

Happenings

Nursing Informatics

Elizabeth M. Borycki, Noreen Cavan Frisch

The science of nursing informatics is advancing globally and making contributions to the body of knowledge on nursing and health informatics worldwide.

There have been a number of important international and national events in this field in the past year. The Nursing Informatics 2012 conference was held in Montreal, NANDA-International celebrated its 40th anniversary in Houston, and the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) released its entry-to-practice competencies for nursing informatics. The coming year will also see a number of key events, including the Canadian Nursing Informatics Association (CNIA) conference in Montreal, MedInfo (the conference of the International Medical Informatics Association [IMIA]) in Copenhagen, and release of the update to the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP).

Events and Milestones in 2012

Nursing Informatics 2012

The IMIA Nursing Informatics Working Group held a conference in Montreal from June 23 to 27 under the theme “Advancing Global Health Through Informatics.” Representatives from 38 countries contributed to the conference program and attended presentations, panels, and workshops. This event allowed for knowledge translation among nursing informatics professionals working in different health-care organizations (e.g., clinics, hospitals, and regional health authorities). World leaders in the field provided insights into current research and future directions in nursing informatics from an international perspective. This was an opportunity for Canadian nursing informatics professionals to meet others from around the globe and forge connections with other nurses working in this area. <http://www.ni2012.org/files/NI2012-FINAL-PROGRAM.pdf>

NANDA-International: 40th Anniversary

NANDA-International (renamed in 2002 from the North American Nursing Diagnosis Association to reflect the organization's international mandate) held its biennial conference and 40th anniversary celebration in Houston from May 23 to 26. The conference theme was "Defining the Knowledge of Nursing" and delegates from around the world presented research on nursing outcomes, patient safety, education, and technologies. Over 150 papers provided up-to-date research on the effectiveness and impact of this standardized language system for nursing, augmented by 120 research posters. The event also marked the 20th anniversary of the Nursing Interventions Classification (NIC) and the 15th anniversary of the Nursing Outcomes Classification (NOC), both used by many in conjunction with the NANDA-I terms. The international flavour of the conference was reflected in simultaneous translation of many sessions into Spanish.

CASN: Informatics Competencies

Also in 2012, CASN and Canada Health Infoway (CHI) published the first set of informatics competencies in Canada articulating the competencies required for entry-to-practice registered nurses. Funded by CHI, the project promotes awareness within Canadian nursing education of the need for graduates to have specific knowledge in this area. To develop the competencies, the Competency Development Working Group, with national representation, engaged in a multistep process to arrive at consensus. More information is available at http://www.casn.ca/en/Whats_new_at_CASN_108/items/123.html.

The CASN working group continues to develop teaching tools and supports for nursing educators to incorporate informatics competencies into their curricula.

The Year Ahead in a Nutshell

CNIA Conference

The Canadian Nursing Informatics Association conference will be held in collaboration with the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) and the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) at Montreal's Palais des Congrès from May 12 to 15, 2013. Speakers from around the world will address a range of topics in nursing and health informatics. CNIA will be holding a pre-conference session on "The Science and Practice of Nursing Informatics" on May 12. Nursing informatics professionals are invited to attend both this session and the conference itself (<http://www.cnia.ca>).

MedInfo 2013

The IMIA will hold its biannual conference in Copenhagen from August 20 to 23. The event is organized around several tracks, including translational bioinformatics, clinical informatics, clinical research informatics, consumer informatics, and public health informatics. In addition to the presentation of papers, the conference will include poster sessions, panels, workshops, and tutorial presentations and is expected to draw professionals from around the world (<http://www.medinfo2013.dk>).

ICNP

A May 2013 release is planned for the update to International Classification for Nursing Practice. This initiative reflects an emphasis on developing terminology subsets to meet nurses' information needs in hospitals, in ambulatory-care settings, and in the community. These subsets, published as catalogues available both in print and online, consist of clinically relevant, coordinated statements for nursing diagnoses, nursing interventions, and nursing-sensitive outcomes. The statements provide nursing content for electronic health records. More information on ICNP catalogues can be found at <http://www.icn.ch/pillarsprograms/health/>.

The body of knowledge that makes up the science of nursing informatics is growing rapidly. Around the world, nursing informatics professionals are spearheading the advancement of knowledge and best practices involving health information technology design, development, implementation, and evaluation.

Acknowledgements

We thank Amy M. Coenen, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director, ICNP Programme, International Council of Nurses, and Professor of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for providing an update on ICNP activities.

Elizabeth M. Borycki, RN, PhD, is Associate Professor, School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Noreen Cavan Frisch, RN, PhD, FAAN, is Professor and Director, School of Nursing, University of Victoria.