

# DNIG Diabetes Nurses Interest Group

Speaking out for Diabetes Prevention and Management

DNIG NEWSLETTER | Summer 2022

DNIG.ca |  @DNIGRNAO



## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

**Lisa Herlehy**

Hello to DNIG members across Ontario. Take a few moments to read through

our summer newsletter so you can get to know some of your fellow DNIG members. Also inside is the result of our survey. Thanks to all those who participated. In response to your requests, we are hosting two webinars in September and October (see below). DNIG is looking forward to a busy fall and winter, and we welcome your comments at [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com). ■

## Save the Dates: Upcoming Webinars

**September 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**

Managing Diabetes with Medications, An Introduction

**October 13, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**

An overview of the National Diabetes Strategy

Registration details to follow in early September. Please send questions in advance to [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).

## NEWS

# Meet Your New DNIG Executive Members



### Rajvir Gill

I am a fourth-year nursing student at York University. I am excited to be a part of DNIG as a Student Liaison. I am

particularly interested in the sociodemographic of individuals in the diabetes population and the dissemination of educational interventions for diabetes management.



### Milena Perez

I am an internationally educated nurse and a first year nursing student at York University. I

have a wide experience in primary care and emergency care, where I was able to educate patients in the management of their diseases and support them in the planning of their care. It is a pleasure to be integrated into the DNIG as a Social Media Network Officer. I look forward to working collectively to ensure that the goals of this group are met.



### Sakeenah Syed

I am one of DNIG's new Student Executive Network Officers. I am currently in my

third year of the BScN program at Ontario Tech University. Diabetes prevention and management has always been very important to me as I struggle with PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome) and was at risk for becoming diabetic myself. Since starting the BScN program, I have been able to see the importance of nursing care when it comes to managing and preventing diabetes. With this new role, I hope to spread more awareness on how important our role is as a nurse in supporting patients in managing their diabetes. ■

## Have your say!

Write for our newsletter, send in questions and requests. Your executive is there for you. Contact us at [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).

# DNIG June 2022 Survey

Alwyn Moyer

**D**NIG distributed a survey to members through the RNAO site in June 2022 to guide our planning for the coming year. We had 93 responses from 1,350 successful email deliveries for a response rate of about 8%.

Of the 93 responses to the survey, 90 were from Registered Nurses and 3 from Nurse Practitioners. We did not ask about diabetes certification but one person reported being a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE).

Table 1 shows that respondents worked across the health care field and the results of the questions we asked are illustrated in the charts.

We will use these results to guide our initiatives in the coming year. Our thanks to all who participated. ■

**Table 1. Place of work**

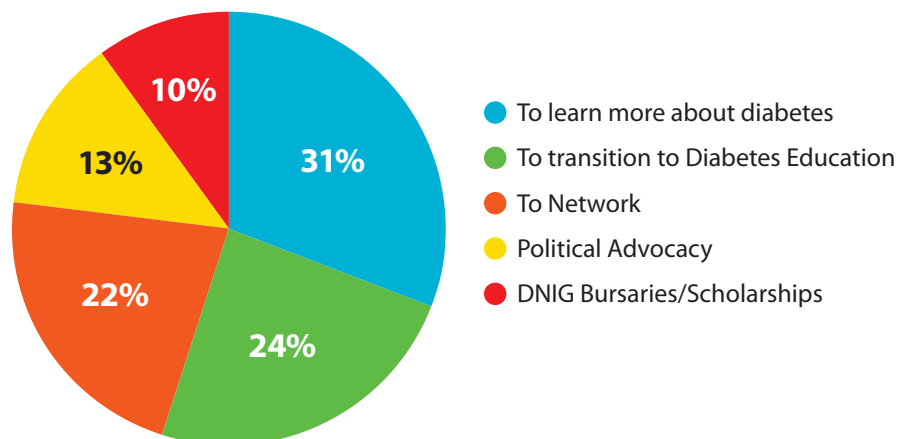
PLACE OF WORK	NUMBER
Hospital Acute Care	25
Long Term Care	6
Home Care	3
Diabetes Education	23
Community Clinic / Family Health Team*	19
Public Health	3
Educator / Post Secondary Institution	2
Unemployed / Retired	2
Other: School Board (2); Cardiac Care Centre (1)	4
Students**	6

