**Mentors 2019 - 2020**

**Karen Hilliard**

Karen has a passion for nursing. Her career has taken many twists and turns. After receiving her BScN from McMaster University, Karen enjoyed working in the hospital on a medical unit and in ICU. Karen’s sense of adventure eventually took her to the land of the midnight sun where she worked in community health centers in the Northwest Territories. She then returned to school, got her MBA at York University while working as a Head Nurse on Urology, Eye and Burn unit. She eventually made her way to Yellowknife where she connected with nurses across Canada in her role as the Executive Director / Registrar of the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association. After 9 years, she returned to Peel and has spent the last 16 years in public health in reproductive, family and school health. Karen has held various leadership positions with Peel Chapter as President, Treasurer, and Workplace Liaison Officer. She believes it is important to address the determinants of health, advocate for our clients and for the role of nurses and nursing in our health care system. Karen is currently a Member-at-Large within Peel Chapter.

**Ioana Gheorghiu**

Ioana completed her Bachelor of Nursing degree at York University in 2014, having previously received an Honours Bachelor of Science at the University of Toronto (2011). Since her graduation, she has been working on various medicine and surgery units at William Osler Health System, having started on the Clinical Resource Team there. She is involved in a number of projects that support new graduates and students, such as the Inspiring the Next Generation, Creating Change Mentorship Program, founded by her with the support of Peel Chapter in 2015. As the President of Peel Chapter she is looking to form connections with local groups. Ioana is a strong believer in the social determinants of health and the impact that they have on wellbeing. She has recently completed the Master of Nursing – Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Toronto, in Primary Health Care with a Global Health Emphasis. She started volunteering with RNAO as a nursing student and believes the organization plays a pivotal role in allowing nurses to build their leadership capacity.

**Poonam Sharma**

Poonam comes from a diverse background in public health with experience in Family Health, Child Health, Communicable Diseases and most currently in Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, as a supervisor in the Oral Health Program.  Poonam is also a part of the expert panel for the RNAO new best practice guideline for Oral Health.  Her other passion for community health nursing is centered in women’s health and to this day she is a child birthing, newborn and breastfeeding educator. Poonam has been actively involved in the RNAO and on the Peel Chapter executive team with many leadership positions since 2007, and is currently the President-elect.  Poonam graduated from the University of New Brunswick/Humber College Collaborative Nursing Program with a Bachelor of Nursing degree. In 2013, she was recognized for her work with nursing students through the RNAO Provincial Leadership Award in Student Mentorship.  Poonam has a Masters in Nursing from Ryerson University.

**Maria Tandoc**

Maria completed her undergraduate nursing degree from Ryerson University and has over 23 years of nursing experience in the area of critical care. She recently changed her area of specialty to adult Mental Health working over 5 years as a full time staff nurse at Trillium Health Partners. At Trillium, she is a current member of the Nursing Advisory Council and has worked on many initiatives or projects such as policy development and policy changes within the organization. She is a strong advocator of her profession passionately engaged as a member of RNAO holding many roles over the years within Peel Chapter. She served as Chapter President of Peel Region from 2012-2014 and winning “The Chapter of the Year Award” in 2013. She is also a winner of a RNAO distinction award “President’s Award for Leadership in Clinical Nursing Practice” in 2010 whereby she decreased ventilatory-associated pneumonia (VAP) rates when she developed and implemented an oral care program in the ICU based on recommendations in RNAO’s best practice guideline on oral health. Her workplace experience and voluntary experience with RNAO continue to give her a deep appreciation for how nurses seek to improve the quality of health care in Ontario and to humbly share her wealth of experience to new nursing graduates and nursing students.

**Anita Tsang-Sit**

Anita Tsang-Sit is a Past President of RNAO Peel Chapter and recently elected to the RNAO Board of Directors representing Region 4 (Halton, Peel, Wellington and Waterloo). Anita has worked in tertiary care, public health and community health. She has a BScN from York University, BA in Political Science from McMaster University, and a MPH in Health Promotion from University of Toronto. She completed her risk management certification and is currently in the process of obtaining her Canadian Risk Management designation. She has a keen interest in risk management, social determinants of health, public health, and health policy (to name a few). She is very passionate about policy and political action and was a recipient of the 2017 Hub Fellowship leadership award and spent time shadowing RNAO CEO Doris Grinspun. Anita is currently a Manager with Toronto Community Housing Corporation in Risk Operations and Enterprise Risk Management where she manages claims, insurance and corporate risk management. She recently joined the RNAO Board of Directors as the Region 4 representative.