



Spring 2020 Newsletter



 **Website:** nrig.rnao.ca

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. Chair Report .

Greetings all NRIG members! To say that nurses and other healthcare workers have been inspirational over these last three weeks would be a gross understatement. COVID-19 has led to unprecedented measures taken locally and globally to stop the spread of the virus and care for those affected. The countermeasures have taken a great toll on all of us and now more than ever, we need to stand together. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, we want you to know that NRIG is still dedicated to promoting nursing research and evidence-based practice. You can touch base with us in the following ways:

NRIG Annual General Meeting

We'll be hosting our AGM on June 16, 2020 at 2-3pm EST online through ZOOM this year to make it more accessible to those outside the GTA and also compliant with physical distancing recommendations. We'll present our business report, award winners and new board members through the online platform. Stay tuned for a date and more details. Please look out for our AGM poster for more information regarding attendance. For more information, please visit our website at www.nrig.ca or email nrig.chair@gmail.com.

RNAO Annual General Meeting

The RNAO Annual General Meeting is scheduled for June 11-13th at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Toronto. NRIG will have a booth and we look forward to meeting you. Keep an eye open for changes to the event due to COVID-19.

Thank you to our Policy and Political Action Officer, Marzieh Moattari, who attended the 20th annual Queens Park Day and met with local MPP's to advocate for nursing research. Please check out her report included in our newsletter.

NRIG Webinars

Fiona Muckle, RN and second year Nurse Practitioner student at the University of Toronto presented "Beyond the bedside: Nursing opportunities in research" on March 18, 2020. The webinar was very well received with participants online from Humber College as well as



others who joined via phone and online. The presentation was archived, and the link is available to view on our website www.nrig.ca. Anyone in undergraduate and graduate studies interested in getting involved in research would benefit from the information presented.

Our next webinar will be on the Professional Use of Social Media (focus on Twitter) but is postponed to a later date due to COVID-19.

NRIG Awards and Scholarships

We have launched our spring awards and scholarships program and are currently accepting applications! The deadline has been extended to [April 14th](#) to accommodate changes to student curriculums as a result of COVID-19.

We have heard from our undergraduate members that funding specific to nursing students should be a priority, so this year NRIG has introduced a new Undergraduate Award category. We will again be offering New Member Awards and Conference Grants, along with our routine scholarships and grants. We are also offering a Graduate award through RNFOO. More details are available throughout the newsletter, and, as always, access our website for more information. Our primary objective here at NRIG is to support nursing research, and we look forward each year to financially supporting the innovative and important nursing research being conducted across the province. Please spread the news to your friends and colleagues. Keep an eye out on our website, Twitter ([@RnaoNrig](#)), Facebook ([RNAO](#)

Nursing Research Interest Group), and Instagram ([rnao.nrig](#)) sites, and through RNAO email.

New Board of Director Positions

There are several Board positions up for re-election this year. You can find more details in this newsletter. We're looking for committed and innovative nurse researchers and nursing students who want to engage with the broader community and become involved. Joining NRIG is a fantastic way to build leadership skills, network with other nurse researchers and leaders across the province and boost your CV! Keep an eye out for a call for nominations, coming early [April 2020](#).

It was my pleasure to write this Spring Chair report as our Chair, Dr. Amy Wright, welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world last month. She will be back for the Fall 2020 report. In the meantime, I wish you a safe and healthy spring and summer.



Sincerely,
Charlene Chu
NRIG Chair- Elect



•Research Webinars •



On March 18, 2020, NRIG was pleased to offer the webinar- *Beyond the bedside: Nursing opportunities in research* presented by Fiona Muckle and NRIG board members.

Fiona is currently enrolled in her second year of the Nurse Practitioner (Adult) program at the University of Toronto. She is participating in the collaborative specialization in Aging & the Life Course. She has previous professional experience as an RN working in the Emergency Department at Toronto Western Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital, and in the Cognitive Neurology Research Unit at Sunnybrook Research Institute.

She attended the University of Guelph where she obtained her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees and the University of Toronto where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She has a well-developed nursing practice interest in the acute care of the elderly, geriatrics and dementia care from her clinical experiences. She has worked on quality improvement initiatives in the areas of adult health literacy and falls prevention and hopes to pursue a career as a Nurse

Practitioner working with vulnerable older adults living with cognitive impairment and mental illness.

The webinar covered topics including nursing research opportunities at the undergraduate and post graduate levels. Attendees learned about different ways to get involved in research as a student nurse and upon graduation. The archived webinar can be accessed [here](#).

