

# OHNIG E NEWS LETTER

**O.H.N.I.G.**



OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH NURSES  
INTEREST GROUP

OHNIG E Newsletter #22  
January 29, 2008

Prepared by  
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Communication,  
Public Relations  
Networking

OHNIG  
is an interest group of  
RNAO

<http://www.rnao.org/Pages.aspx?PageID=751&SiteNodeID=113>

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RNAO  
WEBSITE

<http://www.rnao.org/>

OHNIG  
WEBSITE

[www.ohnig.org](http://www.ohnig.org)

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1. Let's Show everyone Occupational Health Nurses Working as a Team

Happy New Year and sincere BEST WISHES for success and happiness in the coming year from your OHNIG Executive. It is with a note of sadness that OHNIG starts the NEW YEAR with three of the current executive member's decision to step down from their executive positions.

The OHNIG executives leaving are Anne Paramonczyk one of the original members in 2003, responsible for OHNIG professional practice endeavors, Ann Iwanski our secretary treasurer and Pat Kent coordinator of the 2007 OHNIG membership survey. Happily they have not gone far! Each agreed wholeheartedly to participate on a "new" ad hoc advisory committee. In this capacity they will continue to mentor incoming OHNIG executive. A sincere wish for your new endeavors and a big **THANK YOU** for your past work!

For the upcoming year, OHNIG established as their ends goal to ask members to identify "Value Added" Occupational Health Nursing services. All OHNIG members are asked to reflect on their own achievements and share their personal stories to assist other members to enhance their practice.

Here is a quick look at the January 2008 executive members and their roles:

Liz McGroarty of Toronto, who aptly peruses all the RNAO activities, scans the RNAO news and selects the most useful links and resources for OHNIG.

Jill King as communication, public relations, media contacts and networking with other nursing groups and public committees.

Donna Wigmore of Markham, active in researching the web for educational and work related items that could help our members practice.

Louise Caicco Tett in Thunder Bay who coordinates members feedback on their "value added" occupational health practice tips to share with members.

Wendy Pearson of Ottawa responsible for reviewing healthy work environment best practice guidelines (HWE BPG) for health care workers.

<p><b>OHNIG GOALS</b></p> <p>OHING wants our members to show everyone how Occupational Health Nurses can work as a team to bring together this years activities.</p> <p>See Brochure  <a href="http://www.ohnig.org/Brochures/Brochure_no_1.pdf">http://www.ohnig.org/Brochures/Brochure_no_1.pdf</a></p>	<p>Let's show everyone <b>Occupational Health Nurses Working as a Team</b>. In October 2007, all OHNIG members received by mail the OHNIG brochure that clearly stated the OHNIG mission and goals. (see left side bar) Please consider responding and offering your leadership skills to help achieve these goals.</p> <p>OHNIG is hoping for your spontaneous participation - Jill King</p> <p>2. <u>OHNIG wants to hear from the OHNIG members</u></p> <p>Liz writes to all the OHNIG members, "there is plenty of room for anyone who wants to support the leadership team. Consider helping the OHNIG executive by participating in a small way as a "Member at large" for your region. OHNIG wants to hear from the OHNIG members :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- someone who can act as liaison between OHNIG and your local group??</li> <li>- anyone willing to communicate with the current executive.</li> <li>- your success in passing on information to other Occupational Health Nurses</li> <li>- your achievements speaking to other nurses about Occupational Health Nursing or about the occupational Health nurse Interest Group?</li> </ul> <p>Let's hear from you - Elizabeth McGroarty</p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Champions the Specialty Practice of Occupational Health</p>	<p>3. <u>Requesting Occupational Health Nursing Practice Tips and Advice</u></p> <p>Louise writes: According to Canadian Nurse Association there are 926 occupational health nurses accredited nationally and of those approximately 615 of those accredited practice in the province of Ontario. We would like to hear from any occupational Health nurses. Tell us about the sector where you work, your clients, your challenges, and your successes. What brought you to Occupational Health?</p> <p>The Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group wants to hear about your practice tips and any advice you have for other occupational health nurses, or students considering entering the specialty. Your write-up can be one or two paragraphs long, or up to 600 words. Please send to <a href="mailto:ohnig@rogers.com">ohnig@rogers.com</a></p> <p>We look forward to reading your submissions - Louise Caicco Tett</p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Commits to Enhancing Occupational Health Nursing Practice</p>	<p>4. <u>OHNIG Web site Updates are in Progress for February</u></p> <p>The OHNIG website is intended as a "bulletin board" to <b>education</b> the public and nursing colleagues to the practice of Occupational Health Nursing. The OHNIG website is a source for occupational health nurse education requirements, practice resources, examples of career paths, member's profiles, OHNIG brochure and useful information links.</p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Commits to Action for Public Health Policy for Healthy Workers</p>	<p>WHAT added new features would you like to see? Jill King</p> <p>5. <u>Nurse Ambassadors – What do they do?</u></p> <p>Liz writes: Do you want to see Occupational Health Nursing continue as an important specialty of nursing? Do you want to have someone there to fill your shoes when you want to retire? One of the best ways would be to inspire students by speaking with them about the realities of your career. Become a Nurse Ambassador in your own community. If you are interested contact Carrie Scott at <a href="mailto:cscott@rnao.org">cscott@rnao.org</a> or (416) 907-7961 for further information.</p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Commits to Leadership, Research, Networking, Education &amp; Best Practice Occupational &amp; Environmental Health</p>	

