



NRIG

Nursing Research Interest Group

Summer 2018 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.



NRIG

Website: nrig.ca

Email: info@nrig.rnao.ca

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• Chair Report •

Warm greetings to all NRIG Members! There are a few very exciting announcements I'd like to share with all of you!

Launch of New NRIG Website: NRIG.ca!

We are very excited to announce the launch of the new NRIG website! I would like to sincerely thank our Website Officer, Joyce, Tsui, and the NRIG Website Committee for their hard work and dedication in creating a website which aims to be as user friendly as possible

for our NRIG members. The process of creating the new website took over 7 months to complete, but we are pleased with the final outcome. Please visit nrig.ca to view the new website! NRIG social media sites have also been created and will be linked to the NRIG website. If anyone has comments or suggestion, please feel free to email our NRIG Website Officer at NRIG.website@rnao.ca. We welcome your feedback!

UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR FALL 2018

In the fall of 2018, Amy Wright will be taking over as the incoming Chair for NRIG. I will be stepping into the Past-Chair position. There are a number of initiatives we will be working on in the fall, namely:

- **NRIG AGM** – to be held in late October or early November. The exact date, location and guest speaker(s) will be advised as soon as this information is confirmed.
- **WEBINARS:** NRIG will offer regular webinars throughout the fall, winter and spring. The intention is to expand the number of webinars we offer in order to promote professional development opportunities related to nursing research. We have some exciting speakers being lined up, so please stay tuned for further information. If anyone has suggestions for topics or speakers, we would love to hear your ideas!
- **OUTREACH:** A large focus of the fall 2018 and winter 2019 will be on outreach at various



universities and colleges to meet existing and potential NRIG members including undergraduate student, graduate students, faculty and clinician researchers. The focus of the outreach will be on promoting the NRIG scholarships and grants program and expanding membership.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire NRIG executive who are so committed and hard working. The accomplishments by NRIG would not be possible without such a great team! Thank you so much for all that you do!

Should any NRIG members wish to get involved with NRIG in any capacity, please email us! Contact details for the executive can be found at the back of this newsletter. Have a wonderful summer!

Respectively Submitted, Barbara Chyzy, NRIG Chair



• Scholarships and Grants •

I would like to thank Dr. Gillian Strudwick, NRIG's MAL, for coordinating NRIG's Scholarships and Awards Program this year. We received 4 applications for Graduate Scholarships and 1 application for the Research Grant competition. Although the awards were promoted by email to all NRIG members and universities, this number represents a significant decline in applications from previous years. For each category of awards, there was a separate adjudication panel. Each

application was reviewed and independently rated by 2 reviewers. Reviewers were assigned to ensure that there was no conflict of interest or previous personal affiliation with any applicant. The Scholarships and Grants Committee met by teleconference to discuss the overall rankings and scores for the applicants. There was unanimous agreement on the awards and funding decisions including the peer review process.

This year \$6,000 was awarded to nursing students and novice researchers in Ontario: one \$1,000 Research Award (through the Registered Nurse Foundation of Ontario, RNFOO), two Graduate Scholarships valued at \$1,500 each and one Research Grant valued at \$2,000 each. We are proud to announce the following 2018 NRIG Award, Scholarship and Grant recipients:

NRIG Research Award (\$1,000)

*Tharshika Sugumaran, MScN student
McMaster University*

Graduate Scholarship (\$1,500 each)

*Karen Campbell, PhD student
McMaster University*

*Jessica LaChance, PhD student
Western University*

New Investigator Research Grant (\$2,000)

*Linda Sheiban, Schlegel Centre for Advancing Seniors
Care, Conestoga College*

We look forward to hearing about their completed research projects and profiling their work in future newsletters!

