

THE CANADIAN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE



VOL. 29 #1 NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2012

Gerontological Nurses Leadership Recognized: (Gerontological Nurses Rock!)

The CGNA executive, board and Annual General Meetings were held this year in Vancouver on June 16th and 17th. Those present in person and via teleconference discussed the CGNA goals and activities for the coming year. This is done annually through a review and update of the organization's operational plan and as discussed in a previous newsletter includes areas such as membership, communications and advocacy. This fall we will mount two subcommittees to help forward the goals of the organization. These include the Communications and Advocacy Sub-committees. We expect to have representation from various regions of Canada and to be in a better position to reply to members and older adults needs.

For those nurses who attended the Canadian Nursing Associations (CNA) Biannual meeting in Vancouver, June 18-20th it was very rewarding to see the recognition of three nurse leaders who have background in gerontology.

Sandra Hirst RN, PhD, GNC (C) received the 2012 Jeanne Mance Award – given out at each biennial conference to a Canadian nurse who demonstrates significant and innovative contributions to the health of Canadians. Sandra was CGNA President from 2007-2009 and is Director of the Brenda Strafford Centre for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing at the University of Calgary.

Rhonda Seidman-Carlson RN, MN assumed her position as the 2012-2014 RNAO President. Rhonda is past Editor of *Perspectives* (now the CGNA peer reviewed journal) and is currently Vice President of Interprofessional Practice and Chief Nurse Executive at the Scarborough Hospital.

Karima Velji RN, PhD is the newly elected CNA President-Elect. Karima is currently Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Executive at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto.

Certification is one way that Canadian nurses are able to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in specialty areas. We have just received word that 454 nurses either wrote the Gerontology certification exam for the first time or received recertification for 2012 – congratulations to all of these nurses! If you are considering applying for certification or for recertifying in 2013, you can follow the CNA link <http://www.cna-aiic.ca/>. CGNA will be working with CNA to help those planning to write to connect with CGNA groups across Canada who can support them in this process.

Finally, as we move through summer and into the fall we encourage you to participate in your local or provincial chapters or on one of the national committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Buchanan RN, PhD, GNC(C) CGNA President

**Member Communication:
FACEBOOK for CGNA**

CGNA membership now uses a variety of communication forms; most recently we have launched a CGNA Face Book page as a way to communicate with members. . This is an opportunity to quickly respond to issues of health care that concern the older population.

Facebook is a social networking website that provides a convenient platform for nursing students and working nurses to share their professional experience. Often, nurses want to be actively engaged in their professional interest groups but have little time to search for targeted information as it is often found on multiple communication portals such as website, mail, and e-mail. With the new CGNA Facebook community, it is an easily accessed place where nurses can interact instantly and learn about opportunities for professional growth.

Facebook is also an online social networking service which allows users to share thoughts, photos, videos, and experiences with friends, bridging geographical barriers. Many professional groups are now using Facebook to connect with each other and like-minded groups as a means of collaborating within a larger knowledge network. CGNA has established a Facebook page to help members connect with each other and with current information relevant to the field of gerontological nursing. To join our online network, users must already have or create a personal Facebook account, then visit the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association found through the search mechanism or by clicking on this [link](#), and click the "Like" button. To obtain an account visit [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and familiarize yourself with their terms and policies prior to signing up, followed by adjusting your personal privacy settings to your comfort level.

Facebook is an American company which offers a free service, generating revenue from advertising; CGNA members are not required to pay any additional fees and will not be asked to provide any personal data such as passwords. It is important to remember that while Facebook is often used as a personal network, CGNA is a professional association and for the protection of all members will not tolerate any violations to Facebook's Community Standards on our page. For more information on how to better protect you online please visit Facebook's Terms and Policies page at [facebook.com/policies](https://www.facebook.com/policies). For any additional questions regarding CGNA's professional Facebook page or to report any complaints, please contact: Diane Buchanan

Submitted by: Tina Leung and Heather Buchanan.

REPORTS FROM CGNA PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association

www.AGNA.ca

The Alberta provincial conference was held in Red Deer April 26 and 27th. In June there was an opportunity for a provincial executive face to face meeting with representatives from new chapters. Also in June, there was a focus group with CARNA on advocacy re: care of older patients in which 8 AGNA members provided content for the development of the CARNA position paper on advocacy pillar related to care of older patients.

