

## Canadian Nursing Informatics Association



The CNIA Newsblast delivers informatics news from Canada and around the world to our members and subscribers.

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### The increased importance of digital health and nurse informaticians

We are heading into what looks to be a challenging winter season with the pandemic showing no signs of slowing down in Canada. As the months since March 2020 have unfolded, we continue to see the growing importance of digital health efforts. Subsequently, much of our membership have seen your roles as nursing informaticians grow in significance, as we have come to be relied upon to lead many of these digital health and virtual nursing initiatives, across the country.

We are pleased to revive our segment on CNIA Member Profiles. In this Newsblast, we introduce you to **Aimee Castro**, a nurse and current PhD student at McGill University's Ingram School of Nursing, who shares with us her journey into the world of nursing informatics. Especially relevant to our current times is the work Aimee will be conducting on the development of an app to better coordinate respite care by nurses for families coping with cancer. We hope that this newsletter can provide you with helpful information about coming events that can inform and support your work as nursing informaticians.

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## National Nursing Data Standards Symposium Virtual Fall Series

Registration for these sessions is open to all CNIA members - registration details were sent via email to all members.

**Session #4: Wednesday, November 28, 2020 12:00 to 1:15**

### **The 2020 Vision for Nursing**

Michelle Acorn, Provincial Chief Nursing Officer, Ontario Ministry of Health and Longterm Care

Comprehensive Team-based Data: Understanding the Client Journey and Identifying Gaps for Improvement

Jennifer Rayner, Learning Health System Initiative, Alliance for Healthier Communities

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**Session #1: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 12:00 to 1:00**

(completed)

**Integrated People-Centred Health Systems Standard**

Alyssa Bryan, Program Manager, Health Standards Organization

**Data Standards: The Foundation to Supporting Health Workforce Planning in Canada**

Lynn McNeely, Manager, Health Workforce Information, CIHI

**Session #2: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 12:00 to 1:30**

(completed)

**Governance, Design and Optimization of Nursing Documentation Standards in an EHR**

Debbie Pinter, Executive Director, Provincial Clinical Guidance and Content Management Program, Alberta Health Services

**Our Journey with Integrating an Essential Data Set into the Acute Care EHR**

Lorraine Blackburn, VP Professional Practice and Chief Clinical Information Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

**Integrating Nursing-sensitive Outcomes into the Acute Care EHR**

Marion Dowling, Executive Director Professional Practice, Quality and Patient Experience, CNE, Health PEI

Dorothy Dewar, RN, Nurse Research Lead, Health PEI

**Session #3: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12:00 to 1:30**

(completed)

**Nursing Knowledge Representation in Standardized Clinical Terminologies**

Lori Block, PhD Student, University of British Columbia School of Nursing

**Progress on an Essential Data Set for Canada**

Peggy White, Co-Lead, NNDS

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## **An Opportunity to be Involved in Nursing Informatics Research**

Digital technology is increasingly being promoted to improve the working conditions of healthcare professionals and the quality of care. The expected benefits are associated with an enormous acceleration of digital transformation. A mismatch of the digitization level with the individual's digital competence leads to an increase of technostress. For this reason, adequate digital competence is fundamental for nurses with direct patient care.

To provide sustainable education and training, the nurses' digital competence must be elaborated. There are many comprehensive scales which focus in detail on the required knowledge and skills (see TIGER from HiMSS). But knowledge and skills do not seem to be the only necessary components of digital competence. A recently published systematic review by Konttila et. al. (2019) concluded that digital competence of health professionals comprises of: Knowledge, skills, attitudes & motivation as well as beliefs.

The aim of our Delphi study is to collect relevant items to cover the topics of digital competence for nurses with direct patient care. The Delphi study comprises of three steps.

In the first step, a total of 37 items were internationally assessed for their relevance by 24 experts. The results and our conclusions are described here: [LINK](#).

In the second step a total of 36 items were assessed for their relevance by 21 experts. The report of the 2nd round can be accessed here: [LINK](#)

report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round can be accessed here: [LINK](#)

Those who participated in the first or second step can see in the reports, what adjustments and additions have been made based on their feedback.

We would like to invite you to participate in the third step of our Delphi study as an expert (medical / nurse informatics specialist, researcher with expertise in the field of digital competence and nurse manager) in order to assess the relevance of the revised and added items and alternatively to provide supplements.

Participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> step of the survey is possible until: **15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

You can participate following this link (approx. 15 min.):  
[https://www.umfrageonline.ch/s/dig\\_comp\\_3](https://www.umfrageonline.ch/s/dig_comp_3)

Your participation as an expert is essential, in order to set a first framework of relevant items.



## Infoway Partnership: Fall Series

September 15, October 13 and **November 17 — 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET**

Canada Health Infoway is launching its first ever virtual event, [Infoway Partnership: Fall Series](#). Join us each month to hear about the shared goals of improving health outcomes for Canadians and creating a more sustainable health system for future generations.

The series will dive into topics that include delivering and sustaining virtual care in the current environment and beyond, pathways for virtual mental health care and the partnerships that help to ensure success.

Check out the [Program](#).

[Register now](#), or for more information please contact Mena Bhavsar at 905.330.9030

Watch for news by following us on social media [@Infoway](#) [#ThinkDigitalHealth](#)



## Partenariat d'Inforoute: Événement de l'automne

Les 15 septembre, 13 octobre et **17 novembre. De 13 h à 15 h HE**

Inforoute Santé du Canada lance le tout premier événement virtuel du Partenariat d'Inforoute, qui sera présenté cet automne. Venez vous joindre à nous chaque mois pour mieux connaître les objectifs communs d'une amélioration de la santé des Canadiens et de la mise en place d'un réseau de la santé plus durable pour les générations futures.