\* Includes 1 Health Centre; 1 Community Health Centre; 1 Aboriginal Health Access Centre; 1 Stroke Rehabilitation, and 1 Community

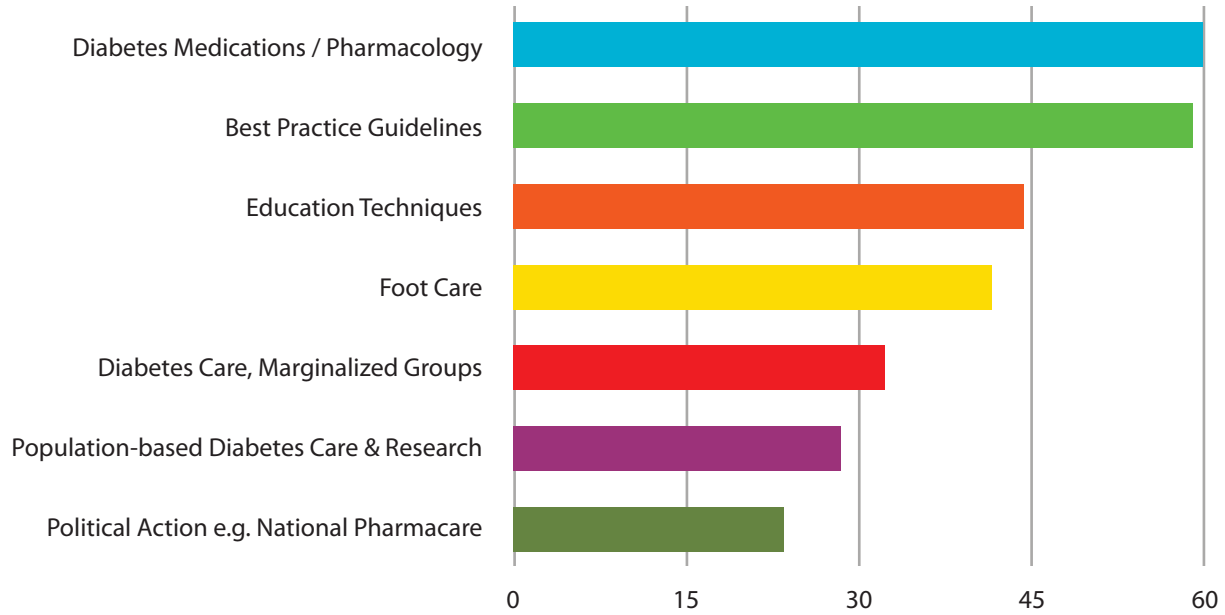
\*\*Three respondents identified themselves as students and did not give a workplace; 3 were RPNs transitioning to RN, but had yet to write the examination.

## Reasons for joining DNIG

The three most common reasons for joining DNIG were: to learn more about diabetes; to transition to Diabetes Education role, and to Network.

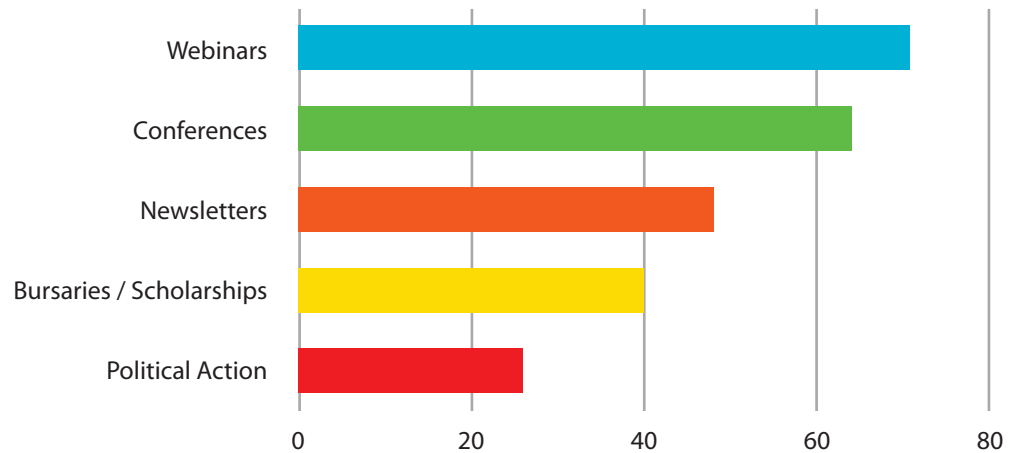


## Topics of Most Interest to Members



## DNIG Initiatives of Most Interest to Members

Webinars, Conferences, and the DNIG Newsletter were the three initiatives of most interest to member, which is consistent with the reasons given for joining DNIG.



