



Nurses Research Interest Group



Spring and New Beginnings

By Sue Bookey-Bassett, RN, BScN, MEd., PhD (student)
NRIG Chair

Spring is a time of new beginnings, growth, transitions, and transformations. After a long winter, we all deserve (and need) a breath of fresh air and opportunities to grow personally and professionally. I have spent the past few months engrossed in the comprehensive exam process as part of my PhD program. An experience like no other, I liken this to that of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly. Spending several weeks in a cocoon, I imagine emerging as a butterfly, having learned from this experience, there will be no turning back. While in the cocoon, I have grown in my knowledge, skills and confidence in contributing to and conducting nursing research. I look forward to the next phase of my development as a nurse scientist.

Aside from my personal professional development, NRIG Executive members continue to work towards new programs and supports for NRIG members. Consistent with theme of new beginnings, we are holding our NRIG Annual General Meeting outside of the larger home office AGM. This year's AGM will feature an evening event including guest speakers, buffet dinner, scholarship and grant presentations, and the business of the annual general meeting. Details of the AGM to be held on May 21 are included in this version of the newsletter. In addition, we have extended an invitation to PNEIG members in an attempt to forge some new relationships and encourage collaboration among the two groups.

NRIG executive is monitoring current trends with regard to research competencies of nursing graduates. NRIG members have recognized that research competencies related to conducting research during nursing education is increasingly limited to members who have completed a thesis based Master's program, or have worked as a Research Associate during their academic experience. Since Advanced Practice Nurses are expected to participate and lead applied research projects such as program planning and evaluation, educating nurses beyond the basics of research is increasingly falling to employers. As a knowledge-based profession, we need to maintain a strong commitment to generating new knowledge that is relevant to a practice profession; therefore NRIG plans to conduct an assessment with schools of nursing to gain a better understanding of this issue from both the employer and academic perspectives. Further engagement with RNAO home office in relation to this issue will follow.

We are interested in hearing from you regarding this issue. To what degree are nurses in various roles engaging in research in their practice settings? What barriers do nurses face in participating or conducting research in their practice settings? What supports exist to facilitate nurses' participation in and leading nursing research? Tell us how we can assist you in this regard. What do nurses need in order to engage in research activities?

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Queen's Park Day 2014

Betsy, Kim, Grace and I attended Queen's Park Day on February 27th, 2014. On February 26th, prior to the meeting we had a prep time to review RNAO's four main issues. They are: Increasing the Minimum Wage to \$14.00 per hour, Health System Restructuring, which deals with Local Health Integration Networks (to include home care, primary care and public health, with the exception of community health centres; Investment in Registered Nurses and Renewal of the Federal Health Accord.

On Queen's Park Day, Grace, another student from UFT and I met with MPP Christine Elliott to discuss RNAO main issues. She was late for the breakfast so we spent some of the time discussing the issues and becoming acquainted with one another. One of the students focused on Investing in RNs, Grace focused on Increasing the Minimum Wage to \$14.00 per hour and I discussed Renewal of the Federal Health Accord with Christine Elliott. She was delighted to meet with the students and listened to their concerns and examples. This was an enlightening experience for the students, who had never attended a Queen's Park Day. Following the breakfast meeting, we went to the Gallery viewing for Questions and Answer Period.

The gallery viewing during the "Question Period" was an eye-opener for those who have never attended such a session. We had to remain silent throughout the 45 minutes experience and listened to the presentations from the 3 Political parties. The Speaker of the House modulated the meeting and comments made by different politicians.

Several different groups were present at the “Question & Answer Period” such as school children from a Civic Class, RNAO Board of Governors, visitors from the community, and Political Activity Officers from across the province plus, Chapter and Regions Presidents and Interest Group Chairs. Following this session we went for lunch.

The afternoon session was filled with presentations from the three Provincial Political Leaders (Kathleen Wynne, Tim Hudak and Andrea Horwath plus their health critics). Members of RNAO Board and other members of RNAO had the opportunity to ask the leaders and their health critics questions pertaining to RNAO four main issues.

