



RNAO

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

NURSING RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

WINTER
March
2010

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Veronique Boscart RN, PhD (c)

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I want to take this opportunity to share with you a list of some of our activities and accomplishments.

Membership continues to be a priority. Our membership has grown and we were successful in recruiting several student members last year and hope to continue this. We want to ensure NRIG membership is relevant to our student members. In this edition of our newsletter we're highlighting a student's experiences with NRIG.

We recruited new executive members both this year and last and welcome them to our team. We have a strong executive who is motivated to bring their knowledge and expertise to our meetings. Members of the executive participated in all of the joint meetings of interest group chairs and in all of the RNAO Assembly Meetings.

Furthermore, both Hilda Swirksy, our Political Action Officer, and myself participated in the RNAO Day at Queen's Park on January 28th, 2010, a truly motivating and inspiring event. More than 220 nurses and nursing students attended this occasion and

the RNAO released a comprehensive report called *Creating Vibrant Communities: RNAO's Challenge to Ontario's Political Parties*. In this report, Ontario nurses brought their ideas on tackling poverty, creating a cleaner, greener environment and recommendations for changing patient care and nursing to the politicians in the hope that they will adopt them as part of their political platforms for the Oct. 6, 2011 election. More details are available on the RNAO website.

Another focus of NRIG has been on creating an awareness of the recently decreased funding for nursing research. In collaboration with the RNAO Board of Directors Members at Large for Research (Nancy Purdy) and Education (Kathleen White-Williams), we supported the development of a survey to analyze the impact of, and respond to changes in funding for research in Canada. Findings of this undertaking will be presented by Kathleen and Nancy at our NRIG AGM breakfast (April 17, 2010).

We will share some website support with other interest groups, co-

ordinated by RNAO home office, so updating our website will continue to be a priority – we hope to complete the changes to the website this year.

Lastly, we're planning a *Manuscript Writing* workshop in the spring, presented by our Past President, Dr. Lynn McCleary. We had success with the piloting of OTN technology to broadcast our 2009 speaker to several sites. This technology will help us make this and future workshop activities more accessible to NRIG members across the province.

I am committed to working with the executive and members to continue our successful work. The key to this is member participation. I therefore encourage you to get involved in planning or participation. If you have any suggestions about potential activities, priorities, or actions for NRIG, please contact any one of us on the executive.

I hope you will enjoy the spring. Your executive is looking forward to another successful year for NRIG.

Respectfully submitted,
Veronique Boscart

NRIG MEMBER HIGHLIGHT Dr. Kathy Momtahan, RN, PhD

Dr. Kathy Momtahan is the Corporate Coordinator, Nursing Research at The Ottawa Hospital. She carries on an active research program in Human Factors.

NRIG recently had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Kathy Momtahan about her research program and her role as Corporate Coordinator of

Nursing Research at the Ottawa Hospital. In addition to helping nurses with enhancing their research knowledge and skills, she carries on an active research program in

tries like aviation, transportation, and telecommunications, and wondered why more human factors work wasn't being done in healthcare. That's

when Kathy decided to do her undergrad, Masters and PhD work in Human Factors Psychology, applying what she was learning to healthcare. Initially, Dr. Momtahan went to work in industry as there were no jobs in the field of human factors psychology in healthcare other than in the U.S. For the most part, Kathy informed us that this is still true.

How does human factors psychology enhance the care or quality of life for people in Ontario?

Psychological Human Factors. Kathy began thinking about her research career as a critical care nurse; she was doing some long term career planning and came to learn about the psychology of human factors in other indus-

Systems and technology are often not optimally designed in healthcare to prevent errors or even to help healthcare workers recover from errors. Her work investigates systems and technology design that is problematic and offers and tests solutions. Kathy says,

"Thinking of ways to research an area (e.g. the methodology to employ) is a creative process. So is thinking of solutions to test".

The two main goals of her research and what motivated her to go to graduate school are: to investigate and design systems and technology to (1) improve patients' safety as well as patient outcomes, and (2) to make the work-life of nurses and other healthcare professionals less stressful and to help make their interaction with technology more enjoyable.

