



**NRIG**

Nursing Research Interest Group

# FALL 2024

## NRIG NEWSLETTER



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**NRIG**

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

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



# CHAIR UPDATE

2024-2025



## Welcome to NRIG!

I trust you all enjoyed a wonderful summer, filled with moments of relaxation, connection with loved ones, and ample opportunities for recharging your spirits. As we transition into the late autumn season, the NRIG Executive Team extends a warm welcome back to our vibrant community.

Over the summer NRIG took a well-deserved break to regroup and prepare for an exciting year ahead. We are thrilled to announce that we have an array of events and opportunities in store for our devoted members. Brace yourselves for diverse and enriching webinars, engaging student events, and the eagerly awaited awards and scholarship initiatives slated for this year. We have already had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Kateryna Metersky and her co-presenters on October 18, 2024. Up next, Dr. Rebecca Brookham will deliver our lunchtime webinar on November 18, 2024. Register via Eventbrite to secure your seat!

In this edition of our newsletter, you will also find introductions to the newest additions to our Executive Board. We are truly delighted to introduce these remarkable individuals, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their commitment to furthering NRIG's mission in the years to come. As always, we extend our sincere appreciation to our members for your unwavering support and dedication to NRIG. If you have a desire to contribute or wish to share suggestions on how we can better serve your needs, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Your input is invaluable to us. Wishing each of you a safe, successful, and enjoyable fall as we embark on this research journey together!

Warm regards,  
Amanda McIntyre PhD RN  
Chair, NRIG

# MEET THE TEAM

NRIG 2024-2025



## **Amanda McIntyre, PhD, RN**

**NRIG Role:** Chair

**Research Interest/Focus:** Enhancing nursing health systems and health service delivery across the continuum of care. Focuses on equity, organization, accessibility, quality and effectiveness of healthcare services delivered to patients within and across several care settings. Specific expertise in emergency and rehabilitative care.

Amanda has two undergraduate degrees, one in Biology and the other in Nursing. She completed her MSc in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in 2011 and more recently her PhD in Nursing in 2022. She is an Assistant Professor in nursing at Western University and a Registered Nurse in the emergency department at LHSC in London. She is a proud mama of two spunky children (Arya & Benjamin) and two baby kittens (Chance & Lupe). She loves true crime documentaries, thunderstorms, and puzzles!



## **Eliabeth Straus, PhD, RN**

**NRIG Role:** Chair Elect

**Research Interest/Focus:** Disability, neurodivergence, 2SLGBTQIA+ well-being, critical approaches to mental health, access and belonging, arts-based research and accessible research methodologies

Dr. Elizabeth Straus (they/she) is an autistic and disabled nurse scholar and educator whose scholarly interests focus on disability, neurodivergence, 2SLGBTQIA+ well-being, critical approaches to mental health, access and belonging, and accessible research methodologies. They are an Adjunct Professor with the Re-Vision Centre for Art and Social Justice at the University of Guelph where they lead a multimedia storytelling and interview project titled "Beyond the Normative Knot: Life and Praxis at the Gender-Sexuality-Autism Nexus". They also teach a graduate course in Equity and Health Systems at Western University and supervise undergraduate student thesis and community projects in the School of Disability Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University. In addition to their role in NRIG, they are also the Communications Officer for the Rainbow Nursing Interest Group.

# MEET THE TEAM

## NRIG 2024-2025



### **Michelle Greenway, RN, MSc**

**NRIG Role:** Membership Officer

**Research Interest/Focus:** Health coaching, chronic illness self-management, patient empowerment.

Michelle Greenway is a patient educator at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital's outpatient cardiac rehab program. With 15 years of experience in critical care and cardiology, she brings a wealth of practical knowledge to her role. Michelle is a 2nd year PhD student at McMaster University whose research aims to co-design a health coaching program with Indigenous First Nations. Her research interests include health coaching, self-management in chronic conditions, and rehabilitation. She is just beginning her journey as a nurse researcher and hopes to contribute to future nursing knowledge to improve patient experiences and nursing practice. Michelle is the chair of the McMaster University Nursing Graduate Peer Mentorship Initiative, which aims to connect and support nursing graduate students to improve their experiences. Michelle is also an involved community member who volunteers to coach youth field hockey and softball teams.



