



Annual General Meeting Report

June 2020 from 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom Online

2019-2020 NRIG Executive Members

Chairperson

Amy Wright

Chair Elect

Charlene Chu

Finance Officer

Michelle Heyer

Secretary

Oona St. Amant

Communications Officer – Newsletter

Valentina Donison

Communications Officer – Website

Joyce Tsui

Membership and Services Officer

Christina Moldovan

Policy & Political Action Officer

Sheila Boamah & Marzieh Moattari

Member-at-Large-NRIG Board

Connie Schumacher

Member-at-Large-NRIG Social Media

Melissa Northwood

Student Representatives

Jennifer Cano and Rupinder Kaur

Nursing Research Interest Group

Annual Report

Chair Report

I am pleased to provide you with this year's report at our first ever online annual general meeting via Zoom. This year we have taken innovative approaches to awards, grants & scholarships, introducing a new award for Undergraduate Students. Across all applicants we saw representation from 13 Universities and Colleges. We hosted 3 webinars with Dr. Connie Schumacher, Meaghan Davey and Fiona Muckle this the spring that were all well received. These presentations are archived and can be viewed anytime—the links are available on our website. We hope these changes will encourage new members to join NRIG and take advantage of the great work we do along with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) in promoting nursing research in Ontario through lobbying, funding, educating, collaborating and networking. See our website www.nrig.ca and visit our social media platforms regularly for updates on NRIG events and how you can get involved!

I have been honored to be the Chair of the NRIG executive this year and I will be transitioning to the Past Chair for the 2020-2021 term. Dr. Charlene Chu will lead NRIG as Chair for the 2020-2021 term. In these unprecedented times, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, I am confident Dr. Chu will be a strong leader in facilitating research excellence of nursing scholars, and students through NRIG.

The NRIG executive continues to have strong representation and succession planning is a key strategy going forward for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Some of the current executive members are continuing in their roles for 2020-2021: Connie Schumacher will continue as Member-at-Large, Joyce Tsui will continue as Communications Officer – Website, Valentina Donison will continue as Communications Officer-Newsletter and Michelle Heyer will continue as Finance Officer.

Melissa Northwood, Christina Moldovan, Sheila Boamah, Oona St-Amant, Jennifer Cano and Rupinder Kaur have all completed their terms, and we are extremely grateful to each one of them for their hard work and commitment to NRIG.

We are happy to announce several new incoming executive board members on the 2020/2021 NRIG executive board: Charlene Chu as Chair, Marzieh Moattari as Policy and Political Action Officer, Kamika Sylvester as Member at Large-Social Media, Kylie Teggart as Membership Officer, Yehudis Stokes as Secretary and Celia-Marie Cassiani and Czarielle Dela Cruz as Student Representatives.

Sincerely,
Amy Wright, NRIG Chair

Finance Officer Report

REVENUE - as of November 1, 2019- March 31, 2020

RNAO membership 2019/20 \$10,506.55

Balance forward October 2019 \$14,970.19

Total revenue (as of November 1, 2019- March 31st, 2020): \$25,476.74

EXPENSES (Nov 1st, 2019-May 31, 2020)

Budget 2019-2020

Bank service charges	101.00	300.00
Executive expenses (In-person meeting, travel)	216.11	1000.00
AGM		2,000.00
Printing, Stationary, Mailings (Promotional Material: Banner & Postcards)	36.90	1,500.00
Conference grant (\$500 each x 1)		500.00* (500 x1)
NRIG New Member (\$500 each x 1)		500.00* (500 x1)
Scholarships (\$1,500 each x3)		4,500.00* (1,500 x3)
PhD grant (\$3000 each x1)		3,000.00*(3,000x1)
Novice grant (\$3000 each x1)		3,000.00*(3,000x1)
RNFOO	1,100.00	1,100.00
Guest speaker	50.00	100.00
PGI Teleconferencing	164.81	500.00
Website maintenance fee	250.47	300.00
Total expenses	\$ 1919.29	\$ 18,300

Balance forward (as of May 31, 2019) = \$ 23,557.11

(*Scholarship funds to be paid out June 2020.

