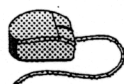


NSNIG Newsletter



From the President's Mouse

NSNIG Annual Report 2001-2002

by Margie Ann MacQuarrie,
Past President

This was a busy and successful year for NSNIG. Education and collaboration were hallmarks of the past year, and were implemented through several strategic efforts by the group. Additionally, NSNIG was instrumental in supporting the creation of the new national nursing informatics association.

NSNIG and the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) are interested in continuing lobbying efforts in support of nursing informatics in the province. To this end, a political brief was developed collaboratively within the group and shared with the CRNNS to educate politicians and provide support for the lobbying efforts of CRNNS in regard to the technical directions of the province related to nursing informatics.

Additionally, a Power Point presentation on Health Information: Nursing Components (HI:NC) was developed for use in NSNIG presentations. This excellent presentation has been delivered successfully at several venues, including various meetings of other special interest groups and CRNNS Practice Consultants.

The Fall Education Day was hosted in November 2001, and featured a one-day workshop with Dr. Amy Coenen, Director of the ICNP Project. The International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) is an initiative of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and is currently in use numerous countries. This was well attended by individuals across the Atlantic Region, as well as from across Canada, and was the only event by Dr. Coenen in Canada. Given the CNA initiative of endorsing ICNP in principle, NSNIG has adopted a

leadership role in nursing informatics education across Canada. Congratulations to the Planning Committee for an outstanding event!



Left to Right: Margie Ann MacQuarrie, Past President, Dr. Amy Coenen, Nancy McCara, NSNIG President

NSNIG was engaged in collaborative research with Linda Callard. Linda, through the course of her graduate education and associated practicum, examined the current state of informatics education in the region. Anyone interested in Linda's research may contact her through NSNIG.

The new Canadian Nursing Informatics Association represented a significant investment for NSNIG members. Lynn Guscott represented NSNIG on the Board of this new association. As one of a limited number of comparable groups across Canada, NSNIG has provided a leadership role through Lynn and her efforts. CNIA is accepting new members, and anyone interested in becoming a member is encouraged to visit the website for further information. <http://www.cnia.ca/>

CHI - Canada Health Infoway

CHI is an independent, not for profit organization, committed to fostering and accelerating the development and adoption of the electronic health information record with compatible standards and communication technologies on a pan-Canadian basis and in a cost-efficient manner. The company is striving for tangible benefits to Canadians. They have received an initial investment of \$500 million from government. Executives are Eric Maldoff, Chair of the Board, Linda Lizotte-MacPherson, President, CEO. They are partnered with CIHI. In the Spring, 2002 they conducted a survey of health information systems across the country. Their website is www.canadahealthinfoway.ca. Information about the results of their regional fora, HCIS survey and developing business plan will be made available on the website. Check out what Canadian Informaticists had to say about this exciting new step towards the EHR.

CNIA - Canadian Nursing Informatics Association

CNIA is now an official association; affiliated with CNA, COACH (Canada's Health Informatics Association) and IMIA (International Medical Informatics Association) CNIA's mission is to be the voice for Nursing Informatics in Canada. The goals of the association are:

- To provide nursing leadership for the development of Nursing/Health informatics in Canada.
- To establish national networking opportunities for nurse informaticians.
- To facilitate informatics educational opportunities for all nurses in Canada.
- To engage in international nursing informatics initiatives.
- To act as a nursing advisory group in matters of nursing and health informatics.
- To expand awareness of Nursing Informatics to all nurses and the healthcare community.

The association has been awarded a grant from the Office of Health Information Highway to fund research into Nursing Informatics education. Phase 1 of the proposal will assess current nursing curricula for evidence of Nursing Informatics content; assess the current state of

nursing faculty preparedness and take the opportunity to raise awareness of Nursing Informatics. Phase 2 will be formally submitted next year and will include a survey of employers of nurses across Canada regarding Nursing Informatics in their facilities. Heather Clarke, PhD of British Columbia will be the project leader. Watch for more information over the next 6 months to a year.

Details on membership to CNIA and upcoming events are available on the CNIA website at www.mtsinai.on.ca/CNIA/index.htm.

**Timely Information for Better Care:
Nova Scotia Hospital Information
System (NSHIS) Implementation**

Over the next few years, 34 community and regional hospitals across Nova Scotia will be joined together through a hospital information system aimed at improving the delivery of health care to Nova Scotians. The system will capture patient administration and clinical information from facilities in the District Health Authorities (DHAs) 1 through 8 and will provide linkages to the systems in use by the Capital District Health Authority and the IWK to ensure all hospitals in the province can share critical health information.

