

NURSING INFORMATICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

From the President's Mouse!



Since our last newsletter NSNIG has been partnering with RNANS to forward the CNA mandate of increasing nurses awareness regarding HI:NC (Health Information: Nursing Components). NSNIG developed an educational presentation for front line nurses which was presented to the professional practice special interest group meeting at RNANS and also at the Atlantic Hospitals Information System Conference. We have offered to do more of these presentations upon request. There are future plans to assist RNANS in developing a political brief to facilitate lobbying for collecting nursing data within health information data repositories such as CIHI (Canadian Institute for Health Information).

Keeping pace with change has required the group to respond to various background documents such as "Confronting the Future: e-Nursing" by RNANS and "Collecting Data to Reflect Nursing Impact March 2000" by the Canadian Nurses Association. We have teleconferenced with Linda Piazza (Nursing Policy Consultant, CNA) regarding the discussion paper "Collecting Data to Reflect Nursing Impact March 2000" and clarification of content pertinent to the educational presentations.

The group has been liaising with Dr Lynn Nagle with regards to the formation of a national association for nurse informaticians since the disbandment of the COACH (Canadian Organization for the Advancements of Computers in Health) Nursing Informatics-Special Interest Group (NISIG). Recently, the *Canadian National Nursing Informatics Association (CNIA)* was formed. This is an emerging group of the Canadian Nurses Association. The terms of reference and executive/membership structure are in development. We are pleased to announce that Lynn Guscott has been elected to represent NSNIG on the new CNIA.

We hope you will be able to attend our AGM in June which includes an education component. All the best in the upcoming year!

Denise Bowes, President

Vision 2020 Workshop

A one-day workshop was held in March of 2000 on the vision of what the health system will look like in the year 2020 and the role Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) will play in the system. The workshop was sponsored by the Office of Health and Highway Information (OHII) of Health Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Nurses Association.

Nancy McCara and Sheila MacDonald were fortunate to represent NSNIG. Along with 28 other Canadian nurses from different practice settings across all domains of nursing, they discussed their views in three stages: the vision, the challenge/opportunities, and an agenda for action.

Vision for the year 2020:

- ~ there will exist well-informed consumers participating fully in their own health care decisions
- ~ telehealth will have more and more services available to consumers in their homes and communities
- ~ consumers will own, control and have access to their electronic health record (EHR)

Challenges and Opportunities:

- ~ ICT will help the shift from an illness model of health care to a focus of health promotion and illness prevention
- ~ the development of national standards for ICT use in health care is needed and nurses must have core competencies to participate
- ~ the creation of a positive information technology culture in nursing is required

Agenda for Action

- ~ establish core competencies for education in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs and for education for those nurses already practicing
- ~ celebrate successes
- ~ develop demonstration projects and share information
- ~ form partnerships with key stakeholders to ensure the voice of nursing is heard at all decision-making levels for development of ICT use for nursing

For more information visit:

www.hc-sc.gov.ca/ohih-bsi/

...Stay tuned for the NSNIG

Fall Educational Session

Date & Program TBA

Confronting the Future: e-nursing

This paper examines the opportunities and challenges e-health (health services via electronic means) and e-nursing (nursing services via the Internet) pose to registered nurses. It reinforces the importance for nursing to keep pace with changes in technology and new means of delivering and receiving health care. The documents support that internet skills will become a necessity for nurses and the need to be proactive in positioning nursing for the future. Contact RNANS for a copy: www.rnans.ns.ca

Collecting Data to Reflect Nursing Impact

This discussion paper is an excellent synopsis of HI:NC in Canada and it proposes that the International Classification of Nursing Practice (ICNP) be adopted in principle as the foundational classification system for nursing practice in Canada. Contact CNA for a copy: www.cna-nurses.ca

Meet the NSNIG Executive For 2000-01



President: Denise Bowes

nedeb@qe2-hsc.ns.ca

President-Elect:

Margie Ann MacQuarrie

mmacquar@stfx.ca

Past President: Lynn Guscott

Secretary: Mary Eileen Wall

Treasurer: Sheila MacDonald

Education/Research: Kim Melick

Public Relations: Brenda

MacDonald

Upcoming Event

NSNIG AGM

June 8th 0830-1230 hrs.

Location: IWK Health Centre

~ Educational component included

~ **No cost** to membership.

RSVP to Margie Ann MacQuarrie if planning to attend.

NOTE: Executive Positions up for election at the AGM are:

~ President-Elect

~ Education / Research

~ Public Relations

***Please submit nominations to**

Denise Bowes by May 1st.



HEALnet Update:

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.

HEALnet is nearing the completion of its development of model curricula intended to guide the development of future Health Informatics programs. The availability of skilled and knowledgeable Health Informaticians has become a critical issue in today's health system.

The curricula address the educational needs of three distinct groups of professionals: Applied Health Informaticians who are deployers; Research and Development Health Informaticians and Clinicians with Health Informatics Competence who are the users of the systems in patient care, research, and teaching. For more information contact: <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca>

Computers in Nursing Courses:

St. Francis Xavier University

A three credit course *Computers in Nursing* is offered each fall. This prepares registered nurses and senior nursing students to take advantage of computers in clinical practice and develop the competencies required for electronic care environments. *Computers in Nursing* is offered on campus for three non-consecutive weekends. Supervised lab time is provided to promote skill development. Topics covered in the course include nursing informatics as a specialty practice, systems analysis, word processing, presentation software, spreadsheets, databases, internet and computer-mediated communication, designing a web page, conducting literature searches in nursing databases and the internet, and e-nursing. For more information, contact Distance Nursing Programs, 1-800-565-4371 or smorell@stfx.ca.

Dalhousie University

Health Informatics N3310 (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of Information Technology and Systems as it relates to practice, research, administration and education for health professionals. Students will be introduced to information technology and provided with opportunities to use critical thinking in analyzing the implication of information systems. This course will be taught using interactive distance technology. Students are required to contribute to class discussion through a Web based bulletin board and will have the option to attend audio teleconferencing every two weeks.

Course Objectives:

1. Define Health Informatics and analyze the impact of information technology on the practice of health professionals in the areas of patient care, research, administration and education.
2. Analyze how information and information technology is managed in a variety of health care settings.
3. Analyze the impact of various health professions on the development of health information systems.
4. Explore problem solving strategies to address security, confidentiality, and ethical issues related to information technology.
5. Describe and evaluate various information technologies pertinent to practice, administration, education and research.

For more information contact: Cheryl Delorey, Dalhousie School of Nursing, 494-2607



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.hcccinc.com

Nursing journals, resources & discussions:
www.nursingcenter.com

RN PALM
<http://rnpalm.com/>

NSNIG Intranet
<http://nsnig.intranets.com>

N.S. Dept. Of Health web site on Health Care Transitions
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.

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