

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO'S Academic Reference Group

June 21, 2021

What is the Academic Reference Group?

The Academic Reference Group is made up of educators and representatives of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who share information and collaborate on nursing regulatory issues of mutual interest and concern.

The group includes 9 Ontario nursing educators who have volunteered to represent all nursing programs in the province.

The goal of the group is to provide an opportunity for discussion and collaboration on regulatory issues of importance to both educators and the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Welcome and Pandemic Check-in

Katie welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the group engaged in a discussion about the impact of the pandemic on nursing education. Themes that arose included: ongoing challenges with finding clinical placements but optimism that improvement will be seen as fall approaches; preparations for the fall term are well underway with plans being developed to enable response to a variety of circumstances and schools being better prepared to change quickly as the pandemic evolves. Some commented graduating students are finding work and second- and third-year students are benefitting from student jobs.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Academic Reference Group were reviewed and updated. Key changes include implementing a membership term of three years with the option of a one-year extension, and the inclusion of diversity, equity and inclusion principles. Updated terms of reference will be posted on cno.org.

News to Use

Katie invited questions about the newsletter circulated prior to the meeting. This included information on CNO initiatives to support nurses in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Program Approval, Entry to Practice competencies, exams, new graduate information and relevant Council updates. Members commented the newsletter is very helpful and greatly appreciated. All are welcome to share this information with academic colleagues.

Open Discussion

New funding for 2,000 nursing students

Group discussed the impact of the recent government funding [announcement](#) for an additional 2,000 nursing student placements starting in Fall 21 and Winter 22. The group indicated that these new student positions within nursing programs are almost filled and faculty are preparing for increased student numbers.

GROUP MEMBERS

We encourage you to share your feedback with any member of the Academic Reference Group:

Sandra DeLuca

Fanshawe College, Western University

Laura Gedcke-Kerr

Queen's University

Sylvie Larocque

Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne

Kumaran Mahathevan

Centennial College

Paula Mastrilli

George Brown College

Mary McGrory

Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning

Linda Patrick

University of Windsor

Karen Poole

Lakehead University

Katherine Tripp

University of Toronto

Anne Marie Shin

College of Nurses of Ontario

Katie Dilworth

College of Nurses of Ontario

New graduates: Readiness for Practice

The group discussed how CNO may be able to support new graduates as they transition to practice. Discussion included opportunities to collaborate between this group and CNO's Employer Reference Group to better understand the needs of all entry level registered nurses (RPN, RN and NP).

Next meeting

Monday October 25, 2021, 0930-1130 hrs.

Please share this update with other nursing educators at your school.