## NETWORKING

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### NURSE CAFÉ

Enter this site:

<http://www.nursecafe.ca/>

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## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Write you own story  
Share your career!

Nursing week 2008 May

<http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=924&ContentID=2253>

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## PUBLIC POLICY

RNAO Press Release:  
Nurses say the province  
must act on dangerous  
toxins and chemicals

[Read the full release](#)

[http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=1846&SiteNodeID=382&BL\\_ExpandID=](http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=1846&SiteNodeID=382&BL_ExpandID=)

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## RESEARCH

Institute Work & Health  
Systematic Review  
Economical Evaluation  
Occupational Health &  
Safety

See  
Sharing Best Evidence

[http://www.iwh.on.ca/sr/wi\\_econ\\_eval.php](http://www.iwh.on.ca/sr/wi_econ_eval.php)

### 6. RNAO has established a NEW on line Nurse Network called Nurse Cafe

Liz writes to the members: RNAO has added a new feature to their web site, the "Nurse Café". This service offers all nurses a public social network to contact other nurses. Find the "welcome" note and sign up for the discussion board.

Do you have a question about Occupational Health Nursing, "LizzieM" Will be pleased to answer it!

### 7. OHNIG Invited to participate in Vision 20/20 a study by McMaster

OHNIG has been invited to participate in a qualitative research study. Ruth Schofield at McMaster University and Kim Dalla Bona of Saint Elizabeth Health Care are conducting a research study appropriately named "Wait or Shape".

The purpose of this study is to learn more about issues related to education, research, practice, administration and policy domains in community health nursing and make recommendations.

This study is being done because there are many assumptions of public health human resource planning. At the same time there are growing trends in a changing health system such as a shift towards community health services, and a looming shortage of nurses. This information will help to shape the future of nursing human resource capacity in community health nursing for 2020 in Canada.

Do OHNIG members feel Occupational Health Nursing plays a role in the workplace community health? Please respond to- Jill King [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

### 8. Review on Economic Evaluation in Occupational Health and Safety

Liz writes: Please read the information from the Institute for Work & Health - Systematic Review on Economic Evaluation in Occupational Health and Safety.

