During the 2015-2016 term, Sue Bookey-Bassett and Barb Chyzzy held the position of NRIG Co-Chairs. For the 2016-2017 term, Barb has now moved into the NRIG Chair role and Sue has moved into the NRIG Past Chair role. Together with the entire NRIG executive team, Barb and Sue will continue to advance NRIG’s mandate, which is to promote nursing research in Ontario through lobbying, funding, educating, collaborating and networking with the goal to improve the health of people in Ontario.

2016-2017 NRIG Executive

We are very pleased to announce the NRIG executive for the upcoming 2016-2017 term. Several executive members are continuing in their current positions on the NRIG executive including Angela Cooper-Brathwaite, as RNAO Board Member-at-large, Winnie Sun as Treasurer and Amanveer Deol as our Student Representative. There has also been some movement between positions within the executive. Joyce Tsui, our former Membership Officer, has moved into the Communications (Website) Officer position, Christina Moldovan, our former Associate Membership Officer, has moved into the Membership Officer position and Fisson Lau, our former Communications (Website) Officer, has moved into the Secretary position. We also very excited to welcome many new and returning faces to the NRIG executive! In August 2016, Demelza Domingo began her role as NRIG’s Communication (Newsletter) Officer and at the NRIG AGM on September 29, 2016 several NRIG members joined the NRIG executive slate including Jennifer Innis as Chair-Elect, Donald Wildfong, returning as Policy and Political Action Officer (welcome back Don!) and Sheila Boamah, as Associate Policy and Political Action Officer. The ongoing enthusiasm and dedication of the NRIG executive will ensure NRIG’s ongoing success!

Outgoing NRIG Executive

We would like to give our sincere thanks to outgoing NRIG executive members Brenda Ridley (Secretary), Helen Kelly (Education Officer) and Christine Dennis (NRIG Member-at-large). Brenda, Helen and Christine have been executive members for 2 years and have steadfastly provided ongoing commitment and leadership to the NRIG executive during their terms. We will miss them but wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.
Nursing Research Funding Update
Since NRIG members continue to raise concerns regarding funding from nursing research, we have had ongoing dialogue with members of the RNAO board and staff to develop strategies to act on the 2015 NRIG resolution regarding funding for novice nurse researchers. Several meetings were held during February and March 2016 and an Environmental Scan on Potential Support for Novice and other Nursing Researchers Chart was drafted and will continue to be updated between NRIG and the RNAO Research Committee. We will strive to keep NRIG members informed about current research funding opportunities.

NRIG Priorities for 2016-2017
We have several priorities for the 2016-2017 term including:
- Sending a survey to NRIG members to gain information about their interests and needs
- Developing strategies to recruit NRIG members
- Redesigning the NRIG website and expanding social media access for NRIG members
- Collaborating with the RNAO Research Committee to build on the Environmental Scan on potential funding for novice nurse researchers
- Continuing the educational webinar series with the RNAO Research Committee with the goal of broadcasting 2 webinars in 2016-2017
- Collaborating with other interest groups to build new relationships among members and encourage combined activities between groups

We encourage members to share your experiences and to help us identify current issues that are affecting your roles in research activities. We are also interested in hearing about your research work, its impact on practice, and learning needs ideas for future educational sessions.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Chyzzy, NRIG Chair and Sue Bookey-Bassett
NRIG Past Chair

SAVE THE DATE!
Upcoming RNAO/NRIG Research Webinar
Jointly, the RNAO Research Committee and NRIG will be offering 2 webinars for the 2016-2017 term. The first webinar—Choosing a Research Topic and Refining Your Research Question—will be held on:

Date: November 23, 2016
Time: 4:30-5:30 pm
Presented by: Dr. Angela Cooper-Brathwaite

