



NURSING RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP EXECUTIVE 2012-2-13

NRIG Newsletter

Spring 2013

From the President

by Dr. Nancy Purdy

The board has had an active year building on the structure to enhance awareness of NRIG through the launch of our new website. The website will provide us with a more functional communication tool whereby we will be able to upload materials in a more timely manner.

We have experienced continued growth in membership to achieve and surpass our membership targets (1443 as of February) i.e. 16% increase since last year at this time. We have a large student group and, unfortunately, a large number of members who have lapsed. To meet the needs of all of our members, we have a number of activities planned:

- **NRIG lapel pins** – these will be given as a special gift to all attendees of the AGM and longstanding members
- **Webinars** to provide education at convenient times (recorded and to be available on our website for future use). Coming later this year: Profile of nursing research in Ontario (nursing week, date tba); Planning on publishing: Tips from the experts (fall 2013); Mentoring for researchers (tba)
- **Consultant's Corner** – a new feature of our newsletter and website. We will

consult an expert researcher to answer questions our members pose regarding nursing research. This is intended to meet the varying needs of our members. We will be surveying our members to identify issues to present in this column.

We have also continued the successful research grants and scholarship awards program with an increase in the number of and quality of applications over last year. We have **increased the research grant** from \$2,000 to \$3,000 this year and have added a third grant (depending on the caliber of submissions).

We would like to thank all of board members for their dedication and enthusiasm that has helped to advance the work of NRIG over this past year. Please refer to executive list and contact information on the final page of the newsletter.

WE ENCOURAGE YOUR INVOLVEMENT TO HELP US IDENTIFY AND ACT ON OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT IMPACT YOUR RESEARCH ROLES.



2013 NRIG Annual General Meeting

Saturday April 13, 2013

Toronto Hilton Hotel, 145 Richmond Street West, Toronto - Harris Room

0800-0815 Breakfast meet and greet
 0815-0845 Annual meeting
 0845-0900 Election of new board members
 0900-0945 Key note address -
"A Mentoring Program for Research Skill Development in Novice Nurse Researchers"
 Helen Kelly, RN, MScN; Clinical Research Manager, Collaborative Academic Practice, UHN
 0945-1000 Scholarship awards, research grants
 1000 Adjourn

Use the following link to register:

<https://myrnao.ca/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=16&noFullMsg=true>

No charge but registration required. **Special gift for all attendees!!**

Come visit us at our booth in the exhibit hall - booth 11 in the Carmichael/Jackson room.

Interview with Debra Bournes

By Dr. Rachel Meyer,
Past RNAO MAL, Nursing Research



Dr. Debra Bournes, Provincial Chief Nursing Officer in the Ministry Health Human Resources Strategy Division, is known nationally and internationally for leading and providing consultation in areas such as patient-centered care, academic practice and professional development for health professionals, health human resource analysis, strategic planning in nursing and quality workplace/quality patient care indicator dashboards for healthcare leaders.

Q: We're delighted to have a nurse researcher in the PCNO role. As a nurse researcher and former director, what has the transition to policy been like for you?

A: Initially it was like being dropped into a foreign land! My first few months in the role were focused on understanding how the government works and on broadening and strengthening my connections with nurses across the province. A large part of my role is to be out and about and working with the nursing community. I'm really enjoying the challenges of being the Provincial Chief Nursing Officer. In the last eight months, I have seen that the political staff, as well as everyone that I have had the opportunity to work with in the Ontario Public Service, are really committed to what's good for patients and families. There is a genuine interest in ideas about how we can work together to improve the quality of the health experience for the people of Ontario. Nursing knowledge and research are highly valued and respected within the ministry. I'm really passionate about person centred care and quality of work-life, for nurses in particular, but really for all health professionals. The government is also committed to these things -- so it's a good fit for me.

The Nursing Secretariat works closely with the Planning, Research, and Analysis Branch of the Health System Strategy and Policy Division to oversee and set the priorities for the Nursing Research Fund (NRF). It's a great partnership because they have the infrastructure for managing the research processes and operations, and we get to work with them to set the agenda.