Kathy's future research plans are to look at Web 2.0 capabilities and apply them to the healthcare setting.

For further information about Dr. Momtahan's research, you can check out the publications notated in the text box below.

Submitted by Riek van den Berg

Recent Publications

Momtahan K, Burns C, Jeon J, Hyland S, Gabriele S (2008). Using Human Factors Methods to Evaluate Labelling of Injectable Drugs. Healthcare Quarterly special issue of Patient Safety Papers, 11, 122-128.

Momtahan KL, Burns CM, Sherrard H, Labinaz M, Mesana T (2007). Using Personal Digital Assistants and Patient Care Algorithms to Improve Access to Cardiac Care Best Practices. Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, 129(Pt 1), 117-21.

Somoza KC, Momtahan K, Lindgaard G (2007). Effects of a computerized cardiac teletriage decision support system on nurse performance: results of a controlled human factors experiment using a mid-fidelity prototype. Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, 129(Pt 1), 97-101.

Momtahan K & Burns C (2004). Applications of ecological interface design in supporting the nursing process. Journal of Healthcare Information Management, 18(4), 74-82.

If you are interested in having your research story published in the next newsletter, or you want to suggest the research of another NRIG member, please let us know!

Update on RNAO Survey of Nursing Research in Ontario

In August of 2009, an online survey of nursing research activity in Ontario was conducted to obtain the opinions of nurses involved in research regarding the actual and potential impact of the recent changes and reductions in CIHR, SSHRC and CNF funding. The Nursing Research and Nursing Education committees of the RNAO Board engaged the input and support of both Nursing Research Interest Group (NRIG) and Provincial Nurse Educator Interest Group (PNEIG) executive members in the development and analysis of this survey. The survey included participant demographic data, research activity and roles as well as the projected impact of funding changes on the nurse researcher. Between August 11 and September 14, there were 280 nurses in total who participated: 92 nurse researchers in academia, 157 nurses in clinical practice settings and 131 students (aspiring and current graduate students). A research assistant was hired to work on the data analysis and preparation of the report. Preliminary findings were provided to committee members and a draft report was compiled for feedback in January 2010. The final report will be made available at the Annual General Meeting in April of this year. The following excerpts from the narrative data, speak emphatically about the potential impact of funding changes for nurses involved in research as academics, clinicians and research trainees (graduate students):

"Given that there is no pot of money for nursing research in Canada at the federal level, over time, we will lose the brightest and the best researchers. As well, those researchers who remain and apply for grant monies will be forced to shape their research agenda to fit other disciplines' objectives."

– Academic

"My impression is that while funding cuts will decrease the research done by professionals at the top of the corporate hierarchy, it will exponentially and significantly decrease the research done by clinicians. The research done closest to the point of care has the most relevance for health care practice and quality of patient care, so in my mind, this is a tragedy."

– Clinician

"As graduate students, we do not receive funding from our supervisors due to the limited funds available to faculty researchers. We spend hours putting together applications for significant funding only to be 'beat out' by those (individuals) conducting laboratory research (i.e. medical sciences). . . ."

– Graduate Student

RNAO will continue to use this data to engage with other provincial and federal partners to advocate for sustaining and enhancing access to funds that support nursing research and professional knowledge generation in Ontario. RNAO will provide regular updates of the project over the next few months. Many thanks to all of the NRIG members who took time to share their voice and experiences through this survey.

Submitted by RNAO Board Members:

~Nancy Purdy, (Nursing Research) and

~Kathleen White-Williams (Nursing Education)

Nancy and Kathleen will be discussing this RNAO survey at our Annual General Meeting.

**Celebrate
RNAO's 85th Anniversary
at the Annual General Meeting,
April 15-17, 2010!**

It will be held at Toronto Hilton (downtown).

