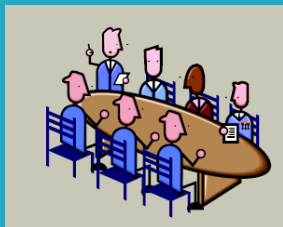# NSNIG Newsletter

Meet the NSNIG Executive for 2009-2010

President:
Tracey Harris

President Elect:
Sylvia Wist

Past President:
Margie Kennedy

CNIA Representative:
Nancy McCara

Education/ Research:
Brenda MacDonald

Public Relations:
Sharon Forbrigger

Treasurer:
Shelley Brown

Secretary:
Susan Baikie

From the President

Nursing informatics is moving at a fast pace and I feel honoured to be able to be a part of this evolving process. Nursing is all about communication in many forms. Computers will never replace the one-on-one care of patients, but they can assist in improving access to a patient's medical record; helping to reduce duplication of tests, making care safer, less costly and more comfortable for the patient. As President it is my goal to elevate awareness of the Nursing Informatics Group within the medical field and to use the knowledge and experience of our members to help improve health care for all.

My nursing career started in Montreal some 22 years ago and I have since worked all over Canada in various nursing disciplines, finally settling on emergency medicine. Four years ago, while I was working in Sydney I noticed a job posting, for Health Information Technology Systems in Nova Scotia (HITSNS), to do some testing for the MEDITECH nursing modules. I applied, was accepted, took a deep breath and gave it a try. To my surprise I became "hooked" and shortly afterwards I accepted an Application Specialist's job with HITSNS, relocated to Halifax and I haven't looked back. I am currently working on the provincial Secure Health Access Record (SHARE) Project, where we are preparing for a go-live with the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR) portal. Exciting times!

Tracey Harris
President, NSNIG

What's New

It's been a while since you have heard from us. Let me update you on some changes within the Nova Scotia Nursing Informatics Group.

Our website has changed! Check it out at www.nsnig.ca.

We would appreciate any and all comments when viewing the website. After all, we want this website to be used by you, our members to get the most out of it.

As you can see on the left, the new executive has had the opportunity to recruit new members that are willing to share, revitalize and develop strategies to have NSNIG disseminate information about and support the field of nursing informatics.

Guest Speaker:
June Kaminski
www.nursing-informatics.com

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Dawn Marie Turner
www.thinktransition.com

(Attendees)

Conferences in Review

Oct 2008 Atlantic Nursing Informatics Conference, Halifax

Even though it was 2 years ago, it's worth mentioning here. It was the best conference yet with the largest attendance to date. The theme was Improving Patient Care through Nursing Informatics. There were excellent pre-workshop conferences by June Kaminski (on Informatics) and Dr. Dawn-Marie Turner (on Change Management). The feedback on the conference was very positive.

Nov 2009 Canadian Nursing Informatics Association (CNIA) Conference, Mississauga

This exciting event brought together nurses from across Canada, as well as representatives from the American Nursing Informatics Association (AMIA). Keynote speakers created a dynamic foundation for the conference, and included Juliette Powell, Dr. Lynn Nagle, and Francesca Grosso. The theme of social networking supported a broad range of presentations that highlighted the diverse array of informatics applications and projects currently being implemented in Canada.

Eithne Reichart began her role as President at the Annual General Meeting, and shared a vision for greater collaboration with CNIA members and a desire on behalf of the Board to maintain closer communication with members.

A hot discussion topic at the conference was on creating a Nursing Informatics Certification program through the Canadian Nurses Association. At present, this does not exist in Canada. CNIA is considering this issue and your opinions and ideas would be valuable in helping us shape a national position. You can submit your ideas and comments via the chat room on NSNIG website. Thank you!

Margie Kennedy
Past President, NSNIG

Fall 2010 Atlantic Nursing Informatics Conference, N.B.

October 25 & 26th, Moncton, N.B

Who is an Informatics Nurse?

Three years ago, I only used a home computer for email and the occasional web search. Now, I can't live without it! All nursing documentation is now done on computer. Before the patient is seen, I can access the chart, previous admissions within our hospital, and pull lab results, all on line. I can determine if the patient should be assessed in the Preadmission clinic prior to surgery. It's fast and easy access. Information flows from the preadmission assessment into the pre-operative chart so there's no chance of losing the record. I have internet access to look up procedures, diagnosis and medications, all at my fingertips.

Sure, there are the occasional glitches where issues happen, after all, we're looking at multiple computer systems interacting more and more. Action from users in one system can affect another without them realizing the significance. It's opened up better communication and made us aware that we're all here to provide patient care.