Gerontological Nursing Association of British Columbia

www.gnabc.com

BC held their AGM in June just prior to the CGNA AGM and the CNA conference. GNABC in planning for the 2013 CGNA Conference to be held in Vancouver, BC – the theme for the conference is "Personhood and Caring: Honouring the Older Adult's Life Journey". This will be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel from May 29th to June 1, 2013. Check their new website www.gnabc.com

Manitoba Gerontological Nursing Association

MGNA Conference - OLDER ADULTS in the EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: A Senior Friendly Approach to Care to be held: Friday, Oct. 12th, 2012

Guest speakers: Dr David Patrick Ryan and Doris Splinter Flynn

Location: Deer Lodge Centre, Life & Learning Centre, 2nd Flr: 2109 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

For information contact Terry Desautels: tdesautels@goldenwest.ca

New Brunswick Gerontological Nursing Association

The NBGNA executive met in August to plan for the September meeting. It will be on September 14th at Camden Park Terraces, which is an assisted living facility. They are very supportive of Gerontology and are willing to host our group in their lovely tea room. An educational session will follow the business meeting. The meeting will wrap up with a tour of the facility for the group. Everyone is invited to bring a friend to the meeting. We are also seeking ideas and info for the December meeting.

There are positions to be filled on the executive in April. We will be selecting a new President-Elect as Dawn Fenton will become President, as well as a new Treasurer to assume duties in 2014. We are also seeking an Education Chairperson as indicated in our by-laws. We hope to have new members join us as we begin a new season.

Newfoundland and Labrador Gerontological Nurses' Association

Lisa Adams noted they will be having their 2nd Annual NLGNA 1-day conference this fall – more information should be available soon.

Nova Scotia Gerontological Nursing Association

www.nsgna.com

NSGNA is holding their 28th annual general meeting and dinner education session in Sydney, Cape Breton on October 17th. The topic: Elder friendly environments to enhance function & safety for older adults. Guest speaker: Patricia Walsh. The following day NSGNA is sponsoring 2 – ½ day workshops by Teepa Snow on 'Demystifying Resistance'. Registration opens early September. The NSGNA also plans to establish direct connections through visits and presentations with LTC & Assisted Living facilities.

Gerontological Nursing Association Ontario

www.gnaontario.org

2012 GNAO Annual Provincial Conference will be hosted by the Durham Chapter on November 1st & 2nd in Oshawa, Ontario. Theme of the conference is: "*Through Different Lenses*".

Prince Edward Island Gerontological Nursing Association

PEIGNA fall activities will be available soon.

MEMBER PROFILE

This issue's Member Profile is of Sandra P. Hirst RN, PhD, GNC(C) who is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. Sandi, as many of us call her, graduated from St Michael's School of Nursing; this was followed in subsequent years with her acquiring her BScN from the University of Ottawa, her MSc from the University of Edinburgh and her PhD from the University of Alberta. Sandi has worked as a team leader, nurse educator, and ward "sister".



As gerontological nurses we are familiar with a number of leadership positions she has held in gerontology including: president of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association; president of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, and president of the Alberta Association of Gerontology. Sandi has often assumed roles which demonstrate her commitment to the older adult and to gerontological nursing. A couple of examples include her role with the National Initiative for Care of the Elderly (NICE) and she completed a three year appointment from the Prime Minister to sit on the National Seniors Council. Her areas of research and related scholarship focus on abuse and neglect of older adults, and the experiences of older adults who reside in long term care facilities. In 2008, Sandi was appointed as Director of the Brenda Strafford Centre for Excellence in Gerontological

Nursing.

Sandi has received a number of Awards for her roles in gerontology. She has received a Honourary Member award from the Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association, a Lifetime Achievement award from the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, in 2011 she became an Honorary Member of CGNA and this spring she received the CNA's Jeanne Mance Award for her contributions to the health of Canadians.

Well done Sandi!

UPCOMING EVENTS

RGP – GEM 8th annual Geriatric Emergency Management Conference. Held September 19th & 20th Markham ON. Info: <http://gem.rgp.toronto.on.ca/>

Canadian Coalition for Senior's Mental Health – Annual Conference. Held September 20th & 21st in Banff, AB. Info: www.ccsmh.ca

Research on Aging conference. To be held September 24th & 25th in Corner Brook, Nfld. Info: www.researchonaging.ca

National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA) will host their annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland from October 4-7, 2012. Info: www.ngna

Canadian Association of Gerontology – Annual Conference. Held October 19th to 21st in Vancouver, BC. Info: www.cagacg.ca Reminder to Nurse Researchers – pre-conference, 'building Canadian Academic Gerontological Nursing Research Capacity: October 18th – for more information contact: Mary Gould @ Mary.Gould@uhn.ca

CGNA 2013 Conference: Personhood and Caring: Honouring the Older Adult's Life Journey to be held May 29 - June 1, 2013. Check the CGNA conference website, www.cgnaconference.ca for the details on the call for abstracts. Abstracts are due January 9th 2013.



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