

Diabetes Nursing Interest Group Newsletter  
August 2007

*DNIG Executive*

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Don't forget to complete the Diabetes Education Survey, page 7

**Good News! We have two new Co-Chairs...**

Sandra Dennison and Nancy Raymond are the new leaders of the DNIG executive. They will work together as co-chairs. Sandra and Nancy have many years of experience in diabetes care and a keen interest in diabetes nursing. They look forward to working with you over the next few years.

If you looking for a challenge, why don't you follow Sandra and Nancy's example and get involved with DNIG!

There are two positions on the DNIG executive still open: Communications and Public Relations, and Treasurer. The job descriptions below provide a guide to the responsibilities; however, the executive works as a group on tasks such as the newsletter and budget planning. Being on the executive is a great way to get involved in DNIG and in the RNAO Assemblies and AGM, which are held in Toronto each year in October, January and April.

## DNIG Positions

### Communications and Public Relations Officer

Maintain communication with DNIG members:

Ensure the DNIG newsletter is published three times per year.

Ensure display materials are available for the purpose of promoting DNIG.

Ensure DNIG website is kept up-to-date

Address issues pertaining to communications and public relations related to the DNIG.

Facilitate links with DES.

### Finance Officer/Treasurer

Prepare the annual budget

Submit a financial statement for every general meeting, or at the request of the Chair

Maintain the DNIG accounts

Issue and sign cheques for payment of authorized expenditures and keep a record of all moneys received and expended

Send a financial statement to RNAO office at the end of the year and submit bookkeeping records to RNAO office for audit when requested

Address issues arising that pertain to DNIG finances

If you would like to join the executive, or know someone who might, or if you need more information, please get in touch with Sandra Dennison [sdennison@sandwichch.org](mailto:sdennison@sandwichch.org) or Nancy Raymond [nancy.raymond@rogers.com](mailto:nancy.raymond@rogers.com)

## DNIG Bursaries:

Sorry to say we had no applicants for the bursaries in 2007. On the advice of RNFOO, who manages the application process, we are talking with the bursary sponsors to see if we can make the requirements more generic. We would like to make the bursaries more appealing to a broader base of nurses. Also, we will try to promote the bursaries more widely with practicing nurses and graduating students. Information on the 2008 bursaries will be out soon at [www.rnfoo.org](http://www.rnfoo.org).

The Diabetes Nursing Interest Group will offer three bursaries in 2008:

*Ernie "Aieh" Jacobs Memorial Award*

*Margaret Myers Diabetes Clinical Practice Bursary*  
*Mary Ann Murphy Memorial Diabetes Education Bursary*

## Diabetes Update

### Best Practices

As part of the RNAO Best Practice Guideline Program commitment to ensure the validity and safety of its BPG recommendations, the 2004 RNAO Best Practice Guideline: [Reducing Foot Complications for People with Diabetes](#) is undergoing review. Sharon Brez chairs the review panel, Lillian Delmas & Alwyn Moyer are members of the panel, which is supported by the BPG team.

This guideline is designed to assist RNs and RPNs who are not specialists in diabetes care to conduct a risk assessment for foot ulcers; provide basic education for prevention of foot ulcers for all clients with diabetes, and implement appropriate interventions when clients are assessed at higher risk for foot ulcers and/or amputations.

The [Diabetes Foot: Risk Assessment Education Program](#) developed in partnership with the Diabetes Nursing Interest Group, which supports the implementation of the Reducing Foot Complications for People with Diabetes guideline, is being reviewed at the same time.

### Education Resource

The Canadian Diabetes Association has released a new publication, *Beyond the Basics: Lifestyle Choices for Diabetes Prevention and Management*, designed to help people with diabetes—or those at risk for the disease—make the right lifestyle choices to maintain a healthy body weight, manage blood glucose levels, and to delay or prevent the onset of diabetes. The *Beyond the Basics Resource* is available to consumers and health-care professionals, for the cost of \$19.95 + GST and shipping. To read more, or to order the resource, go to:  
[http://www.diabetes.ca/section\\_main/newsreleases.asp?ID=199](http://www.diabetes.ca/section_main/newsreleases.asp?ID=199)

### *Conference Corner*

#### *11th Annual CDA/CSEM Professional Conference and Annual Meetings*

Dates: October 24–27, 2007

Location: Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, Vancouver, BC

[http://www.diabetes.ca/section\\_professionals/confindex.asp](http://www.diabetes.ca/section_professionals/confindex.asp)

9th Annual Options for Diabetes Conference

Dates: Friday, April 18th, & Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 2008

Location: Holiday Inn, Kingston

## Questions from the field

### Question 1

This question comes from a BC nurse who is working on the new RN Regulations regarding insulin dose adjustment.

She says: "Insulin dose adjustment is authorized under our new legislation in BC. However, our College has imposed a limit/condition on the practice of RNs managing insulin dose adjustment without an order. This limit, requires RNs who are managing insulin dose adjustment to have additional education and follow a decision support tool.

***Question: Does Ontario have a standard method of preparing and ensuring that RNs are competent to manage insulin dose adjustment?***

Please send your responses to [sdennison@sandwichchc.org](mailto:sdennison@sandwichchc.org)

### Question 2:

Sally Brodrick, a Manitoba podiatrist, has developed a package for drug stores to do free foot screenings. She says: "Free to the public will make such a breakthrough and save our qualified staff from dealing with zero risk levels."