We also ask you to please join us for the
**NRIG AGM on Saturday morning,
April 17th from 8-11 AM.**

All NRIG members are welcome. You don't have to attend the RNAO AGM to attend our AGM. You can register for this event through the RNAO registration form. NRIG will provide a wonderful hot breakfast for \$25.00 (to cover expenses). If you don't want breakfast, you can still come to the NRIG meeting.

Strategy on Patient-Oriented Research

Message from the President of Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):
Alain Beaudet, MD, PhD

The overarching goal of the Strategy on Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is to translate research results into improved health outcomes for Canadians. For patients, this means receiving better diagnoses, treatments and outcomes in a timely manner. For health care practitioners, this means obtaining the latest evidence-based medical information that will enable them to deliver the recommended care to the right patient at the right time. For scientists, this means enhanced resources to test new therapies and produce better research output. For hospitals and other health care institutions, this gives them the ability to attract the best and the brightest minds in health care. For governments, this aims to create a more cost-effective delivery of health care in fields such as primary care and chronic disease management as well as an overall improved health system.

With its partners at universities, hospitals, health charities and in the federal, provincial and territorial governments, CIHR is seeking advice on patient-oriented research in order to develop a country-wide strategy. Your contribution is essential to the success of this initiative, therefore we kindly ask you to take the time to review the Executive Sum-

mary and all of the sections of the SPOR Discussion Paper at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41232.html>

Here are some excerpts from the executive summary of the document, A Discussion Paper For A 10-Year Plan To Change Health Care Using The Levers Of Research:

Objectives

This discussion paper drafted by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) proposes the following nationwide Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research as a broad outline for consultation. Patient-oriented research refers to the continuum ranging from the initial human studies of a new drug or device to research evaluating the implementation of simple or complex interventions in the health-care system.

The proposed Strategy comprises four major components:

(1) Improve research environment and infrastructure
The first component is the creation of patient-oriented research units and networks.
(2) Set up mechanisms to better train and mentor health professionals and non-clinicians

The second component of the

Strategy is to initiate more health-care professionals in the core methods of clinical research and provide training support for clinical epidemiologists, biostatisticians, methodologists and health economists to improve our

CIHR welcomes your input and suggestions in this survey that can be accessed at:
<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41204.html>

research and leadership capacity nationwide.

(3) Strengthen organizational, regulatory and financial support for multi-site studies

The third component of the Strategy is to eliminate systemic barriers that produce inefficiencies in the development and implementation of patient-oriented research such as significant delays created by complex multicentre ethics review processes.

(4) Support best practices in health care

The fourth component of the Strategy aims at teaming guideline developers with health-care professionals to promote the rigorous development of high-quality, evidence-informed practice guidelines and encourage policy-makers, institutions, health-care professionals and consumers to adopt them.

Please give us your feedback on anything you see in the Newsletter by contacting the Communication Officer (newsletter) at afrisin@mcmaster.ca

Funding Call for Proposals

L'Oréal Canada-For Women in Science Research Excellence Fellowships With the support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which will give two (2) awards of \$20,000 CDN for each female postdoctoral researcher in the field of Life Sciences. This fellowship is a part of the For Women in Science Program which recognizes the importance of the contributions of women in the progress of science. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of scientists, including representatives from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and L'Oréal Canada. Candidates must conduct their research at a Canadian host institution or organization.

Amount: \$20,000 CDN

Deadline for submissions: **March 31, 2010.**

For more information and to make a submission, please visit the AUCC website:

<https://juno.aucc.ca/wes/hes.aspx?pg=934&oth=0005342010>

Community Health Nursing Initiative Group (CHNIG) Research Award

Deadline for submissions: **March 31st, 2010**

The CHNIG executive has set aside funds to be awarded to CHNIG members who are presently engaged or would like to be involved in research. This award is open to those in education, practice and administration. For further information go to RAO website, click interest Groups, then click CHNIG

The OSS Research Call for Proposals

The Ontario Stroke Network (OSN), is administering the fund on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). As part of the funding strategy, the OSS Research Committee encourages:

- Projects to foster new researchers
- Innovative approaches to research

Projects that bring groups of researchers together to organize research around specific areas Pilot data (at a single center) in preparation for a full multi-centered proposal Multi-centered trials/projects. Deadline for submissions: **April 16, 2010 at 5:00pm**

For more information:

ontariostrokenetwork@hsf.on.ca

Population and Public Health Student Awards -Sponsored by CIHR-Institute of Population and Public Health, Canadian Public Health Association, Canadian Institute for Health Information-Canadian Population Health Initiative and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The purpose of this award program is to recognize excellence in the next generation of population and public health researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. Up to four awards (two at the Masters level and two at the PhD level) will be presented to successful student applicants.