Following the Hon Deb Matthews’s speech, she announced the funding of 75 Nurse Practitioner for the Long Term Care areas (25 per year for the next three years). Each LTC would receive one NP.

On Friday 28th February we attended the Assembly Meeting. Rhonda and Doris gave their report including Membership Targets (ours is 460 members for 2014) & Members Voices Themes.

The Communications Department provides and In-Service Session on Connecting with Media. Members of the Communication Dept gave many strategies that we can use to connect with the media. They also reinforced that they are available to assist us with any media coverage, news release or letter to the Editor of Newspapers.

The last item for the day was a presentation on Dying with Dignity. Following this presentation, we had a round table discussion on pros and cons of this issue.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Angela Cooper Brathwaite, RN, PhD

Preparation for Nursing Week Celebrations

During the week of March 10th, I sent out invitation letters to all our MPPs in Durham Northumberland Region, to attend Nursing Week Celebrations: Take Your MPP to Work and Breakfast. **This event will be held on May 16th from 7:30 am to 10:00 am at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences.**

Letters were sent to MPPs Christine Elliott (Whitby-Oshawa), Jerry Ouellette, (Oshawa), John O'Toole (Bowmanville), Joe Dickson (Ajax), Tracey McCharles (Pickering-Toronto), Laurie Scott (Lindsay) and Rob Milligan (Cobourg).

Beatriz Jackaon and I have also developed and mailed letters to eight mayors (Steve Parish, Town of Ajax; Chuck Mercier, Township of Scugog; Terry Clayton, Township of Brock; Adrian Foster, Municipality of Clarington; David Ryan, City of Pickering; John Henry, City of Oshawa; Pat Perkins, Town of Whitby and Gerri Lynn O'Connor, Uxbridge) in Durham Northumberland Region. We are asking our mayors to proclaim Nursing Week from May 12th to 18th, 2014. **The theme for Nursing Week is: "Nursing – A Leading Force for Change."** Finally, with the assistance of Barbara Mildon, CNA President and Vice President Professional Practice, Human Resources, Research and Chief Nurse Executive of Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, we were able to procure a Conference Room at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences for our Nursing Week Celebrations.

Lastly, I developed a Media Advisory on Renewal of the Federal Government Healthcare Accord, which was sent to our Media Department at Home Office for review and feedback. Finally, I responded to an RNAO Action Alert on "Retain and Hire RNs and Increase Minimum Wage", which was sent to the Premier, Standing Committee on Finance and Economic and other political provincial leaders.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Angela Cooper Brathwaite, RN, PhD

Canadian Association for Nursing Research



The Canadian Association for Nursing Research (CANR) is a national organization with representation from every province and territory. We are a Canadian Nursing Association (CNA) interest group and as such, serve on the CNA Advisory Council. The purpose of CANR is to foster research-based nursing practice and practice-based nursing research by:

- providing information about research studies, methods, funding and other resources
- strengthening linkages between research, education, administration, and clinical practice
- representing members' interests to governments, funding agencies, and other nursing organizations
- recognizing excellence in research activities
- educating professionals and the public about the significance of the nursing research-practice partnership

The Canadian Journal for Nursing Research, the official journal of CANR, is a peer-reviewed, quarterly journal published by the McGill University School of Nursing since 1969. With world-wide circulation, CJNR's primary mandate is to publish original nursing research that develops basic knowledge for the discipline and examines the application of the knowledge in practice.

Research related to education and history is also welcomed, as are methodological, theoretical, and review papers that advance nursing science. CANR members have reduced subscription rates.

CANR also offers an annual awards program including:

The CANR Nurse Researcher Award is for an established nurse scientist who has contributed significantly to nursing research. The CANR Outstanding New Investigator Award is for an outstanding new researcher. The CANR Award for the Promotion of Research Based Practice is made to an individual or group who has provided leadership in the utilization of research in clinical nursing practice.

