



**NRIG**

Nursing Research Interest Group

# Summer 2021 Newsletter



**RNAO**

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

*Speaking out for nursing. Speaking out for health.*



Website: [nrig.rnao.ca](http://nrig.rnao.ca)

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## • Chair Report •

July 15 2021

Hello NRIG members,

I want to start off by acknowledging that these last few weeks have been heavy for members of our Indigenous and Muslim communities. As nurses and researchers, we need to continue to advocate against systemic violence in our systems of education, health care, and society. My deepest sympathies go out to everyone who has been affected by these tragic events.

In Ontario, as vaccination rates continue to accelerate, and COVID-19 cases continue to decline, NRIG is optimistic for brighter days ahead. Last month, we celebrated June as National Indigenous History Month as well as Pride Month. I encourage you to read about the deep histories of each group.

### NRIG Annual General Meeting

We hosted our AGM on June 29, 2021 at 3-4pm EST online through Zoom this year to make it more accessible to those outside the GTA and also compliant with physical distancing recommendations. NRIG's 2021 AGM featured the award winners of this year's annual awards. We are very proud to support their great research. The meeting concluded with a special talk from [Dr. Jenny Ploeg](#), an icon in nursing research. Dr. Ploeg is a recognized expert and one of McMaster University's School of Nursing's longest-serving faculty members. Dr. Ploeg spoke to us about how to have a successful research career in nursing. The talk was followed by a very thoughtful Q and A. You can watch the video on NRIG's YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/DmWvjG0s8RU>

We asked you to send us your questions for Dr. Ploeg to [Nrig.chair@gmail.com](mailto:Nrig.chair@gmail.com). Jenny was kind enough to answer the questions for us and we've included them in this newsletter.



To prepare for the year ahead, NRIG executives will not be offering any content this Summer and will be restarting with new content and webinars in September.

We hope you have a safe summer.

Sincerely,  
Charlene Chu  
NRIG Chair

## • Q and A with Dr. Jenny Ploeg •

NRIG members had 3 additional questions for Dr. Jenny Ploeg. We are so grateful to hear her advice:

**Q: What skills do you think nurse researchers need now that they didn't need 10 years ago? How do you think research or dissemination of research has changed?**

JP: I believe that as research methods have become more sophisticated (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods), so too do nurse researchers require greater expertise in these advanced research methods. Nurse researchers now need improved skills in obtaining matching grant funding (and fund raising for grants). We need to build relationships with such funding partners.

Nurses also need skills in building partnerships with patient and public research partners as well as decision makers, this is a requirement for many grants now.

Increasingly I am seeing nurse researchers use administrative data bases as sources of research data and various software programs to conduct their research.

During this time of COVID-19, I am seeing an increased use of virtual approaches to nursing research and intervention research and we still have lots to learn about these approaches.

Increasingly, nurses are developing skills in sharing research results with many different audiences including the lay public through non traditional and online sources such as The Conversation; there are wonderful opportunities to work with our patient and public research partners to ensure the results of our research are easily understood by others and can be used successfully.

**Q: Hi Dr. Ploeg, I'm an undergraduate nurse and am very interested in research. I approached several of my instructors and professors but they do not have opportunities for me to join, it's been challenging. I've had to start reaching out to other universities where there is more research but with it being summer now, it's still hard. Do you have any advice for undergraduate students who want to get into research but can't get a foot through the door?**

JP: I commend you in seeking out research opportunities at such an early phase of your career. Approaching instructors and professors you know is a good first step, and then reaching out to other universities is a good next step. I believe persistence pays off. So, keep contacting people who have a similar area of interest as you do and offer your help; sometimes having a professor who knows you contact others as a way to introduce you to them is a helpful strategy. Be clear re what you can offer, what skills you bring to the project, share your cv. And again, persist!!