Information about the Population Health Improvement Research Network's Research new funding for proposals can be found on their website: <http://www.rrasp-phirn.ca>

National Collaborating Centres for Public Health Knowledge Translation Graduate Student Awards

The NCCPH Knowledge Translation Graduate Student Awards are being offered for the first time this year by the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health. The purpose of the awards is to recognize the work of graduate students (current or within 12 months of completion) regarding knowledge translation (KT) in public health in Canada. Up to three awards will be given at the CPHA Annual Conference.

Updated Version of Canadian Best Practices Portal, www.phac.gc.ca/cbpp.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's Portal is a virtual front door to community and population health interventions related to chronic disease prevention and health promotion that have been evaluated, shown to be successful, and have the potential to be adapted and replicated by other health practitioners working in similar fields.

As a public health program decision-maker, the portal can make your work easier by providing you with access to well evaluated and effective interventions.

EDUCATION

NRIG Educational Report

NRIG will be hosting a Workshop in the Spring on "Writing for Publication" Stay tuned!

Last year, NRIG executive members identified an interest in facilitating the planning and implementation of a Nursing Research Day, as the main educational event for 2009/2010. The Clinical Nurse Specialist Interest Group (CNSIG) had expressed interest in collaborating together on this endeavor for the spring of 2010. However, based on discussions with Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg, Director of RNAO Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence, it was decided that the spring of 2010 was not feasible for a Nursing Research Day, as

they are hosting an international conference, *Knowledge, the Power of Nursing: Celebrating Best Practice Guidelines and Clinical Leadership* in October, 2010 (please see the Conference section of the newsletter for further details).

This spring, NRIG is hosting a workshop, "Writing for Publication" that will be presented by Dr. Lynn McCleary, RN, PhD, Past-President of NRIG. An email with further details will be sent to all members in the next few weeks. This workshop promises to be exceptional.

As always, we would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions on topics for future educational events.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Cooper Brathwaite, RN, PhD

Nursing Research Interest Group (NRIG) Resource:

How to Prepare a Successful Research Grant: Web and Print Resources
Prepared by Heather Goemans & Lynn McCleary, 2007

NEW!

In response to members' requests for support preparing research grant applications for the NRIG Open Research Grant competition and for other research competitions, this information about print and web resources was compiled. The first section is a list and description of 11 web based-resources. Many of the websites listed have links to additional resources. The second section consists of a bibliography with abstracts of some articles about grant preparation that are published in nursing journals. We hope the resources are helpful for our members. You can access this resource by going to the NRIG website:

Upcoming Workshops

Date: May 18, 2010 & May 25, 2010
McMaster University School of Nursing
**Invitational Workshop:
Enhancing Research skills for
Nurses and Allied Health
Partners**

Location: Michael DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON
Contact Doris Hutchison -
hutchiso@mcmaster.ca

Date: May 10-14, 2010

Canadian Centre for Evidence-Based Nursing,
McMaster University School of Nursing
One-week intensive course: **Evidence Informed
Health Care Practice Workshop**

- Advance your skills in critical appraisal of research literature
- Learn strategies for implementing evidence-informed decisions
- Tutorial groups for health professionals in advanced practice, library services, oncology and public health, in addition to groups for nursing faculty and other clinical nursing areas.

Location: McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario,
For more information contact: Dr. Maureen Dobbins:
dobbinsm@mcmaster.ca.