Q: Do you have opportunities to use nursing and health services research in your role and in the Ministry?

A: Absolutely! We're very tightly connected with many of the researchers that are currently funded through the NRF (and others). In fact, several NRF-funded researchers are formally involved in leading the evaluation of some of the Nursing Secretariat's major programs -- such as the Nursing Graduate Guarantee

and the Late Career Nurse Initiative. I have also been to quite a few forums where I have had opportunity to listen and engage in discussions about findings from completed research as well as from research that is still in progress. This dialogue about 'hot-off the press' data has helped me think about and answer questions within and outside the government about the benefits of our programs and future directions for nursing and for patient care. The more information, the better ... because decision makers rely on data to inform what happens.

How often do I use research? Every day!

In addition to reading reports and participating in discussions about findings, we have also invited researchers to participate in specific forums. For example, at the Joint Provincial Nursing Committee retreat last Fall, we pulled together panels of Ontario nurse researchers to speak about the state-of-the-science on key topics of interest such as registered nurse and registered practical nurse roles, nursing leadership at the point of care, and innovative models of nursing education and clinical placements. This helped to stimulate the committee's thinking and guided the discussion later that day. It's been great. The researchers have been extremely helpful to me and I want to thank them for that!

Q: What's your vision for nursing research in Ontario over the next decade? What opportunities or priorities do you see for nursing research?

A: We need to keep focussed on ensuring that we have enough nurses in all categories and that nurses are appropriately supported to remain in the system and to provide optimal care. Over the past few years, nursing research has concentrated on recruitment, retention and baseline nursing workforce profiles. We need to continue with this, but we also need to evaluate nursing initiatives to determine whether we are doing the right things to support and strengthen the workforce and quality of care. It's also critical that we continue to support,

mentor and integrate novice researchers. Going forward, priority themes for nursing research will align with government priorities such as, for example, elder care; improving primary, community and home care; evaluating new models and the impact they have on clinical and system outcomes; assessing the effectiveness and the outcomes of nursing practice (registered nurses, registered practical nurses and nurse practitioners); and fostering the engagement of front-line staff in research and leadership. We need to keep an eye on new and emerging trends as well.



POLITICAL ACTION



Queens Park on the Road (QPOR)

March 2013 – Peel Region

*Dr. Nancy Purdy
Linda Jeffrey, MPP
Lynn Singh*

Research Careers: Interviews with Experts

by Dr. Angela Cooper Brathwaite



Dr. Angela Cooper Brathwaite

As a nurse scientist or tenure track professor, what generated your interest in research?

Two factors pushed my interest in research: My personal connection to the issue and the desire to make a difference with respect to an issue. The ability to generate new knowledge, find solutions to health problems and make a difference.

What has kept you engaged in conducting research over the past 5-10 years?

Trying to make a difference by providing evidence on which to base sound decisions. Fun and excitement in discovering new evidence.

When you mentor or supervise students' research or thesis, what advice do you give them in fulfilling their research goals?

First – make it “doable” especially at the Master’s level. Too often they want to take on the whole of issue/problem rather than focusing on what they can do within the time they have with the resources available to them.

Choose something you are passionate about. That passion will help them keep going when things are tough.

Be invested in your research; don’t simply treat it as a means to an end. The work must be meaningful.

Are there any pitfalls or obstacles that you can share with a novice researcher?

Time management is critical; treat the experience and school as a 40-hour a week “job.” If you set your schedule like that you’ll have time for other things that are important to you. Work on team grants so you can collaborate with senior

investigators who have a lot of research experience.

Please name some facilitators or motivating factors to conducting research.

Keep the question clearly in focus by having it front and centre.

Remembering what the desired outcomes are.

Remembering that the work can help people.

Include users of research/stakeholders who are great assets to your research study.

How did these motivators or facilitators help you succeed?