**Q: You've created a successful infrastructure to support your program of research. How do you go from a small program of research, like an intervention from my PhD, to building a program of research and eventually a fully funded unit? What is your advice on how to scale research to have large scale impact? Thanks."**

JP: To move from a Masters or PhD project to a larger program of research, you need to go step by step, and recognize it takes years to do so. Keep writing and publishing, make sure you publish the results of your graduate research study. Develop a plan for a 5-year program of research knowing that it will likely change over time. Find a mentor who can support your growth as a nurse researcher. Develop a collaborative team that you can work with on papers and grants. Keep applying for grants, starting small and moving up. As you build your success in funding and publications, keep your eyes out for funding opportunities that would support a longer term program of research. Track the provincial and national strategic priorities as these will help guide your research focus; build relationships with policy and decision maker partners. Invite undergraduate and graduate students to be involved in your research and provide mentorship to them. Establish a group of patient and public research partners who will work with you on your research.

## **• Policy and Political Action.**

This year marks RNAO's 21st Annual Queen's Park Day event, and as the Policy and Political Action Officer of NRIG, I was pleased to attend and give voice in support of patient care and nursing in Ontario at different sessions of the event. The Queen's Park event of 2021 was held virtually due to COVID 19 pandemic.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to virtually meet with MPP Vincent Keco (representing Toronto East) and raised two important persistent issues of the quality of care in long-term facilities and opioid overdose and how pandemic influenced and highlighted these issues. The need to improve and ensure the safety and security of residents of long-term care by appropriate funding to hire full-time nursing staffs and to engage the inter-professional team was discussed. Additionally, the MPP was informed of the need for funding to commensurate service providers' compensation with hospital staff. The opioid crisis in Ontario during the pandemic was the next issue discussed. We highlighted the RNAO views for improving the accessibility of substance users to Consumption Treatment Service (CTS) under the supervision of RNs and Nurse Practitioners.

On Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Dr. Doris Grinspun clarified the need for legislated 4 worked hours of care for each resident of long-term care to include 48 months RN, 60 months RPN and 132 months of PSW. Plus 1 NP per 120 residents and 1 IPAC per home.



*Sincerely, Marzieh Moattari, NRIG Policy & Political Action Officer*

*Kamika Sylvester, Member-at-Large Social Media*

## • Social Media Update •

From contests to campaigns, NRIG has been busy on social media! We began this year by collaborating with the Diabetes Nurses Interest Group for an educational campaign on Twitter sharing evidence-based resources to support building diabetes competency. For international women's day we showcased our executive team of all women to highlight our roles in nursing and research! Our social media platforms continued to promote our events including the Nursing Research webinar hosted in collaboration with Ryerson NCU-CNSA in February. Our followers can expect to stay informed about our events while getting access to prizes through our social media contests. Giveaways to date included resume workshops with our very own Charlene Chu and gift cards to popular stores like Starbucks and Amazon in celebration of Nurses Week! We also advertise a variety of opportunities for our members including our annual scholarships/awards and recruitment for our executive team! Stay connected with us on social media so you never miss a thing!

*Sincerely,*



## • Scholarships and Awards •



We are very pleased to continue to be able to support the ongoing research and scholarship of NRIG members. This year we introduced the Innovation and Dissemination Grant Application, an award to support “point of care” nurses engaged in evidence-based quality improvement and/or knowledge translation research projects. The NRIG executive made the decision to place a hold on offering the conference award this year, we look forward to making this award available again as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. New this year, we recognized the importance of inclusion by adding BIPOC (self-identification) as part of the adjudication for two awards.



We received a number of high-quality applications this year, a testament to the important work that is taking place by nurses in Ontario:

**Grant Type Number of Applicants:**

- Novice Researcher Grant – 2
- Research Grant PhD Student - 3
- Innovation and Dissemination Grant - 3
- Scholarship Award for PhD or Masters Student - 4
- New Member Award - 5
- Undergraduate Award - 4

Reviewers met in April to discuss the applications and rankings. We are very pleased to offer awards totalling \$12,000.

**We are proud to announce the 2021 NRIG Awards, Scholarship and Grant recipients:**

**Research Grant for Novice Researchers:**

Dr. Emily Belita, Post-Doctoral Fellow at McMaster University, School of Nursing.

