organizations in Texas.

I am asking that you forward this letter and follow up email to the committee chair/ individual for distribution to the APNs in your facility. Within two weeks of receiving this letter, you will be sent a follow-up email and telephone call. Agreement to be contacted or a request for more information does not obligate you to participate in this study. If potential participants have an interest, it means only that they may want more information about the study; their interest does not mean that they are enrolled for the study. You may opt out by calling the contact on the letter and requesting that no further contact be made.

If you or potential APNs participants would like additional information about this study, please go to the website below, or call anonymously at the Texas State University telephone number below. Please do not identify yourself or telephone number when calling.

For more information contact

1. Research Study Internet Website: [www.APNservicememberstudy2011](http://www.APNservicememberstudy2011)
2. Francine Clark Jones, (512)716-2923

Thank you again for considering this research opportunity.

Francine Clark Jones

*(Signature)*