Joan W., Charge Nurse Preadmission Clinic

From the Executive

Sylvia Wist
President Elect
I graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from Dalhousie University and in 2001 with a Masters of Business Administration from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I am currently employed with Capital Health in Halifax where I have worked both as a staff nurse and a health services manager. Currently I serve as a Professional Practice Leader for Capital Health, with a primary focus on Policy and Practice. I am President-elect for NSNIG and look forward to my new position in June.

Shelley Brown
Treasurer
I graduated from the Sydney City Hospital School of Nursing in 1987 and in 2001 received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Saint Francis Xavier University. My clinical background includes over 22 years in acute care and critical care in both Canada and the United States. It was while working as a travel nurse in the United States, with the exposure to electronic health records and computer charting, that I became interested in Informatics as a nursing specialty. I carried that interest back with me when I returned to Nova Scotia. I am currently a Clinical Informatics Coordinator at Capital District Health Authority. A primary responsibility of this role is to help facilitate the successful implementation of different computerized products and applications to the clinical areas of the organization.

Susan Baikie
Secretary
During the past 25 years of my nursing career, I have had the opportunity to work in acute care, public health and continuing care. My earliest experience with incorporating informatics occurred approximately 12 years ago when I worked in Home Care and was asked to 'pilot' an electronic client assessment tool. This experience lead me down the path of being a peer Trainer during the provincial roll out of the Continuing Care application (SEAscape) and then on to several provincial roles supporting the application. Since 2007, I have been working as a Public Health Informatician. The Informatics team acts as the 'translator' between public health staff and information technology staff. The Informatics team, along with colleagues in both public health and information technology, has learned a lot about how process, tools, and procedures can effectively support the work of health care providers.

Sharon Forbrigger
Public Relations
I graduated in 1984 from St. Martha's School of Nursing and obtained my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at University of British Columbia in 1996. My first position in IT was related to training hospital staff on an Admission/ Transfer/ Discharge system into which Ancillary, Lab, and Pharmacy software systems posted results. It opened my eyes to the future of health care and the ability of application systems having seamless interfaces with each other. Currently I work at Capital Health supporting nurses who use an electronic nursing documentation system within and around the OR department. As Public Relations for NSNIG, I hope to spread awareness of how *all* nurses are involved with nursing informatics in how they capture, transfer and store patient information. That's what Nursing Informatics is all about.

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.
Maria Robinson

Upcoming Events:

Mar 11th 12:00-13:00
NSNIG's monthly
teleconference (every
second Thursday of every
month)

Apr 22-23 CRNNS Nursing
Leadership
Conference,
Dartmouth. For
further information
click here

May 11-12 CRNNS Awards
Banquet and AGM
For further information,
click here

Jun 7-9 CNA's Annual
Meeting & Biennial
Convention, Halifax
For further information,
click here

Jun 30th NSNIG Breakfast
& AGM, Halifax
Watch website for
more information at
www.nsnig.ca

Membership

As they say, membership has its privileges. As a member of NSNIG, you can be set up with a user name and password to access additional information to the Members Only website to: view additional information on the Events Calendar; obtain information on how to attend the monthly conference calls-open to all members; review the minutes of the NSNIG meetings; plus more. **Please Note:** Your membership will expire May 31st, 2010. To complete your membership application form, click here to go to the Membership page to download the registration form.

Events Calendar:
March 11 - monthly teleconference of NSNIG from 12:00 – 13:00 (the 2nd Thursday of every month)
April 22-23 – CRNNS Nursing Leadership Conference, Dartmouth. For further information, click here
May 11 – 12 CRNNS Awards Banquet & AGM
June 7 – 9 CNA's Annual Meeting and Biennial Convention, Halifax. For further information, click here
June 30th – NSNIG Breakfast & AGM, Halifax

Members survey:
A survey looking for your feedback will be posted on our webpage this spring.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us at www.nsnig.ca or email us at info@nsnig.ca.

Knowledge Workers

In a recent article in the Fall 2009 **Nursing in Focus** magazine, the article *Registered Nurses as Knowledge Workers* described the new paradigm for nursing practice in a quote by Porter O'Grady, 2003: the article states that a registered nurse is a knowledge worker who synthesizes information and knowledge and applies it to their nursing care.

Isn't that what nursing informatics is all about? As on our website, we have defined nursing informatics as how all nurses manage the information they collect so that it is meaningful and contributes to quality patient care.

The goal of nursing informatics is to get the...
- RIGHT information to the
- RIGHT people at the
- RIGHT time to do the
- RIGHT job at the
- RIGHT cost

So let's call a spade a spade. A knowledge worker (AKA registered nurse) is an informatics nurse. It all boils down to the same thing. It's what we do with this information, how we store it, transfer the information, use this information and how we apply it in our daily practice that we incorporate informatics within our nursing practice.

I'd like to hear from you on how you incorporate informatics in your profession. Drop me a line at: forbriggerst@cdha.nshealth.ca