NRIG would like to extend a big thank you to

Fiona for the very informative webinar!

•Policy and Political Action•

This year marks RNAO's 20th 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.

In the morning, as part of the region 7 group, I had an opportunity to dine with MPP Logan Kanapathi (representing Toronto East) and informed him of health and nursing priorities such as the needs for more RNs, long-term care quality, and opioid-related issues and the potential contribution of RNs to address these priorities in the community. The key points highlighted by RNAO enlightened our group discussion.

As the NRIG group representative, I also shared my recent experience of conducting a quality improvement project as a research fellow at VHA Home Health Care in a joint program delivered in



partnership with organizations within the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN). My intention was to highlight the value of the research initiatives in providing evidence for health promotion of the community and research capacity building among nurses.

In the afternoon, I was impressed hearing directly 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. These multidimensional rich discussions provide a venue to maximize the high-quality health outcomes of Ontarians.



NRIG Policy and Political Action Officer, Marzieh Moattari, with RNAO President, Angela Cooper Brathwaite.



RNAO Chief Executive Officer, Doris Grinspun, and Deputy Premier and Minister of Long-Term Care, Christine Elliot, discuss transforming funding models in LTC.



NRIG Policy and Political Action Officer, Marzieh Moattari, with Logan Kanapathi MPP of Thornhill and RNAO members of Region 7.

Respectfully Submitted by Marzieh Moattari, NRIG Policy & Political Action Officer



NRIG

Nursing Research Interest Group

• Scholarships and Awards •



We have extended our Scholarships and Awards until April 14, 2020! Please submit your applications!

The Nursing Research Interest Group offers financial support in the form of a competitive scholarship and research grants program to members engaging in research. This year we are very pleased to continue to be able to support ongoing research and scholarship of NRIG members. A total of 10 scholarships and research grants will be available to NRIG members.

We are proud to announce the 2020 NRIG Awards, Scholarship and Grants:

Conference Grant: 2 x \$500

The NRIG Conference Grant will be awarded to a NRIG member who is attending or presenting at a conference (preference will be given to NRIG members presenting at a conference and those who have no alternative conference funding). Applicants must be a member of NRIG for a minimum of 2 years.

Undergraduate Award: 2 x \$250

The NRIG Undergraduate Award will be awarded to an NRIG member who is currently enrolled in an

Undergraduate Nursing program. Applicants must be a member of NRIG.

New NRIG Member Award: 2 x \$500

The New NRIG Member Award will be awarded to a new NRIG member who is currently enrolled in a Master's or PhD program (preferably in nursing) or who is a novice nurse researcher (defined as a nurse who has completed their Master's or PhD degree within the past 5 years). Applicants must be members of NRIG for less than 2 years and must agree to maintain NRIG membership for a minimum of one year.

NRIG Scholarships: 2 x \$1500

The NRIG Graduate Scholarship will be awarded to an NRIG member currently enrolled in a PhD or Masters program, preferably nursing. Preference will be given to NRIG members who have not received a previous scholarship or grant. Applicants must be members of NRIG for a minimum of 2 years.

NRIG Research Grant (PhD Student): 1 x \$3000

The NRIG Research Grant will be awarded to an NRIG member currently enrolled in a PhD program, preferably nursing. Preference will be given to NRIG members who have not received a previous scholarship or grant. Applicants must be members of NRIG for a minimum of 2 years.

NRIG Research Grant (Novice Researcher): 1 x \$3000

The NRIG Research Grant will be awarded to a NRIG member who is currently a New Investigator (defined as



a postdoctoral fellow or a researcher who has obtained their MN or PhD within the last 5 years). Preference will be given to NRIG members who have not received a previous scholarship or grant. Applicants must be members of NRIG for a minimum of 2 years.

For more information and access to application documents, please see the NRIG website: www.nrig.ca and email your application to nrig.awards@gmail.com.

Our 2020 scholarship recipients will be presented during the Annual General Meeting on June 16, 2020 from 2-3pm EST. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully Submitted, Valentina Donison, NRIG Communications Officer-Newsletter



• Ask a Nurse Researcher Campaign •

#AskNurseResearcher is our social media campaign that launched on Twitter January 10, 2020 to inspire researchers, connect researchers, and promote networking and collaboration.

Some of the most trending questions and answers are highlighted.

Posted by @pvandubs: Dr. Chu – what has been the most difficult and what has been the most rewarding aspects of starting your career? In other words – advice for nurse researchers about to embark on their journey at their own helm in academia.