The topic may be of interest to novice researchers, students and clinical nurses in practice.
NRIG welcomed the season of Fall with the 2016 NRIG Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM was hosted at the beautiful Old Mill on September 29th, 2016 from 5-9pm. The historical décor and delicious autumn buffet dinner contributed to a successful evening of awards presentations to scholarship and research grant winners, networking and reconnecting opportunities for the AGM’s diverse group of (approximately) 30 attendants, as well as NRIG’s executive report on activities for the 2015-2016 year. The theme of the AGM this year was Current Topics in Aging and featured a panel presentation and discussion from distinguished Canadian leaders in gerontological nursing research:

Maureen Markle-Reid, RN, PhD
Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair Aging, Chronic Disease and Health Promotion Interventions, McMaster University

Veronique Boscart, RN, PhD
CIHR/Schlegel Industrial Research Chair for Colleges in Seniors, Conestoga College

Lori Schindel Martin, RN, PhD
Associate Professor, Ryerson University

The panelists provided a thought-provoking presentation and discussion on improving care, education and research for the optimal management of our complex, growing, and aging Canadian population. They highlighted a need for (1) improved system and individual care practices, services and resources (2) evidence-based tools and interventions to enhance healthcare provider knowledge, skill and judgement, (3) managing the care of an aging population with multi-morbidity using a client-centered approach as well as (4) increased gerontological nursing education and research. Presenters provided an inspirational discussion on the value of gerontological research to improving the care of the aging Canadian population and called for a resurgence in the interest of trained nurses passionate about gerontotological nursing and care of the aging.

NRIG would like to thank our panelists for sharing their work, and passion for gerontological nursing research!

Thank you to all who attended the 2016 AGM and to those who contributed to its success.

Respectfully submitted, Demelza Domingo, NRIG Communications Officer- Newsletter
We are very pleased to continue to be able to support ongoing research and scholarship of NRIG members. We received 5 applications for graduate scholarships and 3 applications for the research grant competition. A total of $6,000 in scholarships and research grants were awarded this year: one master’s student received a research grant to support the completion of their thesis work, two Graduate Scholarships for PhD students, and one Research Grant for a new investigator.

There was a separate adjudication panel for each category of awards. Each application was reviewed and independently rated by 2 reviewers. It was not possible to have blind review of the applications but reviews were assigned to ensure that there was no conflict of interest or previous personal affiliation with any applicant. The committees met by phone to discuss the overall rankings and scores for the applicants. There was unanimous agreement on the awards and funding decisions. This year’s recipients were:

**NRIG Award** (awarded by RNFOO), valued at $1,000:
- Carolyn Truskoski, Master of Nursing student, University of Ottawa

**Graduate Scholarships**, each valued at $1,500:
- Melissa Northwood, PhD student, University of Ottawa
- Sheila Boamah, PhD student, Western University

**New Investigator Research Grant**, valued at $2,000:
- Dr. Kristine Newman, Assistant Professor, Ryerson University

Respectfully, submitted by Sue Bookey-Bassett, Past-Chair

**2016 Award Winners**

CAROLYN TRUSKOSKI, the **NRIG Award** winner is a full-time Masters student at the University of Ottawa, School of Nursing and a research assistant for BORN Ontario. Carolyn has worked in a variety of roles as an RN, including research and clinical positions. She has presented her thesis methodology at the International Forum for Pediatric Pain in Halifax in 2015 and is scheduled to present her findings at an international webinar for the Pain in Child Health Strategic Training Program. Her research explores the experiences and contextual factors that influence nurses’ pediatric pain care practise in rural Northern Ontario. Carolyn looks forward to continuing to develop as a clinician and academic in nursing.
MELISSA NORTHWOOD, a Graduate Scholarship recipient, is a PhD Student at McMaster University’s School of Nursing. Melissa’s current research interests include using a mixed methods approach to identify community based nursing interventions to improve home care for older adults with diabetes and incontinence. Melissa’s clinical practice is as a nurse continence advisor with Saint Elizabeth.

SHEILA BOAMAH, a Graduate Scholarship recipient, is a doctoral candidate in Nursing at Western University, under the supervision of Dr. Heather Laschinger. Her research interests include leadership, healthcare quality, human resource management, and health policy. Sheila’s research focuses on understanding how healthcare leadership influences the nursing work environment in promoting efficiency of care delivery and the quality of work life of nurses.