### **Rylan Copeman BScN, RN**

**NRIG Role:** Communications Officer - Newsletter

**Research Interest/Focus:** Currently researching a variety of topics including suicide prevention, screening for mercury levels and rural community research.

Rylan is a new graduate nurse in Northwestern Ontario working at her local hospital and a correctional facility. She is beginning her Masters of Nursing with a research and teaching focus in January 2025. Within the past year, Rylan has had the opportunity to go to the Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada conference in Calgary, Alberta to present one of her research projects involving screening for mercury in the perinatal population. This upcoming November she will be traveling to Gatineau, Quebec to present her most recent research, a Stay Alive Initiative for Suicide Prevention that was launched through Confederation College. Apart from her research focuses, Rylan is heavily involved in The Jaida Project which is a non-profit organization in Thunder Bay, Ontario advocating for suicide awareness. Her future goals after completing her masters include teaching nursing at post-secondary school and further advancing her education with hopes of completing her PhD.

# MEET THE TEAM

NRIG 2024-2025



## Jessica Ackerman

**NRIG Role:** Social Media Coordinator

**Research Interest/Focus:** Digital health, virtual care and reality, breast cancer, oncology.

Jessica is currently a 1st year PhD student at McMaster University. Her research focuses on the design, user-testing, and feasibility of a novel social, immersive virtual reality program for patients diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Partnering with a University in the UK, Jessica is leading an international study that will seek to improve access to supportive interventions in oncology. With over 10 years of experience in emergency nursing, Jessica currently works as a Registered Nurse in the ED at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center in Toronto. Jessica has held multiple teaching roles across academic institutions in Southern Ontario, including most recently a faculty instructor role at Humber College in their Emergency and Cardiology continuing education nursing programs. Jessica is actively involved in international research collaborations, most recently with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and has held several leadership positions, most recently including a Nursing Project Officer role out of the PROTECT lab located at the Juravinski Cancer Center in Hamilton. In her spare time you will find Jessica enjoying board games with her family, reading, playing soccer and hiking with her German Shepherd, Schultz!



## Kristina Tsvygun

**NRIG Role:** Social Media Coordinator

**Research Interest/Focus:** Healthcare accessibility, as well as the health and well-being of refugees and migrants.

Kristina Tsvygun (she/her) is a first-generation immigrant from Ukraine who completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Toronto Metropolitan University in 2021. She is currently pursuing a Master of Nursing degree at the same university. Kristina's clinical background is in Critical Care Nursing, and she has been actively fostering a supportive culture and improving patient-centered care at North York General Hospital through her involvement in the Nursing Practice Council and the Person-Centered Committee. As a Bridging Divides scholar, Kristina's research focuses on healthcare accessibility, as well as the health and well-being of refugees and migrants.



# MEET THE TEAM

NRIG 2024-2025



## **Samantha Horvath RN, MSc, PhD Student**

**NRIG Role:** Executive Member at Large - Awards

**Research Interest/Focus:** Advanced Practice Nursing Models of Care in Ontario Emergency Departments.

Samatha is a registered nurse as well as a fourth year nursing PhD student. She is currently researching advanced practice nurse models of care in Ontario emergency departments. She is also the clinical manager for Juravinski Operating Rooms/Surgical Centre. A fun fact about Samantha is that she has a 15 year old daughter, three step-sons and two chihuahuas.



## **Ashwini Veerasuntharam RN, MN Student**

**NRIG Role:** Secretary

**Research Interest/Focus:** Nursing entry-to-practice competencies, optimizing health service delivery and accessibility.

Ashwini is pursuing a Masters' in Nursing degree and collaborative specialization in global health at the University of Toronto. She continues to practice clinically as a registered nurse in the Thoracic Surgery and Respiriology unit at University Health Network. Ashwini aims to integrate her clinical practice and graduate education to facilitate equitable healthcare delivery through active community engagement and policy development.



## **Asmaa Ahmed**

**NRIG Role:** Student Representative

**Research Interest/Focus:** Women's health, health equity, social determinants of health, refugee health, nursing education.

Asmaa is a third year Honours Bachelor of Science in Nursing student at Toronto Metropolitan University. She enjoys connecting with like-minded individuals to learn from on our team. She hopes other undergraduate students engage in research opportunities like she does. A fun fact about Asmaa is that she is a makeup artist.