“One of the most rewarding aspects is being able to dedicate your time and effort to project that really matter and are of interest you. Also working and meeting incredibly smart people, colleagues and students alike. For me, the most challenging is work-life balance. I think the first couple of yrs are always hard w/ getting settled, new courses, grants, etc. but I've heard it gets better w/ time. Great Q & TY for asking! I'll ask the same Q to @Amy_WrightNNP @northwoodRN @ClevKristin @ceronqu.” – CharleneChu @CharchuRn

“Replying to @CharchuRn @pvandubs and 3 others
Rewarding: Getting to do what I love, autonomy over my work. Challenging: All the relocating (Vancouver CA, Columbus OH, Exeter UK, Toronto CA since start of PhD) - means disconnecting and building



networks/infrastructure/capacity from scratch & learning the environment each time.” - Charlene Ronquillo @ceronqu

Thank you to all who participated in the campaign!

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Northwood, NRIG Member-at-Large-NRIG Social Media



• NRIG Executive Nominations •

Nominations Processes

Each year, NRIG sends out a call for nominations for the current year’s available executive positions on the NRIG board. Nominations are sent via email to all members and through the NRIG newsletter. Our chair receives the nominations and builds a list of potential nominees for each position. If more than 1 nomination is received for the positions (except the student position, for which we’ll allow for 2 to share the role) all submitted applications, are then forwarded to RNAO for an official

election/voting process. The election is carried out over a 2-week period where all NRIG members are given the opportunity to vote. RNAO informs our NRIG chair of the official winners for each position. The winners are then announced at the NRIG Annual General Meeting. Please see below for our **official call for nominations on the NRIG executive.**

This election period we are seeking nominations for the following 5 positions on our executive team, available in June 2020.

Membership Executive Network Officer (2-year term):

Responsible for recruiting and retaining members to the group:

- Engages and encourages existing members to get involved
- Maintains up-to-date membership numbers by contacting RNAO

Policy & Political Action Executive Network Officer (2-year term):

Responsible for the group's advocacy efforts:

- Meets with politicians as part of Queen's Park Day and Queen's Park on the Road (QPoR)
- Provides a strong voice for nursing during elections, by connecting with candidates and organizing health---care all---candidates debates.



Member-at-Large–Social Media (2-year term):

- Maintains NRIG communications on social media sites (such Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)

Student Representative (1-year term):

- Provides the student perspective to the executive team
- Connects to the nursing student community through outreach and encouraging other students to join and get involved in the group activities.

Secretary (2-year term):

- Keeps accurate records (minutes) of all NRIG executive meetings.

For more information please visit our website www.nrig.ca or email nrig.chair@gmail.com.

and work more specifically. Our other Student Representative, Rupinder, was scheduled to hold a promotional tabling event at UNB-Humber campus, but the event was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19 closures. In addition to in-person events, the Student Representatives continue to use online platforms, including twitter, facebook, and email, to connect with nursing programs and students across the province. As the one-year term comes to an end for Jennifer and Rupinder’s Student Representative positions, they look forward to connecting with students who are interested in the positions for next year and will help to facilitate this transition.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Cano and Rupinder Kaur, NRIG Student Representatives



• Student Corner •

The student representatives have continued to provide a nursing student perspective at our monthly executive meetings in order to enhance our reach and interest in research for students. A promotional tabling event was held in February at University of Toronto by Jennifer, who is in her final year of U of T’s BScN program. She teamed up with the Student Representative from RNAO’s Community Health Nurses’ Initiative Group to speak with students about how to get involved with RNAO interest groups, and NRIG’s upcoming events



• Upcoming Opportunities •

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



Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

NSERC's Alliance Option 2 grants are now open. This grant offers \$30,000 - \$100,000 per year for 1-5 years in the initial phase. PIs may apply only once during a 12-month period. Partnership with a public, not for profit or private sector organization is required. Private sector partners must contribute 10% cash. For more information please see [here](#).



University of Toronto

University of Toronto researchers may be interested in UofT's Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) which supports large-scale, cross-divisional (i.e., across Faculties) and interdisciplinary teams. Please contact strat.initiatives@utoronto.ca to discuss if your Network meets their criteria to apply. For more information please see [here](#).



