

# CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF NURSING ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'HISTOIRE DU NURSING



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## President's Message:

Lydia Wytenbroek (Spring 2017)

Greetings! It is my pleasure to address you again and inform you about the exciting initiatives that CAHN/ACHN has been working on since the fall.

The upcoming joint CSHM/SCHM-CAHN/ACHN conference will take place from May 27 to 29 at Ryerson University in Toronto. A preliminary program has been posted online and can be found here: <https://cshm-schm.ca/annual-conference-conference-annuelle/>. The Executive is pleased to announce that Karen Flynn, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, Urban-Champaign, will be the 2017 Hannah Lecturer. Her keynote address is entitled: "Hotel Refuses Negro Nurse': Gloria Clarke Baylis and the Queen Elizabeth Hotel." We are looking forward to welcoming Karen to the conference and are grateful to Associated Medical Services (AMS) for its ongoing support of nursing history through its funding of the Hannah Lecture. The AGM will take place on Sunday, May 28 from noon to 13:30 (location TBA). I look forward to talking with many of you there.

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The Executive has continued to address some of the issues that were raised in the Vision 2020 survey. Erin Spinney updates the website with conference information and other news. I continue to receive a number of e-mails from educators across Canada asking for nursing history resources that they can use for teaching undergraduate nursing students. A suggestion was made at the 2016 conference in Vancouver to form an education sub-committee. Helen Vandenberg is in the process of forming an education committee, which we hope will address the demand for nursing history educative materials. We believe that CAHN/ACHN can, and should, have a unique role in meeting this current need. This is a great opportunity to nurture and support the teaching of nursing history across Canada!

In August 2016, AMS generously provided CAHN/ACHN with a grant to fund student travel and accommodation expenses for the 2018 and 2020 conferences in the amount of \$12,000 (\$6,000 per conference). We are extremely grateful to AMS for this support and feel this funding will facilitate the participation of students at our stand-alone conferences. A special thank you to Geertje Boschma for advocating for student funding in her discussions with AMS. Plans are under way for the 2018 conference and we hope that this funding will facilitate the participation of our student members at the conference.



I am pleased to announce that the Nova Scotia Nursing History Group has agreed to host the 2018 CAHN/ACHN Conference in Halifax. We are very excited about this upcoming conference and are very grateful that the Nova Scotia Nursing History Group has shown so much enthusiasm for hosting the conference. We hope to provide you with more information about the 2018 conference at the AGM (and in the coming newsletters).

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The Executive continues to work on increasing membership. The aim of the new educational initiative is to nurture and promote the teaching of nursing history in Canada, which we hope will benefit our members and also increase our membership.



We depend on you to help us meet these goals. There are a number of vacancies coming up on the Executive (Vice President, Membership Chair, Treasurer). Please consider joining the Executive and/or contributing some time to help out on any one of our committees or with any or our activities (website, newsletter, education committee, conference organization, publicity). We would welcome and value your involvement with the organization! If you are interested in becoming more involved with CAHN/ACHN, but cannot attend the AGM when we usually elect members to serve on the Executive, please let me ([lydia.wytenbroek@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.wytenbroek@gmail.com)) or Helen ([helen.vandenberg@usask.ca](mailto:helen.vandenberg@usask.ca)) know so that we can put your name forward at the upcoming AGM.

I would also like to encourage you to let your colleagues and friends know about CAHN/ACHN. It has been interesting to discover that there are many educators who are very passionate about nursing history who know little about CAHN/ACHN. Thank you for your support for CAHN/ACHN. Please continue to partner with us in our effort to promote nursing history in Canada.

Lydia

If you have items you would like to see posted to the website, please send them to Erin Spinney (our website coordinator) at [erin.spinney@usask.ca](mailto:erin.spinney@usask.ca)

# CAHN News and Awards

## Nursing Education Award

Assistant Professor Dr. Vandenberg receives the Western & North-Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Education Innovation Award. In association with Lydia Wytenbroek (University of Lethbridge), Vandenberg will explore how current nursing students learn the history of nursing in their project, Innovating the History of Nursing in Canadian Undergraduate Nursing Education. For more information, please visit: <http://www.usask.ca/nursing/news/20170315assistantprofessordrvandenbergreceiveswnrcasaward.php>

## Canadian Nurses Association

Mike Villeneuve has been appointed as CEO of the Canadian Nurses Association ahead of the retirement of his friend and great leader, Anne Sutherland Boal. He will step into the role on 1 June and will be leaving his teaching role in the Master of Nursing—Health Systems Leadership and Administration program at the University of Toronto (Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing) at the end of June.