Keeping the question front and centre helped me stay on track.

Remembering what the desired outcomes are and people can be helped by my work. Research has a greater purpose and that’s what’s important.

Stakeholders contributed to grant writing by providing letters of support for the study.

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Name five factors or strategies that you will include in a research grant proposal in order for it to be successful?

1. Doable research program
2. Realistic budgetary information
3. Critical related research
4. Research program that provides solid “return on investment” while being innovative.
5. Concrete program for training new research personnel (training highly qualified research people must include hands-on training in research not the old style “scut” work).

What pitfalls would you exclude in a research proposal or grant proposal?

Poor research design and weak research question.
 Inadequate justification for your study and lack of sufficient scientific evidence.
 Inadequate articulation of how research assistants (RAs) will be trained.
 Unrealistic budget.

Is there any other pertinent information that you will give a beginner researcher who is launching his/her career as a researcher?

You don't have to do this alone. Ask for help from other researchers in your area, even if they are in another discipline.

Get help from your research office (if you have access to one), they are great resources.

Don't hide what you're doing; we need to share our work in order to find solutions/answers and increase the body of knowledge on an issue.



2012

NRIG Scholarship and

Research Award Winners

Sheila O'Keefe-McCartney
 (Nancy Purdy)

Jane Dante

Kristine Newman

Winnie Sun

...continued on next page

NRIG scholarships and research grants are awarded to NRIG members and whose applications demonstrate their scholarship and academic potential, their ability to work with others, their leadership potential, their nursing expertise and their professional involvement. NRIG research grants are awarded to NRIG new investigators participating in quality nursing research. Awards are announced at the NRIG AGM in April each year.

In **2011**, Jamie Crawley received an NRIG research grant in support of her research on health needs assessment for the hidden homeless population. Jamie used the funds to hire graduate research assistants to help with data entry, analysis and transcription. With NRIG's support a manuscript was submitted and a

second qualitative manuscript is underway. . Jamie aims to contribute to policy improvements for this vulnerable population.

In **2012**, Kristine Newman was awarded a scholarship for her doctoral work exploring nurses' perception of their problem solving abilities affects how they seek new information or apply accumulated knowledge. Sheila O'Keefe-McCarthy was also awarded a scholarship for her doctoral work on cardiac pain and related anxiety for rural ACS (need full word) patients. . Winnie Sun was awarded a research grant for her mixed methods study identifying causal relationships between therapeutic self-care and adverse events for home care clients. All recipients will be providing an update in the coming months on the impact NRIG awards and

scholarships have made on their work.

In **2013**, NRIG received six applications for scholarship awards and ten applications for research grants. Applicants have been notified of the decisions and the awards and scholarship will be made at the annual NRIGAGM on April 13, 2013. The scholarship and research grant program is a very concrete expression of NRIG's support for new nursing research and scholarship and the increasing submission rates indicate the value of this initiative.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

NRIG EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

Chairperson- Nancy Purdy npurdy@ryerson.ca

Past Chairperson - Veronique Boscart vboscart@coensotgac.on.ca

Secretary - Betiel Debessai betiel_d@hotmail.com

Finance Officer - Melissa Biscardi melissa.biscardi@utoronto.ca

Education Officer - Sherry Espin sespin@ryerson.ca

Communication Officer – Newsletter - Cheryl Silveira cheryl.silveira@utoronto.ca

Communication Officer – Website - Sue Bookey-Bassett s.bookey-bassett@sympatico.ca

Membership and Service Officer - Joyce Tsui jtsui@ryerson.ca, Associate Officer, Membership

Christina Draganou cdraganou@ryerson.ca

Policy and Political Action Officer - Angela Cooper Brathwaite angela.cooperbrathwaite@durham.ca

Members-at-Larger-RNAO Board - Tammy O'Rourke tammyfnp2@aol.com

Student Representative - Jane van de Ven-Dantes dantes.j@queensu.ca

VISIT - NRIG.RNAO.CA