**Research Grant for PhD Student:** Andrea Rochon, PhD Student at Queens University, School of Nursing.

**Scholarship Award for PhD or Masters Student:**

Joyce Chung Ki Tsui, PhD Student at York University and Faculty Centennial College & Carolyn Variath, PhD Candidate at Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto

**Innovation and Research Dissemination Grant:** Angel (He) Wang, Clinical Resource Leader Complex Continuing Care and Rehab, Michael Garron Hospital

**New Member Award:** Genevieve Armstrong, PhD Student at Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto & Paige Gehrke, Master of Science in Nursing Student at McMaster University, School of Nursing

**Undergraduate Award:**

Tristen Brown, Bachelor of Science Nursing Student at Ryerson University, & Nida Shamsi, Bachelor of Science Nursing Student at Centennial College/Ryerson University.

Congratulations to all,

*Sincerely,*

*Connie Schumacher*





## Election for NRIG is closed

NRIG is still accepting nominations for the following positions:

**Chair-Elect** (1-year term; up to a 4-year commitment)

See the full post [here](#). Our next newsletter will feature our new executive members!

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## • Student Corner •

As the semester comes to an end, the nursing student representatives are happy to recap NRIG's most recent webinar for Undergraduate Nursing Students focusing on Undergraduate Nursing Research hosted February 15 and 17. They collaborated with nurse researchers such as Dr. Margareth Zanchetta from Ryerson and other undergraduate nurse researchers to provide students with tangible resources to engage with research more broadly across their careers (i.e., building an academic CV, networking, gaining experience in research). If you missed the event, not to worry, the recorded sessions can be accessed on our website [Education & Resources - Nursing Research Interest Group \(nrig.ca\)](http://Education & Resources - Nursing Research Interest Group (nrig.ca)).

We look forward to welcoming our new student representatives at the end of the term and congratulate all nursing students for completing yet another year, as well as all the best for our new graduates!

*Sincerely, Celia Cassiani and Czarielle De La Cruz,  
NRIG Student Representatives*





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Nursing Research Interest Group

## • Upcoming Opportunities •

Given COVID-19 pandemic, some agencies may change submission deadlines; check all deadlines carefully.

**NSERC Discovery Grant** letter of intent deadline is **August 3, 2021**, with full application due **November 1, 2021** (UofT applicants' internal deadline is **October 25, 2021**). Duration: up to 5 years. For more information, please see [here](#).

[here](#).



### **The American Gastroenterology Association**

The American Gastroenterology Association Robert & Sally Funderburg Research Award in Gastric Cancer application deadline is **July 21, 2021**.

Eligibility: North American members of the AGA.

Funds available: US\$100,000 over two years.

For more information, please see [here](#).



**CIHR IRSC**

### **The Canadian Institute of Health Research**

**Team Grant: Healthy Cities Implementation Science Team Grants.** Letter of intent due **August 11, 2021**, with full application due **April 28, 2022**.

One Grant will be funded in each of these six thematic research areas: Healthcare systems, services and policies; healthy aging; musculoskeletal health mobility or prevention (including skin and oral health); type 2 diabetes



### **The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs has several opportunities available. Check eligibility criteria carefully.

**Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program:** The Behavioral Health Science Award, Career Development Award (Fellow Option), and Translational Team Science Award have pre-application deadlines of **July 29, 2021**, with full applications due **August 18, 2021**. For more information, please see [here](#)

**Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2 II, and Era of Hope Scholar Award II:** Pre-application deadline **August 31, 2021**, and full application due **September 24, 2021**. For more information, please see



prevention; urban indigenous health; and population and public health. Applicants can also apply for supplementary funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Funds available: \$27,450,000 from both CIHER and PHAC. The CIHR component is \$18,450,000. \$450,000 is available at the up to 18 Development and Engagement grants of up to \$25,000 each for one year. At the full application stage, LOI stage to fund \$18,000,000 (not including partner funding) is available to fund \$3,000,000 for one application relevant to each thematic area. Of the \$9,000,000 available from PHAC at the full application stage, a maximum of \$500,000 per year for up to six years per grant is available. An information webinar will be held on June 23, 2021, at 1 pm. For more information please see [here](#).

**The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship competition** deadline is **September 22, 2021**. The Banting Program Home Page has details about the application process. Value: \$70,000; Duration: two years. Note: institutions may have internal deadlines; applicants should consult with their proposed supervisor. For more information please see [here](#).