The New Frontiers in Research Fund

The New Frontiers in Research Fund International arm opportunity is now open. It is tied to the EU's 2020 Horizon Global Platform competition. Canadian researchers who were part of an EU Horizon 2020 application may apply. Application deadline is one month after review results from a Horizon 2020 call are communicated to the project team. Funds available: C\$125,000 per year for up to four years per project. Includes direct costs. A minimum of 20 grants will be awarded. For more information please see [here](#).



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Engage Grant applications are due March 15, 2020. The next Connections grant deadline is May 1, 2020. The Transformation letter of intent deadline is April 15, 2020, with full application due November 18,



2020. UofT researchers must check for internal deadlines (usually one week before sponsor deadline). For more information please see [here](#).



The Arthritis Society 2020-2021 postdoctoral fellowship competition is open. **Application deadline is April 15, 2020.** This competition is open to applicants with a health professional degree or equivalent. The Strategic Operating Grant **letter of Intent deadline is April 15, 2020**, with full application due (by invitation) August 18, 2020. For more information please see [here](#).



Fulbright Canada

Fulbright Canada is accepting applications from Canadian scholars to the Fulbright Arctic Initiative. An area of interest is community dimensions of health. More details can be found [here](#).



The Cancer Research Society

The Cancer Research Society scholarships for the next generation of scientists application deadline is April 24, 2020. There are two competitions: Part 1 is a one-year postdoctoral salary award; Part 2 is an operating grant of \$75,000 per year for two years. The CRS will not fund clinical trials, psychosocial research, health care economics, and applied research. It will fund fundamental and basic research; early translational research; and research on environmental causes of cancer (including viruses, pollutants, work environment, lifestyle and diet). For more information please see [here](#).



The International Nurses Society on Addictions

The International Nurses Society on Addictions research competition deadline is June 1, 2020. One award of up to US\$3,000 will be made. For more information please see [here](#).



Sigma Foundation for Nursing

STTI grants due May 1, 2020 include the Global Nursing Research Grant and the American Nurses foundation Grant. For more information please see [here](#).

The American Society for Pain Management Nursing

The American Society for Pain Management Nursing grant application deadline is June 30, 2020. Funds available: Maximum \$5,000. For more information please see [here](#).



The Children's Heart Foundation

The Children's Heart Foundation research funding application is due Friday, June 5, 2020. Research should focus on congenital heart defects. Areas of interest include genetics, biochemistry, devices, quality and policy, maternal environment and modifiable disease impact, long-term care of adults with CHDs and more. For more information please see [here](#).



CIHR IRSC

The Canadian Institute of Health Research

Hepatitis C Research Initiative: Research areas include: Prevention of hepatitis C and reaching the undiagnosed – 1. examine the behavioural, social and structural factors and determinants of health re: infection and reinfection (stigma, substance abuse); methodology to enhance measure s and indicators of cascade of care in priority populations; implementation science on interventions, tolls and models of care; 2. Assess long-term consequences and health implications. Application deadline June 10, 2020. For more information please see [here](#).



The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses Research Grant application deadline is June 15, 2020. For more information please see [here](#).



Team Grant: Canada-EU Smart Living Environments – Transitions in Care for Ageing People. [Full application to European Commission \[check EU deadlines separately\]](#) and [Abbreviated CIHR Application April 22, 2020](#). This grant is part of the Horizon 2020 program of research. Upcoming webinar information can be found [here](#). The goals of this grant are around developing and implementing smart living environments that address transitions in care challenges, improving health outcomes, patient experience, etc., building collaborations and partnerships, and demonstrating capability to go beyond prototypes for smart living environment solutions. Canadian applicants may request \$240,000 per year for up to four years. Matching and partnership funds are required. For more information please see [here](#).

Oral Health and Oral health Care of Canadians (National Survey): [Registration deadline May 5, 2020](#); [full application due June 2, 2020](#). Objectives: conduct a national survey on oral health status of Canadians across the lifespan; create a cohort of data; create an accessible data platform; provide multidisciplinary training and mentoring to build capacity for oral health research. Funds available: \$3,300,000, enough to fund one grant; maximum amount is \$1,650,000 (Year 1), \$1,300,000 (Year 2), and \$350,000 (Year 3). For more information please see [here](#).

Operating Grant: Active and Assisted Living Program: Healthy Aging with the Support of Digital Solutions.

Application deadline: [May 22, 2020](#). Funds available: \$353,000 is available; enough to fund approximately one grant; maximum amount per grant is \$117,666 per year for up to three years. Objectives: Develop, test, validate, scale-up and integrate innovative ICT solutions for ageing well into re-designed service delivery models aimed at maintaining long-term functional ability; contributing to the creation/strengthening/connection of healthy ageing ecosystems. Full applications must be made to the AAL program. Canadian applicants must submit an abbreviated CIHR application to ResearchNet. For more information please see [here](#).