Respectively Submitted, Barbara Chyzy, NRIG Chair



• In the Spotlight •



DR. CHARLOTTE LEE, a 2017 *Research Grant recipient*, is an assistant professor at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Ryerson University. Dr. Lee's research focuses on health services evaluation and interprofessional teams. She is particularly interested in understanding how interpersonal relationships affect teamwork processes and outcomes in health care. Dr. Lee's current work aims to identify the antecedents and teamwork outcomes associated with interpersonal relationships. As a certified oncology nurse, she is also involved in the study of health services issues associated with cancer care. Dr. Lee's abstract below was accepted for a poster presentation at the 22nd International Palliative Care Congress in Montreal in October, 2018.

Background: Informal caregivers support patients with their emotional, instrumental, daily activities and medical needs. Such needs intensify with worsening functional status at the end of life. A substantial amount of research has been done to explore needs of, and support for both the patients and the informal support persons, but limited research was found on how informal

support is captured and integrated in interprofessional patient care teams.

Objectives: To describe how informal support is documented, communicated and considered by healthcare providers in palliative cancer care setting.

Methods: A mixed-methodology pilot study employing retrospective chart review, survey questionnaire to patients and providers was used to address study objective at one supportive care clinic in Toronto, Canada. Study variables included: the frequency and timing of obtaining information about informal caregivers, location of documenting and obtaining information about informal support. A total of 30 chart reviews, 20 patient surveys, and 6 provider surveys were completed. Descriptive statistics and non-parametric tests were used to analyze study data.

Results: Preliminary data showed that physicians took a key role in inquiring and documenting informal support (IS). Most patients reported nurses also asked the question but from our chart review, nursing documentation of IS was not found as frequently as physician's documentation. Also, while 50% of provider participants felt that IS should be an ongoing assessment, our chart review and patient survey results showed that IS was asked at the first visit and when patient condition or treatment changes. Lastly, IS was not being documented consistently as it is found in several places in each patient's medical record and participants did not offer a consistent response in the provider surveys.

Conclusion: While all participants agreed that IS is important to consider in this population, inconsistency of practice in communicating IS needs to be addressed to



facilitate a team-based approach to support both patients and their informal caregivers. Recommendations for future practice will be discussed.



ROBIN COATSWORTH-POSPOKEY, a 2017 *graduate scholarship* recipient, is a PhD student at the University of Alberta under the supervision of Dr. Sherry Dahlke and Dr. Wendy Duggleby. Robin completed her coursework in April 2017 and her comprehensive exams in September 2017. Robin is refining the question for her PhD research project which seeks to understand readmission process from home to hospital, within 30 days of discharge, from the perspectives of older people and their family caregivers. She hopes to develop an understanding about how older people and their family caregivers describe and explain their experiences of readmission by talking to them about the readmission process, why they were readmitted, and what factors, resources, and/or process they think contributed to their readmission. By focusing on the process of readmission, Robin hopes that these study findings will help to uncover not only an understanding about common features and patterns of readmission among older people and their family

caregivers, but also traditional views and practices of readmission and discharge. Interactions between the researcher and the older person and family caregivers will reveal factors that influence the complex relationship between discharge and readmission. Understanding how these complex factors associated with readmission contribute to the meanings and behaviors such as the changing health care context (discharge, being at home, readmission) and health and illness of the older person and their families is needed. Identifying helpful and unhelpful practices about readmission and discharge may influence the generation of clinical knowledge and interventions. This knowledge may result in improved health and well-being during discharge practices to prevent the readmission of older people and family caregivers to acute care. She hopes to present her proposal and attain her candidacy by September 2018.



HEATHER HARTLEY, the 2017 *NRIG award recipient*, completed her undergraduate nursing degree at McMaster University. In her clinical practice at Hamilton General Hospital, she was exposed to the destabilizing effects that unexpected patient deaths had