# DNIG Scholarships and Bursary Recipients

**C**ongratulations to Trish O'Connor and Katelyn Sushko who won this year's DNIG bursaries through the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario (RNFOO)! Learn more about Trish and Katelyn below, and consider applying for our next round of bursary offerings in late 2022 (details can be found on the following pages).

## TRISHA O'CONNOR

### Winner of Diabetes Nursing Interest Group Award 2022 (\$2,000)

Trish O'Connor (below) is a student in the Master of Health Studies (with teaching focus) at Athabasca University. She



recently completed the program requirements, having submitted her final manuscript: "Creating a Culture of Diabetes Care to Transform Inpatient Glycemic Management." Currently, Trish holds a diabetes-focused clinical practice leadership position at Mackenzie Health. She is curious about the experiences of the hospitalized person living with diabetes and of the nurses providing their care, and works passionately to improve the personalization, efficiency, and safety of diabetes care provision within this setting. As well, she has a special interest in diabetes management in the older adult population. Trish is a strong proponent of lifelong learning, and is grateful to DNIG for supporting nurses in pursuing continuing education.

## KATELYN SUSHKO

### Winner of Diabetes Nursing Research Award 2022 (\$3,000)

Katelyn chose to pursue a career in nursing due to her passion for maternal-child health. Since graduating from McMaster University's BScN program in 2016, she has worked clinically as a registered nurse in a tertiary-level neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) where she cares for premature neonates, critically ill infants and their families. An interest in research and higher education motivated her to begin a thesis-based Masters of Nursing program at McMaster University in 2018. Following a successful first year of graduate studies, she transferred to the Nursing Ph.D. program in 2019. In the course of clinical work, she has provided care to infants with complications from maternal type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and has also witnessed the psychological impact that having an infant in the NICU has on families. Her doctoral work was inspired by these clinical experiences and explores optimizing maternal diabetes self-management during pregnancy, the goal of which is to improve perinatal outcomes. She is specifically interested in technology-based solutions to support mothers in diabetes self-management during the antenatal period. Katelyn is honoured to receive this award from the DNIG. ■





# Conferences, Scholarships and Bursaries

**DNIG supports Members in Ongoing Learning**

**W**e are pleased to report that once again we have funding to support four members to attend diabetes focused conferences in 2022. Hopefully we will be able to do some of these face to face once again.

The funding will cover costs of travel, accommodation, and meals, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per member. Applicants must have been an RN member of DNIG for a minimum of one year and not a bursary recipient for the previous five years.

See the following pages for application forms. ■

**Please send completed scanned applications and any questions to Lisa Herlehy at [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).**

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



**2022 Diabetes Canada/CSEM Professional Conference**  
**November 9–12, 2022**

*Calgary, AB / some virtual components*

Diabetes Canada and Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism

<https://www.diabetes.ca/get-involved/conferences/diabetes-canada-csem-professional-conference>



**Diabetes Educator Course**

**On-Demand**

*Virtual*

Kinghooper Diabetes Education Inc

<https://kinghooper.com/virtual/>

**DNIG MEMBERS:** If you hear of upcoming conferences that may be of interest to other members, let us know at [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).



# Conference Funding Application

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Name

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Address City

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Province Postal Code Phone

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Email

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RNAO membership # DNIG Membership duration

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Employment status  Full time  Part time

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Employer

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Please tell us about the conference you wish to attend, approximate distance and your anticipated mode of transportation:

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**\* NOTE:** For reimbursement of agreed upon amount, an **expense report** and all receipts are to be submitted to DNIG, no later than 1 month following conference completion. Recipients are also asked to submit a **written report** on their experience to DNIG executive to share with membership.