DR. KRISTINE NEWMAN, the recipient of the New Investigator Research Grant, is an Assistant Professor at Ryerson University in the Faculty of Community Services, Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing. In 2012, Dr. Newman completed her PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Toronto and in 2013 a Knowledge Translation Canada: Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research Post-Doctoral Fellowship at McMaster University. She holds her Canadian Nurses Association Rehabilitation Nursing
Working in concert with the RNAO Research Subcommittee we offered two research educational webinars which addressed topics of interest that were identified by participants in the 2014 RNAO Educational Needs Assessment (2014). On December 1, 2015 we offered a webinar, which highlighted a Research Internship experience offered at University Health Network by Dr. Kathryn McGilton and Meagan Blodgett. They discussed their experiences as Mentor and Mentee after a six-month research internship. As well, on March 22, 2016 a successful Grant Writing Webinar with Dr. Souraya Sidani from Ryerson University was offered.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead the Educational work on behalf of NRIG. While I will be stepping down from this NRIG position after serving 2 years, I look forward to continuing to support NRIG activities and future educational events for our nursing membership.

Thank you to Angela Cooper-Braithwaite and Kim Jarvi (RNAO), as well as the NRIG education subcommittee comprised of Sue Bookey-Bassett, Christine Dennis, Shelly Archibald, Barbara Chyzzy, and Brenda Ridley.

Respectfully, Helen Kelly, Education Officer

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the NRIG had a total of 1,625 members. Of these members, 492 were Registered Nurses while 1,133 were nursing students. Currently, a key recruitment strategy is ongoing communication with our members through distribution of electronic postcards to lapsed members that highlight the top three reasons to join/renew as members with NRIG. This includes membership benefits such as scholarship and grant opportunities quarterly newsletters, webinars, and educational events.

Due to the drop in membership compared to the 2014-2015 fiscal year, a survey has been developed and will be sent out to current members about the services they find most useful in order to better identify the needs of our members, and includes these principals in our goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Tsui, Membership Officer and Christina Moldovan, Associate Membership Officer

Respectfully, Helen Kelly, Education Officer

Joyce Tsui
Christina Moldovan
One of my biggest accomplishments for 2015-2016 was the creation of this Student’s Corner! I am always very excited to reach out to our student members and give them more information regarding what NRIG has to offer. For example, students can benefit from NRIG’s many scholarships if you are graduating soon and planning on pursuing a career in nursing research!

As students, you all have different opinions regarding nursing research and issues. I want to hear all of them! Please feel free to email me with anything you would like to discuss with our members and I will try to get most of your opinions posted here. During the first couple of months of 2017, we will be holding a special, fun, and informative student event! It will be held at one of Toronto’s nursing schools. If you are interested in helping out with this event and getting more involved with NRIG, please email me and we can start on getting it organized! I look forward to hearing from you all and can’t wait to meet with you to prepare for one of our very first student events!

Respectfully submitted, Amanveer Deol, Student Representative

It has been my great pleasure to have the opportunity to join NRIG’s executive this year as the Newsletter Communications Officer. I look forward to working with the NRIG executive to continue to provide members up-to-date information related to nursing research, upcoming events and scholarship opportunities. I hope to utilize my interests and experience to support NRIG members stay informed and connected. If you have any comments and suggestions for the NRIG newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, NRIG distributed 3 newsletters to NRIG members; the first in fall 2015, the second in winter 2016 and, the most recent one in summer 2016. The newsletters highlighted NRIG updates, scholarship and grant opportunities, award recipients and important events. They are available on the NRIG website for your reference.

Respectfully submitted, Demelza Domingo, NRIG Communications Officer, Newsletter
In 2015 – 2016, NRIG formed a Website Subcommittee to identify NRIG’s strategic plan for the website. This subcommittee was introduced to look for new ways to improve the website and communication between NRIG and our members. Through discussion, it was identified that scholarship, event/conferences and other funding opportunities were the most relevant to our members. As a result, our action plans were to continue to post any scholarships and funding opportunities on the website through RNAO.