*Greetings from Jane Gibson*

*The Institute for Work & Health recently completed a systematic review on Economic Evaluation in Occupational Health and Safety. We thought that you might find the results of this review interesting. I have attached a summary of the review, and both the full report and the summary are available on our website at [http://www.iwh.on.ca/sr/wi\\_econ\\_eval.php](http://www.iwh.on.ca/sr/wi_econ_eval.php) under Sharing Best Evidence.*

*The review team found strong evidence supporting the economic benefits of disability management programs of multi-sector interventions and ergonomic and other MSK injury prevention interventions in the manufacturing and warehousing sector. The review also found moderate evidence of economic benefits supporting ergonomic and other MSK injury prevention interventions in the following sectors: administrative and support, health-care and transportation. The review was led by Dr Emile Tompa. Please let us know if you would like any further information about this new review.*

Would OHNIG members like to comment on this review? Send your comment individually to the Institute or to OHNIG for a group reply

Jill King and Liz McGoarty - [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

**PREVENTION & HEALTH PROMOTION**

What Prevention Efforts do you teach?

Can OHNIG use your success stories for future newsletter items!

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**BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

Occupational Health Nurses are encouraged to join in with RNAO and the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion's efforts on smoking cessation.

Go to a new website: <http://www.tobaccofreer.nao.ca>

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**RNAO**  
**April 10, 11, 12, 2008**

Where:  
Hilton Suites  
Toronto/Markham  
Markham, Ontario,

**AGM Registration**

[http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=1209&ContentID=694&SiteNodeID=242&BL\\_ExpandID=](http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=1209&ContentID=694&SiteNodeID=242&BL_ExpandID=)

For TILMA:  
<http://www.tilma.ca/>  
Opposing:  
<http://www.canadians.org/DI/issues/TILMA/>

Come to the meeting Saturday April 12th at 11:30 am to hear about it!

9. Working to Enhance the Image of Occupational Health Nursing

Liz writes: Through the executive members' participation in Interest Group meetings, it appears that other specialty nurses do not know the full scope of practice of Occupational Health Nurses. When discussing 'prevention' efforts, the Occupational Health Nurse is often left out of the discussions and Public Health Nurses are attributed with being the main group responsible for Health Promotion.

OHNIG seeks to change this image. OHNIG wants to be invited to the table of the Health Promotion ministry's activities. OHNIG wants to ensure Occupational Health Nurses have successful careers with a full scope of practice. Please react and participate! Let OHNIG know that you have been active.

Send us a note to - Liz McGoarty [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

10. Do You Promote Smoking Cessation in Your Practice?

The Best Practice Guideline for Smoking Cessation is a golden opportunity for occupational health nurses to get started using a Best Practice Guideline (BPG).

This could be a "value added" occupational health nurse service for the workplace. Liz writes "Let's not leave health promotion entirely up to the Public Health Nurses! It's all a matter of setting your mind to doing it, being inspired to do it, trying it on for size, and just doing it!" Occupational Health Nurses have a tremendous access to a captive population in the workplace to do Health Promotion.

Send your success story for health promotion Jill King [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

11. Invitation to OHNIG members to Attend the RNAO Annual General Meeting

The OHNIG executive hopes more OHNIG members will consider attending the RNAO Annual General Meeting (AGM). The theme of this year's AGM is "Nurses: Everyday Heroes". The AGM is always a highlight and this year the Saturday speaker promises new dynamics brewing that may affect Occupational Health Nursing.

In addition to opening ceremonies on Thursday evening, and the regular business of AGM on Friday, Saturday will offer a stimulating talk by Maude Barlow about the new Trade, Investment and Labor Mobility Agreement, with the acronym "TILMA" and the potential impact. This agreement would harmonize everything from health and safety standards to environmental regulations. Barlow believes this will result in lower standards and a loss of sovereignty for all Canadians. Ms. Barlow's speech will explore the question: Can public health care survive this assault or better "Can Medicare survive fortress North America?"

How might it affect Occupational Health Nurses, you ask? Ms Barlow's presentation will be an eye opener on the subject that has not been fully explored and you will learn there is plenty to debate in terms of your wages, your job autonomies, the regulations you work under etc.

OHNIG plans to host a "Meet and Greet" for the attending members once we know how many will attend. Please RSVP your plans to attend any part of the AGM to Jill King [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

OHNIG complies with the Privacy Act per RNAO <http://www.rnao.org/privacy.asp> If you receive this e-mail as a service of your membership in the OHNIG and wish your name removed contact [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)