on members of the interprofessional team. In response, she initiated a research project, developing a technical report designed to guide staff in situations of death and organ recovery. This research led her to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Ottawa where she explored interdisciplinary narratives of caring for patients that died intraoperatively. Her work brings attention to this unexplored practice phenomenon and the experiences of clinicians living the death of their patients in perioperative culture. Heather's research was propelled forward largely in part to support offered by UOttawa, the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario, and the RNAO Nursing Research Interest Group. Since successfully defending her thesis Heather's work has been published in the UOttawa Repository, Death Studies, and the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada Journal with plans to disseminate her findings to an international nursing readership. In spring 2018, she travelled to New Orleans, Louisiana to present her research findings, entitled 'Intraoperative death: The untold stories of perioperative teams' at the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Conference. Heather now works with the surgical departments at Quinte Health Care as a Professional Practice Specialist, developing initiatives to support staff in enhancing and enriching their practice. Using her research background, Heather collaborates on both a corporate and departmental level to infuse evidence-based practice into best patient care.

• Student Corner •

Congratulations to all the nursing students that have graduated this year and best of luck with the NCLEX! Don't forget to apply for NRIG's awards, scholarships, and grants if you enter graduate studies in order to get your research career started. For those of you that will be continuing your undergraduate studies in the summer or fall semesters, just hang in there! The light at the end of the tunnel is not too far away.

We have some exciting news for this year! NRIG will be creating a new student sub-committee with student representatives from each university in Ontario. If you enjoy organizing events, getting involved with RNAO, and networking with some amazing nursing researchers, then this is the committee for you! We look forward to hearing from you if you are interested in joining.

As always, ideas of how we could get more students interested in nursing research are always welcome so feel free to share! Lastly, if you are interested in getting involved in research or would like to learn more about nursing research, please feel free to contact me at and I would be more than happy to provide you with resources to get your questions answered.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanveer Deol, Student Representative





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• Upcoming Opportunities •



For those interested in post-doctoral or job opportunities University Affairs offers a job database that sends you email alerts after to signing up and selecting your job preferences. To get started, please click [here](#).



Please click [here](#) to access the following upcoming Grant opportunities:

July 1st, 2017 Grant Application Deadline:

- Doris Bloch Research Award
- Joan. K, RN, Research Grant
- ATI Educational Assessment Nursing Research Grant
- American Nurses Credentialing Center Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Grant

September 15th, 2018 Grant Application Deadline:

- Oncology Nursing Society Foundation Grant



Operating Grant:

Understanding the Health Impact of Inactivity:
A total of \$1.6 million is available for this grant, enough to fund approximately eight grants.

Amount: Maximum per grant is \$200,000 for up to 18 months.

Deadline: Registration deadline July 24, 2018, with full application due August 21, 2018.

For more information click [here](#).



CIHR fellowships, masters and doctoral awards are now open. Please click [here](#) for a list of opportunities.



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Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

The Discovery Fund at the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health was created in hopes to accelerate efforts to transform the lives of people living with mental illnesses.

Below are the 2018 Initiatives for the Discovery Fund:

- Talent Development Competition for Graduate Trainees and Post-doctoral fellows
- See Funding Competition
- New Clinician Scientist Opportunities

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



The International Society for Addictions Nursing offers two awards to its members: international travel scholarship and research scholar award.

Deadline: June 30, 2018

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



The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) Research Grant Competition.

Deadline: June 30, 2018.

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



Lung Cancer Research
FOUNDATION

The Lung Cancer Research Foundation research grant competition is now open. Maximum budget is \$150,000 over two years (\$75,000 per year). Areas of research to address are basic science, translational research, clinical research, supportive care, and quality of care/outcomes. Eligible applicants are students and fellows, young and mid-career investigators, and non-tenure track researchers, staff scientists, and clinicians.

Deadline: July 2, 2018.

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



Prevent Cancer Foundation has launched its research grants and fellowship program. The Foundation is particularly interested in reducing the incidence of cancer. Grants are open to early career researchers; researchers exploring a new area; and researchers testing an innovative hypothesis. The award is \$50,000 per year for two years for a total of \$100,000. Fellowships are open to post-doctoral fellows; this award is also \$50,000 per year for two years for a total of \$100,000.

Deadline: June 28, 2018

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



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• 2017-2018 NRIG Executive Members •

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