Secondly, we have inquired and explored with several website design companies to develop a new user-friendly website. This was challenging in last year’s fiscally constrained environment, therefore one of our goals for the upcoming year is to explore alternative forms of communication. We will introduce NRIG facebook and NRIG twitter to continue to connect and enhance communication with our members.

Respectfully submitted, Fissan Lau, NRIG Communications Officer, Website

The Canadian Association for Nursing Research (CANR), a Canadian Nursing Association (CNA) interest group, is a national organization with representation from every province and territory. The purpose of CANR is to foster research-based nursing practice and practice-based nursing research.

It has been a pleasure to represent Ontario on the CANR Board of Directors. CANR board members support NRIG’s concerns regarding decreased research funding opportunities for nurses. CANR submitted a resolution to the 2016 CNA Biennium requesting that CNA lobby for a federally funded national nursing research strategy and agency. Due to time constraints at the AGM, the motion was not voted on. However, the resolution was submitted to the CNA Board of Directors for further consideration.

CANR is interested in partnering with NRIG to host a Nursing Research Conference in 2018. Further planning for this event is forthcoming. The voice of Nursing Research is represented at the CNA Board through the CNNS representative.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Bookey-Bassett, CANR Board Representative for Ontario
Please click on here to access the following upcoming Grant opportunities:

December 1st, 2016 Grant Application Deadline:

- Sigma Theta Tau Internal Small Grants (10-15 awarded annually)
- Alpha Eta Collaborative Research Grant
- Canadian Nurses Foundation Collaborative Grant
- Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science
- Rosemary Berkel Crisp Research Award
- Virginia Henderson Clinical Research Grant
- Western Institute of Nursing Research Grant

For more information or to submit an abstract, click here.

To view a list of available awards, criteria and eligibility, click here.
Canadian Hemophilia Society

The Novo Nordisk Psychosocial Research Program is open to professionals/graduate students from Nursing, Physiotherapy and Social Work. One or two $20,000 research grants are available for one year. Letter of intent deadline is November 15, 2016. For more information, please see here.

International Association for the Study of Pain

The IASP Early Career Research Grant facilitates the development of young researchers just starting their careers as independent investigators. They offer multiple grants at US$20,000 in the Early Career Research Grants Program for IASP members. The application deadline January 26, 2017. For more information, please see here.

Cancer Research Society

Operating Grants of $60,000 per year for a maximum of two years are available for research to contribute to the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. The deadline for submitting the Letter of Intent is December 5, 2016. For more information, please see here.

Ontario Women’s Health Scholars Awards Program

For research on women's health issues. In 2017-18, up to three awards will be made at each of the Master’s and Doctoral levels, and two awards at the Postdoctoral level. Funding includes Master's Awards at $25,000, Doctoral Awards at $35,000 and Post-doctoral Awards at $50,000. Deadline for application is January 31, 2017. For more information, please see here.
Chairperson
Barbara Chyzzy  barbara.chyzzy@utoronto.ca

Chairperson Elect
Jennifer Innis  jennifer.innis@utoronto.ca

Past Chairperson
Sue Bookey-Bassett  bookeys@mcmaster.ca

Secretary
Fissan Lau  fissan@gmail.com

Finance Officer
Winnie Sun  winnie.sun@uoit.ca

Communications Officer – Newsletter
Demelza Domingo  demelza.domingo@mail.utoronto.ca

Communications Officer – Website
Joyce Tsui  jtsui@ryerson.ca

Membership Officer
Christina Moldovan  cdraganao@ryerson.ca

Policy & Political Action Officer
Donald Wildfong  dwildfong@bell.net

Associate Policy & Political Action Officer
Sheila Boamah  sboamah@uwo.ca

Members-at-Large- RNAO Board
Angela Cooper Brathwaite  angela.cooperbrathwaite@utoronto.ca

NRIG Representative to CANR
Sue Bookey-Bassett  bookeys@mcmaster.ca

Student Representative
Amanveer Deol  amanveer_deol@hotmail.com