*Congratulations*

# CAHN News and Awards

## Vera Roberts Endowment Fund for Nursing Research

Martha Groppo will receive \$6000 for her project “Making the Periphery Central: Nursing, Rural Healthcare, and the Anglo World, 1887-1939.” Groppo looks at the interconnected networks of rural district nursing organizations and explores three Victorian Order of Nurses initiatives that targeted rural zones in Canada’s Northwest. Groppo is a doctoral candidate in the department of History at Princeton University under the supervision of Linda Colley and David Cannadine.

A second \$6000 award has been given to Sylvane Filice and her co-applicant Michelle Spadoni for “Nursing Lives of Francophone Community Health Nurses in Remote and Rural Northern Ontario.”

Their project seeks to examine the nursing lives of Francophone community health nurse in remote and rural Northern Ontario and the meanings they assigned to their nursing practice in the region from 1940 to the present. Filice is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at Lakehead University. Spadoni is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at Lakehead University.

## Dr. Margaret Allemang Scholarship for the History of Nursing

The \$2000 Dr. Margaret Allemang Scholarship for the History of Nursing Award will be given to Eliza Richardson for “For Whom Neither Spouse Nor Child Shall Mourn”: The Postwar Lives of the Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Sisters.” Her research looks at the demobilization of Canadian Nursing Sisters from 1918/19 to the end of their association with the Canadian Pension Board to better understand how they experienced life after the First World War. Richardson is a first year doctoral student in the department of History at Wilfrid Laurier University under the supervision of Dr. Mark Humphries.

# Nursing History Symposium 2017

## Arts, Crafts & Healing

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, the fourth Nursing History Symposium was held in the School of Nursing under the umbrella of the UBC Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry. The symposium examined interconnections between arts, crafts and healing in the history and the current practice of professional work. Keynote speaker Sasha Mullally from the University of New Brunswick and three panel members, Megan Davies from York University and Alison Phinney and Helen Brown from the UBC School of Nursing explored ways arts and crafts have been taken up in various approaches to healing and within understandings of well-being and health promotion, whether from historical or current days' perspectives. The symposium provided ample opportunity to discuss and reflect on these important and critical connections, which, amidst the pressures of today's health care can easily be overlooked or undervalued. The topic engaged the audience of many community members, faculty, students, members of the BC History of Nursing Society and friends of the School in vivid debate following the presentations.

Sasha Mullally's presentation highlighted the history of therapeutic craft and explored connections between holistic ideas of health and healing, creative imagination and therapeutic work and rehabilitation. Her early research has investigated the way middle class women in New England used "therapeutic craft" as a tool for rural community uplift and social and economic rejuvenation in the early twentieth century. In recent years, Sasha also has begun a new research project that examines the history of "therapeutic craft" and creative work in the early years of North American occupational therapy.

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Occupational therapy, toy making in a psychiatric hospital (First World War era). Image courtesy Otis Historical Archives National Museum of Health and Medicine/CC





In this new study she explores the way early 20th century occupational therapy programs utilized creative work as a form of physical, mental and spiritual rehabilitation. Her lecture was drawn from this project, entitled: "To 'Inoculate with the Bacillus of Work': George Barton and the Making of Occupational Therapy, 1914-1923." The presentation related how proponents of occupational therapy came from a wide variety of backgrounds, including nursing, psychiatry, social work, general medicine, vocational education and various fields within the arts and crafts.

George Barton, industrial designer and arts and crafts patron, coined the term "occupational therapy" while organizing the first meeting of the National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy (NSPOT). He hosted the inaugural meeting at his sanatorium, aptly named Consolation House, in upstate New York in 1917. The first NSPOT conference drew interest from across North America, and was an organizational turning point.



Organization founders at Consolation House in 1917. Top Row: Dr. William Rush Dunton, Jr., Isabel Gladwin Newton, Thomas Bessell Kidner. Bottom Row: Susan Cox Johnson, George Edward Barton, Eleanor Clark Slagle. Image courtesy Clifton Springs Area Chamber of Commerce/CC.



Sasha Mullally and Geertje Boschma in the back row and from left to right, Alison Phinney, Megan Davies and Helen Brown in the front row. Image courtesy Geertje Boschma.