**Catalyst Grant: Official language minority communities in health research.** Application deadline is **October 5, 2021**. This opportunity is designed to build capacity, and generation of

preliminary observations etc., development of new inventions, tools, methodologies, and planning/development activities to address health research priorities. Research areas: determinants of health; health service governance, management and delivery; language, culture and health; relationships between access to health services in language of choice and quality of care; access to care; impacts of access to care for mental health. Funds available: maximum per grant: \$100,000 for up to one year. Total funding is enough for approximately five grants. For more information please see [here](#).



**The Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute New Challenge Grants** have a registration deadline of July 28, 2021, with full applications due September 22, 2021. These grants will support research across all disciplines with the goal of solving a problem that will be meaningful for people affected by or at risk of cancer. Funds available: enough to fund at least 35 grants. Maximum award per grant: \$150,000 per year for three years.





**The Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research  
Entrepreneurship for Cardiovascular Health**

Opportunities is accepting applications. Submission deadline is Friday August 6, 2021. This fully virtual specialized training program offers innovators of cardiovascular technologies with entrepreneurship training, mentorship, networking, and funding opportunities.



**The American Nephrology Nurses Association**

offers a research grant of up to US\$15,000. Deadline for review and feedback review is August 31, 2021; final application is due November 15, 2021.



**Sigma Theta Tau International and the  
Association of peri-Operative Registered Nurses**

grant deadline is August 31, 2021. PhD students intending to apply to any of these opportunities

must list their supervisor as the Principal Investigator on the grant application.

**FULBRIGHT  
Canada**

Applications for the **Fulbright Canada Research Chairs** will be accepted until November 15, 2021. Chairs include the Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; the Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Race and Health Policy, University of Memphis; and chairs (field open) at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Vanderbilt University. Faculty interested in hosting a US graduate student (US citizen) for nine months in 2022-2023: students can apply to the Fulbright Student Award (US\$20,000) for doing research in Canada (check site for important dates). Canadian graduate students may apply for the traditional Fulbright student award to study/conduct research in the United States. Applications will be accepted until November 15, 2021.



**The Transcultural Nursing Society Research  
Award** submission deadline is October 15, 2021.

This competition is open to doctoral students or



doctoral prepared nurses for studies related to/in transcultural nursing. Value: US\$3,000.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## CONFERENCES



**CANADIAN  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION**

**ASSOCIATION  
CANADIENNE DE  
SANTÉ PUBLIQUE**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## **CADTH** Evidence Driven.

**CADTH (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health)**

holds its 2021 Symposium virtually, November 2-4, 2021. The theme is “Uncertain times, imperfect evidence, and the imperative to act”.

Abstract submission deadline is **June 22, 2021**.

Presentation formats: Breakfast session, workshop, panel discussion, debate, oral presentation, e-poster presentation. Themes of interest: methods to address uncertainty in health policy and healthcare delivery; real-world evidence; methods to address unconscious bias in health research; and more.

For more information please see [here](#).

Please check conference sites carefully; many conferences are postponing, cancelling, or moving to virtual platforms.

### **Canadian Public Health Association**

Public Health 2021 will be held virtually **October 6-8, 2021**, virtually. Keywords include COVID-19, digital health emerging technologies, indigenous health, mental health, child and adolescent health, immigrant, and refugee health, and much more.

For more information please see [here](#).

Please check conference sites carefully; many conferences are postponing, cancelling, or moving to virtual platforms.



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## • 2021-2022 NRIG Executive Members •

### **Chair**

Charlene Chu, RN, PhD [nrig.chair@gmail.com](mailto:nrig.chair@gmail.com)

### **Finance Officer**

Michelle Heyer, RN, MN [nrig.finance@gmail.com](mailto:nrig.finance@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

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### **Communications Officer – Newsletter**

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### **Policy & Political Action Officer**

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### **Members-at-Large-NRIG Social Media**

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### **Student Representatives**

Rachel Ng & Destiny Javier [nrig.studentliason@gmail.com](mailto:nrig.studentliason@gmail.com)