Budgeted scholarship amounts subject to change pending availability of applicants, etc.)

Sincerely,
Michelle Heyer, Financial Officer

Scholarships & Awards Review Committee Report

We are very pleased to continue to be able to support the ongoing research and scholarship of NRIG members. This year we introduced a new award for Undergraduate Students. Across all applicants we saw representation from 13 Universities and Colleges. We received a number of applications for this award as listed below:

Grant Type	Number of Applicants	Number Awarded
Undergraduate Award	13	12
Conference Grant	1	1 *default to undergraduate if Conference cancelled
New Member Award	7	4
Research Grant for PhD Students/Candidates	4	1
Graduate Scholarship	5	2
Research Grant for Novice Researchers	0	** funds redistributed
RNFOO NRIG Award	Adjudicated by RNFOO	1

Reviewers met in late April to discuss the applications and rankings. We extended the deadline for submission by 2 weeks as the Province was in the midst of Pandemic Planning. We did not receive any applications for the Novice Researcher Grant and only one application for the Conference Grant, it was decided by the board that the funds could support additional Undergraduate Awards, and two New Member Awards.

Research Grant for PhD students:

Summer Haddad

New Member Award:

Andrea Fulton, Lauren Howorth, Caroline Variath & Shirin Vellani

Graduate Scholarship:

Aric Rankin & Yehudis Stokes

Conference Grant:

Hilary Hwu

Undergraduate Award:

Celia Cassiani, Jeffrey Chow, Adriana Congi, Lara Cooper-Cook, Dhruvika Joshi, Lana Gagnon, Sucy Kong, Melanie Marques, Sasha Mazzarello, Ina Samson, Paula Utomi, & Ashwini Veerasuntharam

RNFOO NRIG Award:

Lin Li

Thank you to all who applied to the funding competition this year. All were excellent applications and they have inspired our confidence in the nursing researchers of today and of the future! Congratulations to the awardees!

Sincerely,

The NRIG Awards Committee

Policy & Political Action Report

Queen's Park Event 2020

- On February 19-21st, Marzieh attended the RNAO's 20th Annual Queen's Park Day event.
- During the event, Marzieh had the opportunity to meet with MPP Logan Kanapathi (representing Toronto East) and raised some of the current issues facing residents, families, and nurses and other health care staff working in long-term care homes, including lack of resources, staffing issues and the needs for more RNs to provide quality patient care.
- In the afternoon of Queen's Park Day, we heard from the Premier and Minister of Health and the Opposition Party Leaders and Opposition Health Critics regarding their broad perspectives on health care, nursing, and the social and environmental determinants of health.

Voices from Our Members

- At the Queen's Park event, we heard from nursing scholars who shared their experience of engaging undergraduate students in research projects and helping them to publish their findings. They expressed their desire to host webinars for our members to discuss ways to engage more students and nurses in conducting research in various settings.
- We also heard from several undergraduate nursing students who expressed their interest in engaging in research activities to build their capacities for research through professional organizations such as RNAO.
- Members also expressed their willingness to work with potential mentors in conducting research activities. Suggestions included a funded mentorship program for undergraduate students and clinical/staff nurses.

Our Goals/ Moving forward (2020-2021)

- Part of the goal of NRIG is to raise awareness of issues impacting the quality of nursing practice and provide information on funding available for applied nursing research or quality improvement projects.
- In going forward, our goal is to communicate the feedback from our members to explore possible different ways to address their concerns and needs through educational initiatives, mentorship programs, and our scholarships and grants program.
- As the Policy & Political Action Officer for 2020/2021, Marzieh will follow up with nursing researchers who have expressed interest in hosting webinars and facilitate their sharing their experiences with our members.
- In an upcoming webinar, we hope to introduce the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN) as a potential research capacity building resource for nurses.
- Finally, in the upcoming year, our executive team will continue to pursue resources for our members through other political action events, continue dialogue with MPPs, and find ways to support staff nurses and nurse researchers across the province.