The Nova Scotia Hospital Information System (NSHIS) will provide health care professionals with quick, accurate, and appropriate access to patient's medical history information, which is important to providing patient care. The NSHIS is a foundation component necessary for a provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR). The EHR will provide an integrated view of patient information, and will support the sharing of pertinent information among attending care providers within and between provincial hospitals.

Nursing Advisory Committee

A Nursing Advisory Committee has been formed to provide input and advice to the Provincial Project Management Office concerning the Nova Scotia Hospital Information System Project (NSHIS). The group consists of nursing administrators, educators, and practicing nurses from across the province.

Continued on page 3

What does this mean for Nurses?

Initially Nurses will be using the system to enter orders and retrieve results for their patients. Paper requisitions for blood work, diagnostic imaging tests and dietary requests, etc. will be phased out. Eventually nurses and other healthcare disciplines will use the system to document patient care, providing an essential component of the Electronic Health Record. Training will be provided for all aspects of the system which nurses will be required to use. District Health Authorities 7 and 8 (Cape Breton and the Strait area) will be the 1st to "go live" with the system.

Watch for information sessions on this important project and plan to get involved! Better information will lead to improved patient care and nurses are critical to the success of this endeavor.

Report on Computer Literacy Project by Linda Callard, BScN, MEd.

A practical experience is one of the requirements for completion of the Master in Education (Adult Education) program at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU). The practicum I conducted was to research the educational opportunities available to assist hospital health care workers in obtaining a basic computer literacy level prior to undertaking training for a new hospital information system. The study examined learner's computer literacy and program availability to assist hospitals/communities in preparing health care workers for the arrival of new technology, the MEDITECH Hospital Information System.

Two questionnaires were developed as data collection tools. The first questionnaire was used in the collection of data from DHA Human Resource Directors (or designates). The second questionnaire was used as the tool for data collection from education resources outside of the DHAs. Simultaneously, with the development of the questionnaires, a list of contacts in both the DHAs and the education resources in the community was developed. After the questionnaires were distributed and analyzed a

gap analysis was conducted. The gap analysis indicated 20% of the District Health Authorities responding to the survey had confidence in satisfactory staff computer literacy (method of determination was not provided, but a needs' assessment was not conducted). The remainder of the responding DHAs did not have confidence, did not know the computer literacy levels of their workers, and/or had no plans to assess computer literacy.

The results indicated, with one exception, that there does not appear to have been a focussed effort in determining the level of computer literacy of staff in preparedness to receive computer software training. Most telling, the majority of respondents did not know current levels of computer literacy of their respective staffs. The findings, however, are consistent with those found in the literature review and through personal experience

The responses to the questionnaires indicate that although, threshold computer literacy knowledge levels are generally not known, the perception is the levels are consistently low. Literature indicates that the MEDITECH training might not be as effective because of low computer literacy levels.

Despite the existence of some computer literacy courses in the community and the willingness of companies to develop courses, the needs of this learner group are not adequately met. The fact that the vast majority of these learners are female, have conflicting home and work life responsibilities, and many of them work shift work must be taken into consideration when evaluating the availability of courses. There was a lack of course availability at minimal or no cost, available at times that met the learners' schedule, was available at or near the learners' geographical location, was easy to access, and began at the learners' level.

If you would like to know more about the study or would like to see the analysis of the questionnaire responses contact Linda by telephone (902-425-9270) or by email Linda@Callard.ca



Meet the NSNIG Executive For 2002-03

President: Nancy McCara
President-Elect: Mary Eileen Wall
Past President: Margie Ann MacQuarrie
CNIA Representative: Lynn Guscott
Secretary: Peter MacDougall
Treasurer: Sheila MacDonald
Education/Research: Sylvia Wist
Public Relations: Brenda MacDonald



Suggestions to the Editor:

Please write the editor with comments or ideas for this newsletter and for information you would like to share with your fellow NSNIG members.

Brenda MacDonald
IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Ave.,
PO Box 3070
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3G9
Phone: 902-470-6982
brenda.macdonald@iwk.nshealth.ca



Check out these websites!



<http://www.cnia.ca/>
<http://www.coachorg.com/>
<http://nursing-informatics.net/>
<http://www.onig.on.ca/>
<http://www.amia-niwig.org/>

NSNIG Application Form

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, _____ to May 31, _____ 2003

PLEASE INDICATE:

New Membership _____ Membership Renewal _____

Type: Active _____ Associate _____ Other _____

CRNNS Registration # _____

****CRNNS Registration number must be present to process registration**

Membership fee: \$20 active
\$10 associate

Cheques payable to: NSNIG
Receipts will be forwarded

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Name: _____

Position Title _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: (W) _____ (H) _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

Sheila MacDonald
Treasurer - NSNIG
IWK Health Centre
5850 University Ave.,
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3G9
(902) 470-8401

*Please mail completed
application form to:
Sheila MacDonald