Dans le cadre de cet événement, nous aborderons des sujets comme la prestation et le soutien des soins virtuels dans le contexte actuel et, par la suite, les voies à suivre pour offrir des services de soutien virtuels en santé mentale ainsi que l'établissement de partenariats comme gage de succès.

Consultez le [programme!](#)

[Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant](#), ou communiquez avec Mena Bhavsar au 905.330.9030 pour de plus amples renseignements.

Pour ne rien manquer des dernières nouvelles concernant la Conférence, suivez-nous sur nos réseaux sociaux : [@Infoway](#), [@InforouteSante](#), [#ThinkDigitalHealth](#) et [#pensezsanténumérique](#).



### Mohawk offers first stand-alone degree program

**New Bachelor of Digital Health (Honours) degree established to train students in design and development of IT healthcare solutions**

Hamilton, ON - Mohawk College has announced the establishment of its first stand-alone degree program, the new Bachelor of Digital Health (Honours).

The new four-year degree combines computer science, health and business studies to give students the skills and experience to design and develop IT healthcare solutions. Students who graduate from this program will be prepared for employment in a range of healthcare settings, where their knowledge and skills will be used to improve health system efficiency.

"Mohawk College is proud to commit even more intensely in the digital health sector, offering students a comprehensive grounding in the knowledge and skills they need to deliver IT services in a wide variety of healthcare settings," said Mohawk College President and CEO Ron McKerlie.

[The Bachelor of Digital Health degree](#) is a natural extension of the college's involvement in the digital health sector in Canada and internationally. Mohawk College has been regarded as a leader in digital health training and research for more than a decade, through its [mHealth & eHealth Development and Innovation Centre \(MEDIC\)](#).

Mohawk's Digital Health (Honours) students will develop a deep understanding of digital health principles in the Canadian healthcare system, with a special focus on patient safety, personalized

principles in the Canadian healthcare system, with a special focus on patient safety, personalized health delivery, self-management and behaviour modification. In the fourth year of the program, students will be involved in a final-year applied research capstone project.

In addition to the Honours Degree, Mohawk College has also established a [Digital Health, Ontario College Graduate Certificate](#). The certificate program will appeal to working professionals who hold credentials in the fields of health, business and technology. Completed in one year or less, the certificate program provides extensive hands-on learning opportunities in business, health and technology using Mohawk's advanced digital health labs.

Application to the Bachelor of Digital Health (Honours) and the Digital Health, Ontario College Graduate Certificate are now open, with the first students beginning their studies in September 2021.

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## **CNIA Member Spotlight: Aimee Castro**

You can listen to the 12-minute audio interview with Aimee here: [CNIA Profile - Aimee Castro.mp4](#)

### **How did you start your career in nursing?**

I always wanted to work in healthcare with a focus on aging; I just wasn't sure exactly how to do so. I really appreciated my experiences as a family caregiver to my grandparents, as well as my work as a homecare provider. I realized that nursing education could give me the biopsychosocial knowledge needed to better support family caregiving and community care. The transdisciplinary aspects of nursing really appealed to me, too (think about it - in what situations or fields would nursing knowledge/skills NOT be helpful?).

Prior to entering nursing, I did a Master's degree in Health and Aging. I knew I wanted to do research in some capacity. These experiences led to my direct-entry Master's in Nursing, as well as my current PhD work.

### **What first drew you to informatics?**

My prior work as an entrepreneur teaching older adults to use computers first drew me to informatics. I taught a 65 year old man who had never used a computer before how to video call his daughter in Bahrain, in just 3 lessons. The ubiquity and power of these relatively easy-to-learn devices excited me. Smartphones and tablets are everywhere; I want to study them for their potential to better support family caregiving and community healthcare.

My first role in informatics: teaching older adults how to use computers.

My first role as a nurse informaticist: my Master's in Nursing project exploring how parents of children with a rare condition used the Internet and social media to support their family caregiving needs. My Master's work is published here in [JMIR](#).

### **What is your current role and what is the focus of the role?**

I'm a PhD student at the Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University in Montreal.

I'm researching how to design a smartphone app to better coordinate respite care by nurses to families coping with cancer.

### **Key message for nurses interested in working in the informatics field**

For everyone: If you're interested in learning more about nursing informatics, join CNIA for webinars and networking; and look into Coursera.org for digital health courses. The Journal of Medical Internet Research has a new open-access Nursing journal. The University of Calgary Nursing program has a new digital health and innovation specialization. Just keep looking. Informatics is so many things: data science, science and technology studies, app design, social media analyses... you're almost guaranteed to find something that interests you.

For current students: Reach out to professors. Try to find a research assistant position over the summer or an honors course. While you're in university might be the easiest way to get involved in nursing informatics.

For new grads and experienced nurses: Reach out to local professors, or see if there's an informatics project happening on your unit. Also, see if there are any meetup groups in your area that could help you bring your own digital invention ideas into reality!

### **Final thoughts**

Remember that the vast majority of nurses and patients in Canada are using the Internet and smartphones. This creates exciting and important opportunities for expanding nursing work into the virtual sphere.

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Have an informatics item of interest to our members or subscribers?  
Send it along to: [communications@cni.ca](mailto:communications@cni.ca)

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