Sincerely,

Sheila Boamah & Marzieh Moattari

Membership Officer Report

Overall, NRIg Membership is trending upwards with a slight increase in membership this year in comparison to the 2017-2018 and 2018-19 fiscal years. Our membership numbers are as follows:

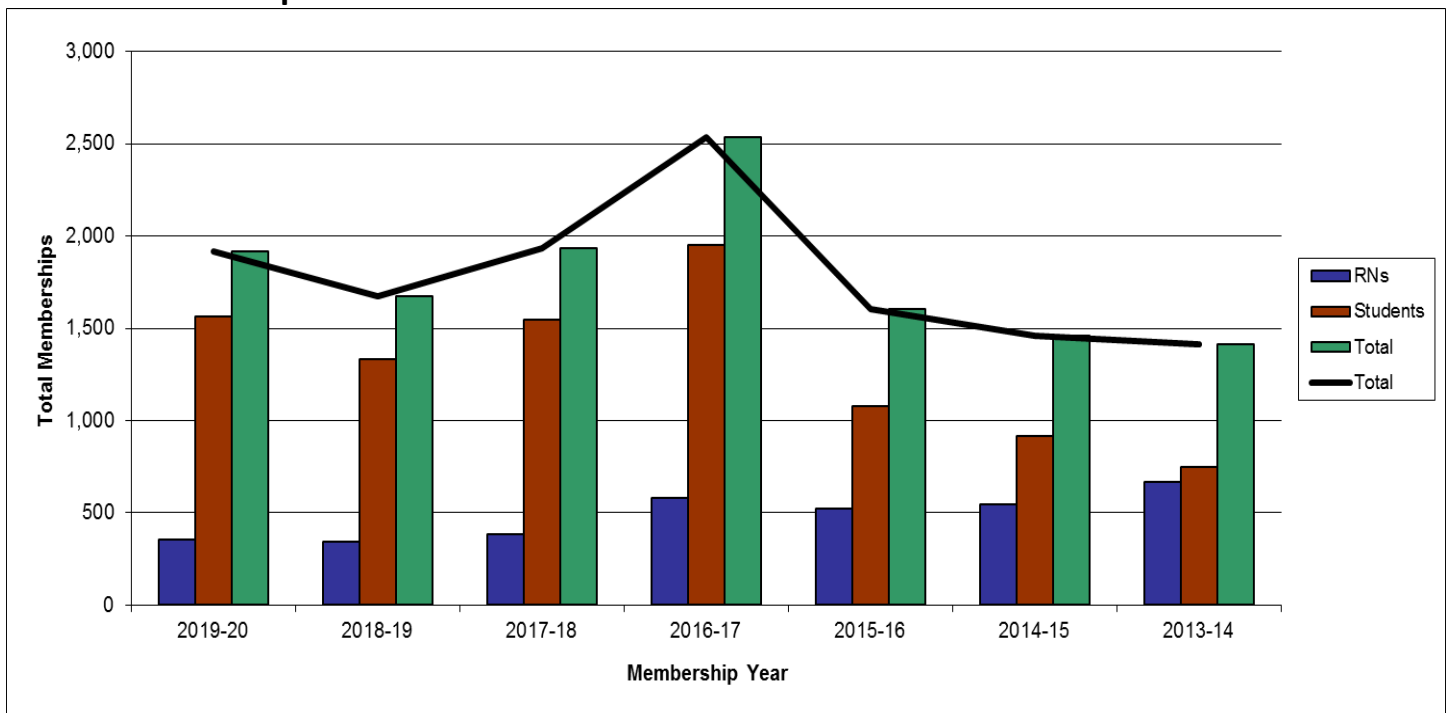
- **NRIg Membership 2019-2020 Fiscal Year:**

- ❖ Total: 1919 members

Member Breakdown:

- Registered Nurses (RNs): 356
- Nursing Students: 1,563

Membership Stats & Trends



Our goals this year are to engage and connect with our members in academia and beyond including frontline clinicians to promote nursing research and NRIg. We also plan to increase retention of our members by continuing to liaise and collaborate with nursing schools in promoting and encouraging NRIg engagement, including the promotion of our scholarships and grants, as well as Executive volunteering opportunities.