# MEET THE TEAM

NRIG 2024-2025



## **Ariana Jackson**

**NRIG Role:** Student Representative

**Research Interest/Focus:** Women's health, health equity, delirium prevention and the care of patients with ALS.

Ariana is a third year Honours Bachelor of Science in Nursing student at Georgian College. She is the president of the Georgian Nursing Society. A fun fact about Ariana is that her dog is from Texas and graduated from the Rusk County Prison's Canine Good Citizenship program.



## **Amanda Williamson**

**NRIG Role:** Student Representative

**Research Interest/Focus:** Nursing education, chronic health management, Indigenous health, and artificial intelligence in nursing practice.

Amanda is a third year student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Georgian College. In this role, Amanda is looking forward to expanding her research networks with current professionals in the field and to help increase the engagement of undergraduate nursing students in nursing research

## CONTACT US!



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**Michelle Greenway:** [nrig.membership@gmail.com](mailto:nrig.membership@gmail.com)

# 2024-2025 WEBINARS

**OCTOBER  
2024**

**Presenters:** Dr. Kateryna Metersky, Dr. Emily Richard, and Dr. Areej Al-Hamad  
**Topic:** Intra-disciplinary Views on Nurse Retention and Job Satisfaction

**NOVEMBER  
2024**

**Presenters:** Rebecca Brookham  
**Topic:** Improving Access to Care in Rural Regions through Research & Innovation

**DECEMBER  
2024**

**Presenters:** Dr. Miranda Bevilacqua and Rylan Copeman  
**Topic:** Screening for Mercury in At-Risk Populations

**JANUARY  
2024**

**Presenters:** Simon Donato-Woodger  
**Topic:** TBD!



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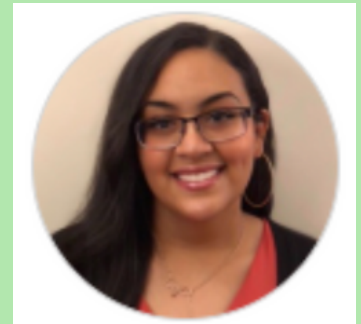
# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

### **Merit Sadek**

#### **NRIG Undergraduate Awards (\$500)**

As a fourth-year nursing student at McMaster University, I have recognized the imperativeness of remaining current with research findings and seamlessly incorporating them into my practice. I am committed to integrating nursing research to improve practices and deliver evidence-based therapeutic care. This award will support my goal of leveraging nursing research to ensure positive health outcomes for all patients. As I enter into practice, I am committed to upholding principles of evidence-based practice and integrating them into my practice. Through lifelong learning, collaboration, and innovation, I will fulfill my role as a competent and compassionate nurse dedicated to promoting positive patient outcomes and advancing nursing knowledge.



### **Khalila Campbell-Fagan**

#### **NRIG Undergraduate Awards (\$500)**

Hello my name is Khalila and I am an incoming fourth year nursing student at Toronto Metropolitan University. I enjoy participating in research and I like to volunteer with the Bladder Cancer Awareness Society at Toronto Metropolitan University. I will be using these funds to help cover tuition fees as this will ensure that I can dedicate my time and energy to excelling in my studies and research without the burden of financial stress. I am currently working on a manuscript with Dr. Metersky which analyzes a case study regarding patient and family involvement in collaborative practice. Our research explores which roles patients should enact in order to self-manage and participate in their care while effectively collaborating with the interprofessional team. Ultimately, to examine how putting patients in a self-manager role can instead push patients further away from being able to collaborate with the interprofessional team and receive optimal health outcomes.



# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## CONFERENCE AWARDS

### **Genevieve Armstrong**

#### **NRIG Conference Award (\$750)**

Genevieve Armstrong is a Professor in Nursing at Humber College and a PhD Candidate, collaborative in nursing and global health, at the University of Toronto. She was a former Public Health Nurse in the Tuberculosis (TB) Program at Toronto Public Health for over 10 years, and has also contributed to TB care nationally and internationally in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and in Barcelona, Spain. Passionate about health equity and social justice, her PhD thesis examines how access to TB diagnosis and treatment can be improved for migrants with a precarious immigration status in Canada, through equitable TB policies and practices.



### **Description of Research Project**

Poor tuberculosis (TB) outcomes among migrants with a precarious immigration status (e.g., undocumented migrants) are driven by inequitable TB policies that affect migrants' access to care and do not address their social determinants of health. The purpose of my critical qualitative study is to assess the development and operationalization of TB policies and practices using an equity-oriented lens with regard to precarious migrants in three Canadian provinces, and identify potential solutions to improve current TB policies. Data will be collected via individual interviews with policy makers and implementers. Knowledge will be mobilized through an executive summary of recommendations to be shared with the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Health.