The CANR Practitioner-Researcher Award is for a clinician or manager engaged in research in a clinical setting.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Dr. Nancy Purdy

The President is Caroline Park (Athabasca University) and Nancy Purdy (Ryerson University) is the representative from Ontario. Among the benefits of membership are the regular emails providing notice of upcoming funding opportunities, conferences and awards. Consider membership: \$35/year or \$20/year for students or retirees. Visit the CANR website for more details – www.canr.ca.

Spotlight On Our NRIIG Scholars 2013-2014



I began my doctoral studies at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, in September 2011 with Professor Sioban Nelson as my supervisor. I am currently in my third year of the program, have completed my coursework and am developing my dissertation proposal for defence this summer. I developed an interest in studying workplace-based competency assessment as a result of my experiences in nursing practice, research, academia, regulation and professional practice. Specifically, my experiences in nursing education, regulation and professional practice provided me with broad exposure to different health care sectors in both urban and remote geographic settings throughout Canada. These experiences led to questions about the assessment of continuing competence of regulated health professionals in health care organizations. Accordingly, my research will examine the assessment of health professionals' competence in health care organizations. I am particularly interested in exploring the tensions between regulated health professionals' regulatory and organizational accountabilities with respect to ongoing monitoring of competence. Since my research focuses on the process of competency assessment in the workplace, I am proposing to use a qualitative exploratory case study design. I hope that my research informs work aimed at advancing workplace-based competency assessment among health professionals and their employers. Through my doctoral work, I hope to contribute to the discourse and evolution of the

generation of theoretical, empirical, and clinically relevant knowledge around quality care with a focus on competency assessment of nurses.

Upon completion of my doctoral studies, my immediate career goal is to work in Professional Practice in an acute care setting. In this type of position, I would be engaged in facilitating and monitoring innovative professional development opportunities with the goal of advancing competence in the workplace. I would also like to lead research collaborations with other academic partners and key decision makers as an independent, productive researcher. In addition, I would like to maintain a cross-appointment with a faculty of nursing at a university in order to continue to pursue my academic and research interests. My doctoral research training and study of workplace-based competency assessment will assist me in working towards this career goal.

I am currently working on a casual basis at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing as a Teaching Assistant in the Graduate Program and as the Education Specialist in the Centre for Professional Development. I am also a research fellow at The Wilson Centre; a centre housed at the University Health Network (i.e. Toronto General Hospital) dedicated to advancing healthcare education and practice through research. I hope that my experiences throughout the doctoral program will provide strong research training to stand me in good stead throughout my nursing career. I am very grateful for the funding received from NRIG to support my doctoral studies.



Congratulations to the following

2014 Scholarship and Research Grant Recipients

Scholarship awards (\$1,500)

Barbara Chyzy, PhD student, University of Toronto
Nisha Sutherland, PhD student, Western University

Research Grants - Early Investigator category (\$3,000)

Esther Coker, PhD student, McMaster University, "Oral Hygiene Care Practices of Nurses with Older Adults in Post-Acute Hospital Settings"

Salima Ladak, PhD student, University of Toronto, "Symptoms and Function in the Early Recovery Period Following Orthotopic Liver Transplantation Surgery"

RNFOO Research Grant (\$1,500)

Noeman Mirza, PhD student, McMaster, "Effects of Abductive Reasoning Training on Hypothesis Generation Abilities of Level One and Level Two BScN Students"



Annual General Meeting 2014

Wednesday May 21, 2014
5:30 to 8:30 pm
Ryerson University
POD 463
Jorgensen Hall
380 Victoria Street

What Makes an Effective Tutor in the Kaleidoscope Curriculum? Hearing the Voice of Our Students.

Rosemary Ackerman-Rainville, RN, BScN, MEd & Darlene Sheremet, RN, BScN, MEd
Mohawk College, Hamilton, Ontario

Present the results of their qualitative study, find out:
What makes an effective teacher in each level of the BScN program?
What are the skills, attributes and strategies of an effective teacher?
How does this impact student learning at each level?

Evening will include a buffet dinner, presentation and NRIG Annual AGM

Registration Required by May 16, 2014

Cost: \$20.00 for RNAO Members

\$25.00 for non-RNAO Members

For more information, please contact:

Helen Kelly, NRIG, Education ENO

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