Upcoming Conferences

Date: May 10, 2010

The Women's College Research Institute
9th Annual Graduate Student Research Day, "Building the Future of Every Woman's Health"

Contact: lisa.hall@wchospital.ca

Date: May 13, 2010

McMaster University, Department of Continuing Health Sciences Education

11th Annual Nurse to Nurse Conference

Location: The Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, Ontario

Website: www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/conted

Contact: Rose Galano 905-525-9140 ext. 22671; galanor@mcmaster.ca

Date: May 16 – 18, 2010

Institute for Philosophical Nursing Research Conference

Location: Banff, Alberta, Canada

Website: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/nursing/ipnr.cfm

Date: June 7-9, 2010

The Canadian Nurses Association 2010 Biennial: The Power of Nursing Innovation in Action

Location: World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Website: http://www.cnaaiic.ca/CNA/news/events/convention/default_e.aspx

Date: June 14-16, 2010

University of Ottawa/ Tau Gamma
International Clinical Nursing Research Conference

Location: Ottawa, Canada

Website: www.health.uottawa.ca/sn/se/conf2010.htm

Date: August 26 & 27, 2010

The Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing
Official Satellite Symposium of the 13th World Congress on Pain "Moving the Pain Education Agenda Forward: Innovative Models"

Location: Hart House, Toronto, Ontario

Website: <http://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/PainSymposium.htm>

Date: October 18 -20, 2010

RNAO Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence

Knowledge, the Power of Nursing: Celebrating Best Practice Guidelines and Clinical Leadership

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Date: October 21 & 22, 2010

American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) Research Conference

Location: Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC.

Website: www.aicr.org/conference

STUDENTS' CORNER

RNAO Student Membership: One Student's Experience

Although I am a new member of NRIG, my experience thus far has been a positive and enlightening one. The first meeting I attended took place in mid February, and I had the pleasure of attending the meeting along with two other students. It was great to see just how passionate the members are about nursing and

nursing research. The fact that membership by these nurses is purely on a voluntary basis further demonstrated their passion for nursing research. Several topics were discussed during the meetings; topics ranging from political action to the provision of grants and scholarships for graduate nursing students were discussed. NRIG promotes nursing research through various avenues, but I had no knowl-

edge of the fact that this interest group also provides financial support to graduate students. Being a member of NRIG has certainly enhanced my knowledge of the various ways nurses can work towards the advancement of nursing and nursing research.

Submitted by:

Winttana Debessai, student



RNAO Queen's Park Day 2010, occurring during RNAO's 85th Anniversary year, surpassed previous annual events. Politicians and their staff in every political party met with over 200 RNAO members who represent how politically savvy, knowledgeable and influential registered nurses are when offering solutions to address health issues and transform communities into vibrant ones. RNAO members introduced politicians and their staff to RNAO's ground-breaking health policy report "*Creating Vibrant Communities, A Challenge to Ontario Political Parties.*" Much more than a document for Ontario politicians, this superb evidence-based health policy paper is a blueprint for establishing dynamic, electrifying communities. For the next twenty months leading up to the provincial elections, there will be ongoing follow-up by registered nurses illustrating that nurses do have the proof to transform society's communities into thriving, energized ones. Submitted by Hilda Swirsky, RN, BScN, MEd, Political Action Officer

Oncology Nursing e-Mentorship

ATTN: Members of the Nursing Research Interest Group that work with oncology patients, at any stage of their journey, from screening and prevention, to diagnosis, treatment and palliative care

The de Souza Institute's Oncology Nursing e-Mentorship Program offers mentorship to all nurses who have an interest in developing their oncology and palliative care skills and knowledge, for either adult or paediatric patients. The oncology patient population does not have to be a majority of your current caseload, as long as the nurse has the need or the wish to develop in that direction. We encourage mentors from other areas of health care to join, as our mentees aim to develop more skills than clinical practice – such as leadership, scholarly development and research. We are funded through the de Souza Institute and have a goal to improve cancer care in Ontario, through mentorship as a career development tool. We offer workshops on both career development and on mentorship relationships. More details are found online

The Ontario Oncology Nursing e-Mentorship Program is the first e-based mentorship program developed for an advanced health provider role in Canada. In the past year, the program has expanded to include all nursing roles that care for oncology patients. The program features a national inventory of intra- and inter-professional mentors, stipends to support distance mentoring, as well as an extensive electronic platform. The electronic platform includes private discussion forums for mentoring pairs, evidence-based resources, an

electronic toolkit as well as access to mentoring pair profiles and the latest program newsletter.