### **Intention of Funds**

I have used the funds to support my attendance at the 2024 Tuberculosis Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Attending the conference afforded me with the opportunity to disseminate my preliminary study findings from my PhD thesis, and network.

# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## GRADUATE AWARDS

### **Jessica Ackerman**

#### **NRIG Graduate Award (\$1000)**

Jessica Ackerman is a first year PhD student (Nursing) at McMaster University and a Research Trainee within the PROTECT virtual care lab at Hamilton Health Sciences. Clinically, Jessica is a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center and a sessional faculty instructor at Humber College.

### **Description of Research Project**

Jessica's doctoral research focuses on the design of virtual care and remote monitoring technologies for the improvement of care delivery in patients diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Canadian women and up to 10% of these women are diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Once diagnosed, patients are placed on cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitors (an oral anticancer agent) as first-line therapy which can lengthen overall survival and progression-free survival rates but place a profound burden on patient's physical and psychological well-being. Despite receiving a terminal diagnosis, patients are faced with maintaining their quality of life that is often plagued with frequent surveillance monitoring, multiple hospital visits, overcrowded outpatient clinics, long travel and geographical barriers, across centres. This can result in fragmented care delivery and unmet healthcare needs such as poor symptom control, reduced medication adherence, lack of timely communication with their oncology teams and minimal support along the cancer care continuum. The aim of Jessica's multi-phased research study is to co-design a novel, hospital-to-home virtual care system that will target the multifaceted nature of metastatic breast cancer and provide a more comprehensive, innovative approach to cancer care delivery for this population. This award will allow for Jessica and her team to purchase data analytic and review software for the first phase of her study.

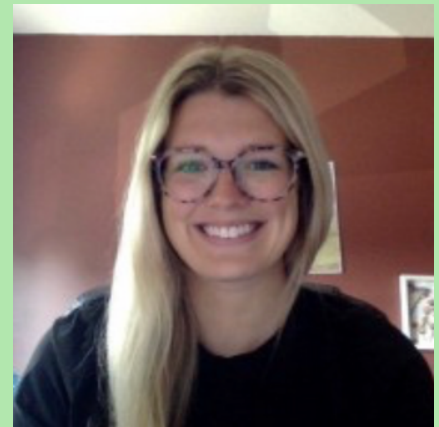
# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## NEW MEMBER AWARDS

### **Madison Basso**

#### **NRIG New Member Award (\$500)**

Given the challenges in the nursing practice environment, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that nursing students may face occupational demands that they are not confident in their ability to manage. It is also expected that nursing students' perception of their ability to cope with occupational demands may impact their professional intent. My research project aims to explore how Ontario baccalaureate nursing students' occupational coping self-efficacy influences their professional intentions. This includes their plans to practice as Registered Nurses, their preferred clinical practice setting, and their interest in pursuing further education. The NRIG New Member Award will support this research by offloading the costs of purchasing statistical analysis software and publication fees.



### **Ovesiri Fueta**

#### **NRIG New Member Award (\$500)**

My name is Ovesiri Fueta, I am an MScN student at UWO interested in digital health as well as a nurse informaticist at London Health Sciences Centre. My research project is to evaluate how a recently implemented digital health tool known as Health Information Exchange (HIE) impacts emergency department nurses and physician workflows. HIE platforms have been implemented in various countries to improve interoperability. To improve interoperability of our systems, Ontario Health has implemented the Ontario eHub HIE which serves as a repository for long term care and tertiary centres to send and receive information. This allows for information sharing across electronic health records reducing information silos across organizations and health care settings. As part of my study, I intended to use the funds as incentives for my participants.

# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## NEW MEMBER AWARDS

### **Katherine De Lucia**

#### **NRIG New Member Award (\$500)**

I am a registered nurse with a background in public health nursing, currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing degree at Western University, entering my second year. My master's thesis focuses on evaluating an outpatient clinical program for stroke patients. Professionally, I am dedicated to advancing my research in clinical program evaluations, with a future focus on expanding my research to include a diverse range of clinical programs and services.