One Ontario drug store has agreed to participate and other drug stores are being approached. When stores agree to participate, Sally needs to move fast to link them up with trained personnel able to do the screenings. She is looking for a list of Ontario foot care nurses who have credentials that understand the diabetic foot. (She intends to get the lists of podiatrists/chiropractors from yellow pages and the Ontario website).

If you can help, or are interested in participating, please email Sally at [brodrick@shaw.ca](mailto:brodrick@shaw.ca) Sally will be in Toronto at the end of September and can meet with anyone interested in participating.

## *Communication with Members*

Starting this year, DNIG will send out the fall newsletter by regular mail to all of our RN members and to paid student members. Student members receiving a free subscription will receive

the newsletter by email. We will send out the winter and spring newsletter by email, where possible.

***Remember to send us your email address!***

Communicating by email helps us to keep down the mailing costs and makes it easier for us get in touch quickly. We try to keep the lists up-to-date, with help from RNAO Membership Services, but sometimes emails are undeliverable. If you receive the winter or spring newsletters by snail mail it means we do not have your email address or the one you provided does not work. Please take a minute to update your contact information. You can do this by sending an email to [sdennison@sandwichchc.org](mailto:sdennison@sandwichchc.org)

### **Looking for a job?**

The Ontario government has launched a job recruitment service for health professionals at [www.healthforceontario.ca](http://www.healthforceontario.ca)

DIABETES NURSING INTEREST GROUP  
REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

*DIABETES EDUCATION SURVEY*

August 2007

The Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) is conducting a survey to learn more about the needs and experience of its members, including student members. Over the past few years, DNIG has had numerous enquiries asking how nurses can prepare for a career in diabetes care.

We are particularly interested in learning about the educational preparation of members involved in direct diabetes care. Learning about our members experience and interests will help us decide how we can best support nurses to pursue or enrich their diabetes education.

Please complete the survey and return by email to : [alwyn.moyer@sympatico.ca](mailto:alwyn.moyer@sympatico.ca) or, fax to Nancy Raymond at 519-634-8045 by September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

- 
- 1) What proportion of your patients/clients are people with diabetes? \_\_\_\_\_%
  
  - 2) What proportion of your practice is providing direct care to people with diabetes? \_\_\_\_\_%
  
  - 3) How well did/does your basic RN/BScN nursing education prepare you to care for people with diabetes?
    - a) Very well \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) Somewhat well \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) Not at all well \_\_\_\_\_
    - d) Do not recall \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - 4) What do you do to keep up-to-date on diabetes care?
    - a) Attend diabetes conferences or workshops: Annually\_\_\_\_\_ Less frequently \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) Member of Canadian Diabetes Association, Diabetes Educator Section (DES) \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) Read \_\_\_\_\_
    - d) Visit Web sites \_\_\_\_\_
    - e) Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
  - 5) Are you now, or have you ever been a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Lapsed \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered 'No', Skip to Question 11, page 9

If you answered 'Yes' or 'Lapsed', please complete Questions 6–10 on page 8

- 6) How do/did you prepare for the CDE certification examination? *Tick all that apply*
- a) Self study Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Diabetes course Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Other Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ *please give details:*

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*If you answered 'Yes' to 6b, please tell us who offered the course*

Michener \_\_\_\_\_ Cambrian/Confederation College \_\_\_\_\_ Ontario Learns \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please identify) \_\_\_\_\_

- 7) How do/did you meet the requirement for appropriate clinical experience before writing your first certification examination? (Requirement: Having worked as a registered health professional at least 800 hours in diabetes education within three years prior to application.) *Please tick all that apply*

- a) Already working in designated diabetes position \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Already working with high proportion of people with diabetes \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Completed internship with a certified diabetes educator \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Undertook special work assignment to meet requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Other, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

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- 8) How easy would you say it was to meet the CDE certification practice requirement?

- a) Very easy \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Somewhat easy \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Not at all easy \_\_\_\_\_

- 9) Please describe what support you had to become certified?

- a) Financial support for tuition, books, examination fees etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Time release from work for study \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Family support, e.g. help with child care \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Other \_\_\_\_\_

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- 10) Did you attempt to obtain a position in diabetes care after receiving your CDE?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No, not immediately \_\_\_\_\_ No, never tried \_\_\_\_\_

**If Yes, How long did it take you to obtain a nursing position in diabetes care?**

- a) Less than one month \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Between one month and one year \_\_\_\_\_
- c) 2 years or more \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Have never obtained a position in diabetes care \_\_\_\_\_



- c) Home Care \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Community clinic \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Other (e.g. Educational institution), *please describe*: \_\_\_\_\_

- 17) I completed my nursing training (RN or BScN)?
- a) Less than 2 years ago \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Between 2–5 years ago \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Between 6–10 years ago \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) More than 10 years ago \_\_\_\_\_

18) I joined DNIG for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

19) I use the DNIG website at [www.dnig.org](http://www.dnig.org): Regularly \_\_\_\_\_ Infrequently \_\_\_\_\_ Never \_\_\_\_\_

20) I find the content of the DNIG newsletter to be: Useful \_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat useful \_\_\_\_\_ Not useful \_\_\_\_\_

21) What suggestions do you have for improving the services provided to DNIG members?

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*Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey! A summary of the results will be sent out to members in the next newsletter*