There are many benefits from effective mentorship for oncology nurses, inter-professional and intra-professional mentors, and their respective employers including: improved role confidence and role autonomy; improved job satisfaction, retention, and productivity; development of new knowledge and skills; opportunities for career advancement; personal and professional growth; enhanced networking and inter-professional collaboration; high mentor and mentee program satisfaction; and increased access to effective communication and resources through e-based platform.

Upcoming Workshop from the de Souza Institute: **Mentorship Training Workshop March 31st, 2010 in Hamilton.** This workshop will provide an opportunity to: learn about the e-Mentorship program; program resources and individual roles and responsibilities as mentors and/or mentees; understand basic concepts about mentoring and the phases of the mentoring relationship; discuss expectations and processes to support their mentoring relationships; build a network for ongoing learning and support; provide unmatched mentors and mentees the opportunity to find a match; and give new pairs an opportunity to work on their mentorship agreements, their goals and their mentorship plans

Anyone interested can contact Diana Morarescu, Program Manager, Oncology Nursing e-Mentorship Program; Juravinski Cancer Center, Room 4-224; 699 Concession Street Hamilton, ON, L8V 5C2 905 521-2100 x67702 Website: <http://www.desouzanurse.ca/>

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE	2008	2009 Projection
Balance forward from year end 08/09	17, 725.00	11,881.75
RNAO Membership	11,220.00	11,556.00
Total Revenue	28,825.00	23,437.075
EXPENSES		
Bank service charges	0	0
Executive expenses (AGM, Catering, Travel, Bell conference)	3,255.00	3,352.65
Student Memberships	1,000.00	1,000.00
Website Monthly	300.00	310.00
Printing, Stationary, Mailings	20.00	21.00
Presentations	169.00	175.00
Scholarships	12,000.00	4,000.00
Research grants		4,000.00
Guest speakers	200.00	200.00
Total expenses	16,944.00	13,058.00

NRIG continues to give back to it's members by using monies generated from membership fees to fund grants, scholarships and educational initiatives for it's members. Thanks to our membership we will again be funding grants and scholarships to Ontario nurses this year. Thank you for your support of NRIG.

NRIG GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS 2010

Report from Director of Grants and Scholarship Committee

The NRIG promotes the conduct and utilization of nursing research in Ontario through many avenues including funding. The Graduate Scholarship is awarded to an NRIG member currently enrolled in a graduate program, preferably nursing. Members who have previously received an NRIG Graduate Scholarship are not eligible. The NRIG Research Grant is awarded to an NRIG member who is a new

investigator. Applicants are limited to one application per year as a Principal Investigator.

This year, we received a strong pool of applicants and we wish we had more funds for all the worthy applicants. We are in the process of reviewing applications and the results will be announced at the NRIG AGM.

In the next newsletter, we plan to highlight some of the work being done by the recipients of these grants and scholarships.

Submitted by *Lynn McCleary, RN, PhD*

NRIG WEBSITE!



Communications (Website) Report

Please check out the updated NRIG web page on the main RNAO web site under interest groups.

A full NRIG website is underdevelopment and should be up and running in the next month or two.

Stay tuned
for future
updates!

In the mean time, important information regarding NRIG upcoming events, newsletters, the Annual General Meeting and other information can be viewed on the NRIG web page by logging on to the main RNAO site <http://www.rnao.org/> -select interest groups from Quick Links sections, then click on nursing research interest group.

Submitted by: Sue Bookey-Bassett, Communications Officer (website)

NRIG EXECUTIVE

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7) Canadian Association of Nursing Research (CANR) Board Representative

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