### **Description of Research Project**

There is limited research evaluating interventions offered through outpatient stroke rehabilitation programs, making it challenging to assess their role and value within stroke rehabilitation as a whole. This study aims to evaluate a six-week virtual memory training program offered through an outpatient stroke rehabilitation program in London, Ontario. It seeks to better understanding virtual memory training program goals, intended outcomes, implementation challenges, strengths, and areas for program improvement and expansion through the perspectives of program providers and administrators. The potential research findings aim to inform decision-making for program implementers, enhance service delivery, program logistics, and patient outcomes.

### **Award Intention**

The money from the RNAO NRIG New Member Award will go towards paying for expenses related to research conferences where I will be presenting my research findings. I plan to attend the GTA Best Practices Day for Rehabilitation held annually in May (2025) in Toronto, Ontario. This award will help cover the cost of conference registration and travel to and from the conference through ViaRail. Remaining funds will finance other future conferences and presentations that I plan to attend.



# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## PHD AWARDS

### **Ainsley Miller**

#### **NRIG PhD Award (\$3000)**

Ainsley Miller is a PhD Candidate in the Health Sciences program at Lakehead University. Ainsley has professional experience working in the ICU. More recently, Ainsley has been teaching full-time as a Lecturer with Lakehead University's School of Nursing

### **Christine Garinger**

#### **NRIG PhD Award (\$3000)**

I am a CNA certified Community Health Nurse and hold a Masters degree in Health Information Science from Western University. I am in the PhD program at the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing at Western University. My study uses a qualitative Interpretive Description approach to explore how Registered Nurses, in diverse practice settings and roles, enact nursing advocacy with and for women who experience interpersonal violence. I have enjoyed over 2 decades of direct nursing practice focused on adolescent and adult psychiatry and crisis intervention and the health impacts of trauma, substance use and violence against women. My indirect nursing practice has included program evaluation of community health programs, management and leadership roles, and educating and mentoring students and new professionals. Funds from the NRIG award will be used to support travel and other expenses focused on knowledge mobilization of findings such as conferences, publications and an end of study forum.



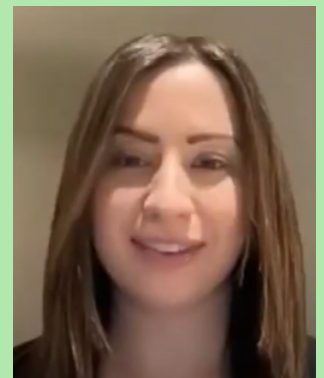
**Video link:**

[CGaringerPhDAward2024.mp4](#)

### **Jessica Mor**

#### **NRIG PhD Runner-Up Award (\$1250)**

Jessica Mor is a PhD Candidate within the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto, a Research Coordinator within the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing at Toronto Metropolitan University, and a Registered Nurse. Her clinical background is in obstetrics and public health nursing. Jessica's doctoral research focuses on the role of private companies in fostering partnerships between patient advocates and the pharmaceutical and health sectors. Her work delves into the impact of these collaborations on patient engagement in policy processes. She is pioneering the mapping of an emerging industry dedicated to addressing the need for patient representation in policy decision-making about drugs. This qualitative project will utilize three forms of data: 1) publicly available documents from companies who facilitate the sharing of patient experiences; 2) participant interviews with company employees; and 3) observation of relevant industry and policy events. Jessica will be using the funds from this award to subscribe to premium memberships, such as LinkedIn and Crunchbase, to facilitate the document analysis phase of the study. This award will also assist with compensating participants for participating in interviews and procuring the services of a transcriptionist to transcribe interviews.



# NRIG SCHOLARSHIPS

## INNOVATION & DEVELOPMENT AWARDS



### **Simon Donato-Woodger**

#### **NRIG Innovation & Development Award (\$1000)**

Simon Donato-Woodger is a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. In his application he described his involvement in a Quality Improvement (QI) project that is part of a larger Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Advanced Clinical Practice Fellowship. This project is evaluating the impact of Wound Care Champion (WCC) staff on adherence to the pressure ulcer risk and reduction care bundle, as well as the rates of Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries within the ICU. This project has been underway since May 29th, 2023 and is currently being evaluated for sustainability. His goals include compiling and publishing the results in a reputable nursing journal, such as the Journal of Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing. He is also scheduled to present the findings of this project in a poster format, at the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses' Annual Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan in September 2024.