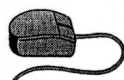


NURSING INFORMATICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

From the President's Mouse!



1999 was an eventful year for NSNIG.

Although our membership is small, we managed to

accomplish several projects last year all of which contribute to our goal of promoting nursing informatics in Nova Scotia. The winter and spring months were spent preparing an information packet which was published in the summer edition of Nurse to Nurse. The package provided basic information about nursing informatics (NI), some definitions and how NI impacts the 4 domains: nursing practice, education, research and administration. The summer and fall months were spent planning for and hosting the Nursing Informatics Education day. The NSNIG executive continues to review papers regarding issues surrounding Nursing Informatics. Recently, two members of the interest group presented to Nursing executives from across the province at an RNANS policy workshop. Reports from these last three initiatives can be found later in this newsletter. The executive welcomed two members to the team in the fall; Brenda MacDonald as the Public Relations Officer and Denise Bowes as President-elect. NSNIG membership has grown a bit since our education day but we still need more members! We hope to involve as many of you as possible in 2000 as we work more closely with RNANS to promote NI throughout the province.

Lynn Guscott, President NSNIG

Meet the NSNIG Executive For 1999-2000

President

Lynn Guscott

President-Elect

Denise Bowes

Past President

Nancy McCara

Secretary

Mary Eileen Wall

Treasurer

Sheila MacDonald

Education/Research

Kim Melick

Public Relations

Brenda MacDonald

Lynn Guscott, RN, BScN has also served as secretary and vice-president of the interest group since it's beginning in 1994. Lynn is currently employed by the IWK Grace Health Centre, Halifax in the Information Technology Department as the Clinical Applications Consultant, responsible for support of clinical information systems at the health centre.

Denise Bowes, MN, RN is a nurse educator in the collaborative BScN project between the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre and Dalhousie University. She has been a past member of the NSNIG executive in the position of Education/Research.

Nancy McCara, RN, MN has previously held the positions of president -elect and president of NSNIG. She is the Manager of Patient Care Information System Project at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax.

Mary Eileen Wall, RN, BScN is an Informatics Nurse at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax.

Sheila MacDonald, RN, BN has held the position of treasurer since the group's conception. She is currently a consultant in Informatics at the IWK Grace Health Centre, Halifax.

Kim Melick, BScN, RN has previously served on the NSNIG executive in the Public Relations role. She currently is the Patient Care Information System Coordinator in Nursing Informatics, and also works as a Clinical Applications Consultant in Information Technology at the IWK Grace Health Centre, Halifax.

Brenda MacDonald, RN, BScN is Coordinator of the BirthNet obstetrical data management system in the Birth Unit at the IWK Grace Health Centre,

Halifax. She also works in Nursing Research.

RNANS Discussion



Paper

Recently we provided feedback on the "National

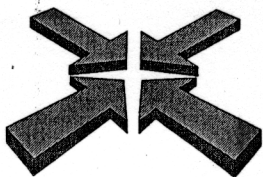
Nursing Informatics Project Discussion Paper", an initiative developed by the National Nursing Informatics Working Group. The paper is perhaps the most comprehensive discussion of NI we have seen and incorporates competency levels for the four domains of nursing. We offered our opinions on the competencies and the challenges facing the health system and the discipline of nursing as we continue to struggle with a way to clearly define, document and evaluate what we do. Some of the challenges we rated as high were lack of funding, lack of health information system infrastructure and lack of educational opportunities in Nursing Informatics. For a copy of this paper, please contact the editor.

RNANS Policy DAY

In December, two members of the NSNIG Executive, Nancy McCara and Lynn Guscott attended the RNANS Nursing Policy Day. Nancy presented the case for a unified nursing language and explained the initiatives taking place at the national level. Nursing leaders at the policy day were asked "how do we cultivate a nursing informatics culture in N.S., what are the challenges and how could RNANS advance Nursing Informatics?" Good feedback from the group was received and the overwhelming theme which arose was the need for education in NI. NSNIG members will be invited to attend a half day brainstorming session on how best to work with RNANS to come up with a strategic plan to promote NI throughout the province. If you are a NSNIG member, stay tuned for your invitation!

NSNIG 1999 Education Day

NURSING INFORMATICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY....CONNECTING THE 4 DOMAINS.



Sally Remus RN MScN opened this year's annual Nursing Informatics Education day on Friday October 22, 1999 at the IWK Grace Health Centre in Halifax. She shared the 'facts about how nurses can take the

lead in the 21st century'.

Sixteen enthusiastic and energetic speakers motivated a crowd of 60 to take the lead and participate in learning and advancing Informatics within the Clinical, Research, Education, and Administrative domains of Nursing. The attendee's also enjoyed numerous poster displays including hand's on demonstrations using the internet and a fetal archiving system.

Evaluation comments such as "The variety of presentations was great and how they all inter-related made the conference interesting", and "Great to know what other institutions are doing as well as to receive an update about the advances being made." Attendees also identified learning needs for future educational sessions.

Overall the comments were positive and demonstrated enthusiasm to learn more about Nursing Informatics and how nursing can lobby for the advancement of N.I.



Thank you to all who worked hard to organize and present, and to those who participated in this event. It truly was a success. Many of the planning committee are pictured above (from left to right) Brenda MacDonald, Cathy Johnson, Kim Melick, Lynn Doy, Barb Flaherty and Mary Eileen Wall.



Check Out these web sites!

On-line Healthcare Informatics Journal::
www.healthcare-informatics.com

COACH (Canadian Organization for Advancement of Computers in Health):

www.coachorg.com

HEALTHCARE: Information Management & Communications Canada - "The official Journal" of COACH:

www.online.hccinc.com

Nursing journals, resources & discussions:

www.nursingcenter.com

Did You know?

Health Evidence Application and Linkage Network (HEALnet), one of 15 federal networks of centres of excellence, is a national network of researchers from the health, social and applied sciences. Its' mission is to enhance the health of Canadians through the improved use of the most relevant research evidence in health decision making. HEALnet's research focuses on understanding health information needs, developing evidence-based decision making, strategies and tools, and assessing performance in the health system and the workplace. Project leader is Dr. David Zitner, Dalhousie University. For information contact: Jennifer Briand: briandj@fhs.csu.mcmaster.ca

The N.S. Dept. Of Health has a web site on Health Care Transitions - an information bulletin to keep you up-to-date on the health care system.

www.gov.ns.ca/health/transition

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
Nursing Research
IWK Grace Health Centre
5850/5980 University Ave
PO Box 3070, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3G9
Phone: 902-428-5982
bmacdonald@iwkgrace.ns.ca

NSNIG Executive meet monthly. All members welcome. Contact Brenda MacDonald for date/time.