

CNIA Newsblast: October BLAST



Fall is here!

We often associate Fall with the return of school/academic programs, and the same seems to be true for many nurses across the country who contact CNIA seeking information on how to advance their knowledge in nursing informatics. You can start small with a webinar (CNIA has some exciting offerings in the works) or you can pursue a short course or other online learning opportunity. There are several more formal education programs offered across the country in nursing informatics, or you can dive into a more focussed pursuit through computer or data science for example. I will be doing some data science learning this year myself and I am really looking forward to how this will help to advance my own understanding and research. Make no mistake, now more than ever, *nursing informatics IS nursing!* Please consider joining us as a member of the CNIA if you are not already as we pursue a host of exciting strategic initiatives, everyone is welcome!

Tracie Risling
CNIA President

Profiling CNIA Board Members



Barb Cross
President Elect

1. How did you start your career in nursing? What first drew you to informatics?

I began my nursing career at the tender age of 18, completing a geriatric aide course, and working in long term care all through nursing school, eventually graduating from Victoria's first college-based diploma program. After moving to the Yukon Territory, newly married, I was beyond excited to launch my nursing career as a new grad at Whitehorse General Hospital on the medical/surgical units. With over 40 years in health care, what an incredible journey it has been, providing direct patient care in med/surg, critical care, perioperative, and PeriAnesthesia areas. I have also had the privilege to work in multiple education and leadership capacities all while continuing my academic studies. All of these years combined have informed my direction towards Nursing/Clinical Informatics and I am so very proud to have joined the many nurses who came before and after me in this regard! While working in ICU in the Yukon, I found myself curious about how biomedical technologies augmented our everyday practice - ultimately becoming the extension of our senses and intuitions. In other words, I realized early on that these devices enable us to visually incorporate the data outputs into our assessments and ongoing monitoring of the patient; essentially, they adding to my assessments and/or validating the patient's often invisible physiological queues. These technology enablers excited me and I wanted to learn more about how they could fully optimize my practice in the context of the care delivery workflows. Fast forward to the bedside computer age - and an incredibly informative undergrad course delivered by none-

other than Dr. Kathryn Hannah, one of our true Canadian pioneers in Nursing Informatics - who was my professor in Nursing Applications in Computers - she and Dr. Lynn Nagle continue to be my inspiration in this area; and because of them and many others, we as nurses get to realize fully integrated and digitally enabled care environments that include a completely digitized patient record with highly integrated biomedical solutions!

2. What was your first role in informatics?

While working towards a Masters in Nursing Science with directed study in Health Information Science, I became a PowerChart (Cerner EHR) Trainer in 2005 at my local health authority. I then went on to become the first Clinical informatics Specialist and eventually established the inaugural Clinical Informatics program at Island Health.

3. What is your current role and what is the focus of that role?

I have recently retired from Vancouver Coastal Health as Regional Director, Clinical Informatics and Standardization and am now acting in a consulting capacity with Cross-Owl Consulting in health informatics.

4. What key message do you have for nurses interested in working in the informatics field?

Oh my goodness, this domain of digitally-enabled practice is likely one of the most exciting, intellectually challenging and opportunistic growth areas in nursing and health care! There is no other practice domain in nursing that encompasses your practice, knowledge, clinical data analysis and standardization, health systems thinking, transformational leadership and change knowledge and experience, demands for the translation of practice and clinical standards across digitized practices and workflows at/near the point of care, and the ultimate integration of all of the technology solutions imaginable! This the most exciting and ever-expanding area of practice in health care!



Tracie Risling
President

1. How did you start your career in nursing? What first drew you to informatics?

I worked in public health and acute care pediatrics to begin my nursing career, transitioning to nursing education where I have spent the last 16 years engaged in teaching and research. Very early in my research career, I realized that my interest in technology in the classroom was going to be a significant driver of my overall program of research. I had focused on communities of practice in my doctoral study and felt that technology was rapidly creating new communities in health and beyond, and that was that!

2. What was your first role in informatics?

I have been engaged in nursing informatics research since completing my doctorate in 2014! It is a rapidly changing, exciting field that has afforded me many different opportunities to partner with practitioners and patients in the pursuit of improved health outcomes through the use of digital tools.

3. What is your current role and what is the focus of the role?

I have recently moved into an Associate Professor role in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. Here I will continue to advance my informatics research and scholarship at an institution committed to social innovation that influences positive societal change.

4. What messages do you have for nurses interested in working in the informatics field?

Even prior to the pandemic, the world was rapidly moving towards a digital future and this journey has only been accelerated in many areas as the result of the global COVID-19 challenge. Given where we are on this trajectory, there has never been a better time for nurses to engage in informatics education, ongoing professional

development, or other data or digital based learning in order to enrich and evolve their professional roles.



Webinar - November 10, 2021

CNIA is pleased to host the first webinar of the fall.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 1300h (Eastern time)

Title: 3 years post-implementation of a Patient Portal at a Pediatric Health Centre: What's next?

Description: In 2017, the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) implemented a patient portal (MyChart) to enable patients and family members view parts of their health record, attend virtual visits and message their care providers. As part of ongoing optimization of the platform, we conducted an organization-wide evaluation to explore how to improve the delivery and value of MyChart to patients, families and clinicians. In this seminar, we will share our findings from this evaluation and discuss ways to enhance the impact of patient portals for care delivery.

Bios:

Narissa Dharamshi, RN, MN, is a Project Manager for the Epic Program at the Hospital for Sick Children. She leads the implementation and delivery of the MyChart Patient Portal at the organization.

Brian Lo, MHI, is the Quality Improvement Lead for the Epic MyChart Program at the Hospital for Sick Children. He leads the QI projects for the MyChart program and supports the optimization of the platform.

Webinars are free to CNIA members.

[Register](#)



Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) has a Digital Health Interest Group, and we are looking to get more members. I am curious if you might have any opportunities to promote this initiative? CASN interest groups provide nurse educators an opportunity to discuss ideas; exchange information; build research and scholarship capacity; and promote quality of a specific area of nursing education, at a national level.

For more information: [Nurse Educator Interest Groups - The Canadian Nurse Educator Institute \(CNEI\) \(casn.ca\)](#)

Seeking Community Nurses

Fatemah Mohammadnejad is seeking community nurses interested in participating in a research study exploring the perspectives on the use of technology on their nursing workload. For more information or if you are interested in participating contact Fatemah at mohammadn@unbc.ca



Digital Health Canada offers a user-friendly LMS -- your one-stop shop for digital health and health informatics learning, with courses, and certificates.

Courses: Take a single course module or a course bundle.

Certificates: Learn at your own pace in the LMS where you can log in and listen to podcasts at your desk or on the go. Certificates are a lighter lift than a credential, with no maintenance or renewals required.

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Faculty: Our learning materials are developed with volunteer digital health subject matter experts. Faculty members come from healthcare organizations, government agencies, vendors, consultants, and academia to contribute their time and expertise to the advancement of digital health.

Benefits: **As an individual learner**, you can modernize your skill set, refresh your digital health knowledge, gain a better understanding of the Canadian digital health and health system, and prep for the [CPHIMS-CA](#) exams. **As a manager or team leader**, you can give new team members knowledge of foundational core competencies and establish a common knowledge base for cross-sector project teams.

Digital Health Canada courses have helped hundreds of professionals gain a better understanding of the Canadian digital health world. You can, too: please contact education@digitalhealthcanada.com to discuss the best learning path for you or your team.

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

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