**Please attach a 1-page document (maximum 500 words) outlining why you qualify for this funding.**

This brief personal summary must include:

1. Identified professional objectives for attending the diabetes conference.
2. Identified involvement (past/present) in diabetes professional practice/DNIG.
3. Identified strategy for sharing learning with nursing colleagues.

Please supply one professional reference:

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Name Phone number

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I certify that all information contained in this application is true and accurate.

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Applicant signature Date

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Please send completed scanned applications and any questions to Lisa Herlehy at [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).



# Virtual Conference Funding

Virtual learning experience continue to be sponsored by DNIG throughout 2022. You are invited to submit your application for one (1) of ten (10) educational awards to attend a virtual conference, symposium, workshop or course.

These bursaries were developed to support the studies and clinical capabilities of all members. Each bursary, up to a maximum of \$500.00, will be awarded to cover virtual event registration fees.

Eligibility:

- Candidates must be DNIG members for one year or longer.
- Nine (9) non-student members and one (1) student member.
- Virtual programming is for 4 hours or longer.
- Content is relevant to the care of persons with diabetes.

## Application Process Guidelines

1. Complete the application form.
2. Submit application form at least 14 days before the start of the event to [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).
3. Selected bursary recipients will be asked to provide the official registration receipt and proof of event attendance. ■

# Virtual Learning Funding Application

Name

Address

City Province

Postal Code Phone

Email

RNAO membership # DNIG Membership duration

Employment status  Full time  Part time

Employer

Please tell us about the conference you wish to attend:

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\* **NOTE:** For reimbursement of agreed upon amount, all receipts are to be submitted to DNIG, no later than 1 month following event completion.

**Please attach a 1-page document (maximum 500 words)** to your application form stating your learning objectives and the relevance of the event's information for your professional nursing activities

I certify that all information contained in this application is true and accurate.

Applicant signature Date

Please send completed scanned applications and any questions to Lisa Herlehy at [dnig.info@gmail.com](mailto:dnig.info@gmail.com).

# DNIG Scholarships and Bursaries

## Start Planning for Next Year!

**F**or the past 16 years, DNIG has supported continuing education for members in diabetes nursing care and prevention. In 2021, we offered the four bursaries listed below through the Registered Nurse Foundation of Ontario (RNFOO).

If you have been a DNIG member for at least one year and are considering further education, watch the RNFOO website for the call for applications in late 2022 at [www.rnfoo.org](http://www.rnfoo.org). ■

### Diabetes Nursing Interest Group Northern Students Tuition Support Award (1 x \$1000)

To support a baccalaureate nursing student in the final year of their program **or a Registered Nurse** who is enrolled in advanced education (certificate or degree) focusing on diabetes education/ care for persons living with diabetes, and who has demonstrated a significant commitment to the cause of diabetes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. Applicants must be current members of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year, living and/or working in RNAO Region 11 or 12\*.

*\*A nursing student studying outside of Region 11 or 12 must provide proof of a permanent address within the designated area.*

### Diabetes Nursing Interest Group Scholarship (DNIG) (1 x \$2,000)

To support a Registered Nurse pursuing education (continuing education or degree) in the area of diabetes education and care specific to type 2 diabetes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. The applicant must demonstrate a significant commitment to diabetes education and care in a community with an Indigenous population. First consideration will be given to nurses of Indigenous origin. Applicants must be current members of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year

### Diabetes Nursing Interest Group Special Projects in Diabetes Award (1 x \$1000)

To support to a Registered Nurse completing a special project focusing on diabetes. Applicants need not be enrolled in a degree program. The applicant must have proof of significant interest in diabetes research, education, and/or care, and be currently practicing, or intending to practice, in the field. Applicants must be current members of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year. Applicants who have received a previous award from DNIG are not eligible for this award. The project description, including budget estimates, must be provided.

### Diabetes Nursing Interest Group (DNIG) Research Award (1 x \$3000)

This award will support a graduate level student in either a PhD, MScN or MN program who is conducting research focused on an aspect of nursing related to education, prevention, or management of diabetes. Applicants must have a **completed research proposal** that has been submitted for ethics approval. Applicants must be current members of the RNAO Diabetes Nursing Interest Group and have held membership for at least one year.



#### DNIG provides:

- support for continuing nursing education
- a network for information sharing and professional collaboration
- advocacy on quality of care and professional nursing