*Sincerely,
Christina Moldovan*

Communication Officer– Newsletter Report

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Nursing Research Interest Group distributed three newsletters to NRIG members in: fall 2019, winter 2020 and spring 2020. The newsletters highlighted NRIG updates, scholarship and grant opportunities, award recipients and important events. The newsletters have been archived and are available on the NRIG website for your reference. If you have any comments and suggestions for the NRIG newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

*Sincerely,
Valentina Donison*

Communication Officer– Website Report

In 2019-2020, NRIG continues to host its own website at www.nrig.ca. The website provides up to date information to our members such as NRIG Newsletters, Upcoming Events, Achieved recording of webinars and various resources.

The website integrate access to NRIG social media platform which includes Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. In the upcoming year, we look forward to an opportunity to further develop and enhance the NRIG website in the 2020-2021.

*Sincerely,
Joyce Tsui*

Member at Large- Social Media Report

NRIG has been actively engaged with social media with our main focus on Twitter. We have doubled our followers on Twitter (@RnaoNrig) from last year to 538 presently. We are following close to 1,000 accounts and have sent 680 tweets. NRIG has used social media platforms to advertise our meetings and awards, share activities we engage in as an organization (for example, RNAO Queen's Park Day), and connect with an international nursing and interprofessional research community. In the New Year we launched #AskNurseResearcher where we posed questions to our members and nursing researchers regarding interprofessional collaboration, nursing student experience in research, launching a research career and how to fight imposter syndrome. Our Twitter feed posts directly to Facebook (RNAO Nursing Research Interest Group) where we have 60 followers and our Instagram (rnao.nrig) account has 68 followers, representing increases from last year. I continue to encourage all members to connect with NRIG on social media by commenting and sharing our posts and tagging us in conversations of interest. Until elections can be held, I will continue to support our social media presence and welcome input from members on topics for posts and strategies to expand our digital reach.

*Sincerely,
Melissa Northwood (@northwoodRN)*

Student Representative Report

This past academic year NRIG elected two Student Representatives from two different nursing schools to help distribute the workload and increase reach to multiple nursing student cohorts. We (Jennifer and Rupinder) connected in-person and remotely with the executive committee to provide a student perspective in group discussions. Specific goals for NRIG related to nursing students included increasing our nursing student membership, planning and implementing effective strategies to enhance our reach to nursing students across the province, and identifying learning needs for nursing students related to research skills and opportunities. We were able to connect with representatives from almost all nursing schools across Ontario to ensure that nursing student cohorts were receiving timely information about NRIG's initiatives including webinars and scholarship opportunities.

NRIG offered webinars and social media campaigns throughout the year which provided opportunities for nursing students and novice nurse researchers to hear about examples of research and to ask nurse researchers questions about their work. In February, Jennifer partnered with other students on RNAO interest groups to hold a tabling event at University of Toronto's campus. We shared information about our interest groups' respective initiatives as well as the benefits of holding an RNAO membership. Rupinder's March tabling event at Humber's campus was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

As nurses-in-training, we both appreciated the value of connecting with NRIG committee members who have pursued research endeavours outside of traditional clinical nursing environments, and we are grateful for their mentorship! Nurses bring a breadth of experience in contributing to the art and science of providing health care, and thus they are well-positioned to lead and assist in research initiatives regionally, nationally, and globally. We are proud to be pushing the agenda, through our involvement on NRIG, to enhance nursing participation in research. We look forward to seeing NRIG continue to grow and engage with Ontario's nursing students and nurse researchers, as we pass on the baton to next year's Student Representative(s).

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Cano & Rupinder Kaur*

Slate of Officers for NRIG Executive 2020– 2021

Chair

Charlene Chu

Past Chair

Amy Wright

Finance Officer:

Michelle Heyer

Secretary:

Yehudis Stokes

Communications Officer: Newsletter

Valentina Donison

Communications Officer: Website

Joyce Tsui

Membership and Services Officer

Kylie Teggart

Policy & Political Action Officer Co-Leads

Marzieh Moattari

Member-at-Large- NRIG

Connie Schumacher

Member-at-Large- NRIG Social Media

Kamika Sylvester

Student Representatives

Celia-Marie Cassiani & Czarielle Dela Cruz