Molly Towell Perinatal Research Foundation

The Molly Towell Perinatal Research Foundation Fellowship application process will open February 14, 2020. [Application deadline is usually early April](#). For more information please see [here](#).



SickKids Foundation

The SickKids Foundation New Investigator Research Grant Program [deadline is April 20, 2020](#). Funds available: Up to \$100,000 annually for up to three years for a maximum of \$300,000 for their research project. PIs must not have been awarded combined operating



grant funding of \$500,000 or more. For more information please see [here](#).

can apply for a fee waiver. For more information please see [here](#).



Canadian Cancer Society

The Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute Travel Award application is May 15, 2020. This is an excellent opportunity for eligible doctoral students. For more information please see [here](#).

The Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute's Impact Grant has a letter of intent deadline of April 29, 2020. Full application by invitation due September 15, 2020. The next Travel awards competition has an application deadline of May 15, 2020. For more information please see [here](#)



The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging

The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging has a data access program. Next submission deadline is June 17, 2020, and the last of 2020 will be October 7, 2020. Current fee is \$3,000 for Canadian researchers; trainees



The American Association of Heart Failure Nurses

The American Association of Heart Failure Nurses Nightingale Research Grants competition closes April 30, 2020. Funds available: \$1,000 and \$500. Applicants must be AAHFN members. Non-members may apply but must become a member if the grant is awarded. For more information please see [here](#).



AMS Healthcare and Ontario SPOR Support Unit
AMS Healthcare, working with the Ontario SPOR Support Unit, is funding a fellowship in compassion and artificial intelligence. The competition is open to early and mid-career investigators. Funds available: up to \$75,000 for one year. Letter of intent deadline is April 15, 2020, and full application (by invitation) is due July 7, 2020. For more information please see [here](#).



University of Toronto

The University of Toronto is partnering with the University of Manchester (UK) for joint research proposals. UofT will provide each approved project up to \$8,500 per year for one year to support UofT applicants. **Application deadline is April 17, 2020.** Full details available at the UofT funding opportunities database (UTORid login required). For more information please see [here](#).

The University of Toronto's Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship competition is now open. **Application deadline is May 1, 2020.** The award is \$70,000 per year for up to two years. For more information please see [here](#).



Crohn's and Colitis Canada

Crohn's and Colitis Canada offers a Nursing-led Research Grant. Funds available: \$15,000 (subject to availability of funds – should address a clinical research pilot project). Also available: Nursing Education Travel awards (\$1,000) and a Nursing Fellowship. **Application**

deadline is May 29, 2020. For more information please see [here](#).



The Michael J Fox Foundation has several funding opportunities. Full proposal for BEAT-PD DREAM Challenge is **April 22, 2020.** Pre-proposals are due **April 23, 2020** for investigating environmental factors that increase the risk for Parkinson's disease; Target Advancement Foundation; Parkinson's Pathway Biomarkers; and Therapeutic Pipeline Program. **Full proposal is due May 15, 2020** for the Occupational Therapy in Parkinson's disease Intervention. For more information please see [here](#).



Lung Cancer Research Foundation

The Lung Cancer Research Foundation has two awards available. The Pilot Grant maximum award amount is US\$150,000 for two years (\$75,000 per year). **Letter of intent deadline is May 1, 2020; full proposal deadline (by invitation) is August 28, 2020.** The Research Grant on Disparities in Lung Cancer maximum award is \$150,000 for two years (\$75,000 per year). **Application deadline is May 1, 2020.** For more information please see [here](#).



SAVE THE DATE!



The Canadian Hypertension Congress

The Canadian Hypertension Congress will be held in Montreal, QC. **Abstract submission deadline is April 30, 2020.** Trainee travel awards are also available.

Date:

September 24-26, 2020.

Location:

Montreal, Quebec

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!



The Canadian Association on Gerontology annual scientific and educational meeting will be held in Regina, SK. The theme is “Closing the research-practice gap”. **Abstract submission opens in January 2020.**

Date:

October 22-24, 2020.

Location:

Regina, Saskatchewan

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

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



NRIG

Nursing Research Interest Group

• 2019-2020 NRIG Executive Members •

Chairperson

Amy Wright

- ❖ The chair and chair elect can be contacted at NRIG.chair@gmail.com

Chair Elect

Charlene Chu

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