Using Barton's publications, memoirs and correspondence, Mullally showed how the healing potential of "therapeutic craft" prompted individuals like Barton to found a new field of practice. By understanding Barton, his Consolation House program, and how clinicians responded to his ideas, Sasha Mullally noted how we are able to gain deeper insight into what many have called OT's "multidisciplinary heritage of caring," unique within rehabilitation medicine and nursing. *(Continued on next page...)*

Three panel members responded to the presentation as a lead in to a vivid discussion with the audience. Helen Brown drew from her involvement in a recent federal prison initiative, called Work 2 Give, in which incarcerated men make items (e.g. furniture, toys, and drums) for First Nations communities in rural and remote BC.

Their artistic work impacts the men in ways that foster health and healing. Helen discussed how crafting art-full objects can catalyze human connection within and beyond prison walls, facilitating reciprocity with Tsilhqot'in communities that empower the men to re-imagine themselves and their future.



Eagle Drum. Image courtesy Zhu/Flickr CC.

Megan Davies spoke to the history of artistic therapeutic approaches in dementia care. She highlighted several key points from Sasha Mullally's talk and also provided her with a classic work on occupational therapy. She also drew from her own research on the history of dementia care and the use of music therapy as an innovative multi-disciplinary rehabilitation therapy program developed at Valleyview at former Riverview hospital for elderly geriatric residents. Another project relevant to her commentary was the documentary project, *The Inmates Are Running the Asylum: Stories from MPA*, a larger research website project showcasing multiple educational, artistic and mental health related projects. Finally, panel member Alison Phinney shared insights from several art related projects which identify the capacities of older people for successfully coping with the functional consequences of aging and disease. Her projects highlight what can be done in partnership with families and communities to support frail older people both within and outside the traditional health care system. At the lunch following participants could enjoy a display of the BC History of Nursing Society and a book display by UBC Press of recent works in nursing history.

Geertje Boschma



# News from NHRU/URHN



Nursing  
History  
Research  
Unit

Unité  
de recherche  
sur l'histoire  
du nursing

We have had a busy fall/winter at the URHN-NHRU and are delighted with the success of a number of our students.

First, our warmest congratulations to two of our graduate students on the successful defense of your theses. Valentina Moya's Master thesis, "L'espace professionnel et l'infirmières au sein d'une équipe multidisciplinaire : Clinique externe de psychiatrie de l'Hôpital Montfort, 1976-2002," was successfully defended in December 2016.

Dr. Sandra Harrison's doctoral thesis, "Déshospitalisation psychiatrique au sein de la communauté francophone est-ontarienne, 1976-2006 : une approche sociohistorique", was successfully defended in February 2017. Dr. Harrison, is now a Professor at the School of Nursing at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. Congratulations to you both!



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Congratulations are also in order to unit member and doctoral candidate, Geneviève McCready, recipient of the Canadian and North American Francophone Fellowship Program 2017-2018 grant. Geneviève won the grant for her project, “Contribution des infirmières francophones canadiennes oeuvrant en dehors des hôpitaux à l’amélioration des conditions de vie des personnes et des communautés (1928-1976).”

With so many successful students working on exciting projects we are looking forward to our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Graduate Student Conference – to be held May 18, 2017, at the University of Ottawa. This one day conference is an important opportunity for graduate students from a number of universities, studying the history of health and nursing, to come together and share ideas and practice conference skills. The winners of our Graduate Student Scholarship will be announced at this conference and we look forward to announcing those names on our Facebook page soon.

The unit is pleased to have a strong presence at the upcoming CSHM-CAHN/SCHM-ACHN in Toronto. Graduate students, Postdoctoral Fellows and Professors will represent the unit and the exciting research that we are engaged with.



For more information about the Nursing History Research Unit / Unité de recherche sur l'histoire du nursing (University of Ottawa), please visit their website at <https://health.uottawa.ca/nursing-history-research/>.

# Book Review

Book Review: Margo Greenwood, Sarah de Leeuw, Nicole M. Lindsay, and Charlotte Reading (Eds.), *Determinants of Indigenous People's Health in Canada: Beyond the Social* (Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2015).

By Geertje Boschma, Nursing, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

This collection of research papers and reflections written by scholars and Indigenous leaders offers new and Indigenous perspectives on health disparities affecting Indigenous peoples in Canada. It is an important addition to the field of Indigenous scholarship on the determinants of health and well-being that go beyond social ones alone. It expands an analysis of social and biological determinants by also exploring the influence of colonialism, history, region, and economic inequities, for example. The essays also go beyond simplistic views of culture as essentialist, and offer critical perspectives on the way culture as a dynamically operating relational and contextual force influences the health and well-being of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It articulates the voices and expertise of First Nations, Inuit and Métis writers from across Canada, and involves a range of disciplines, including various health studies, Indigenous studies, medicine, social work, nursing and social, geographical and linguistic perspectives.

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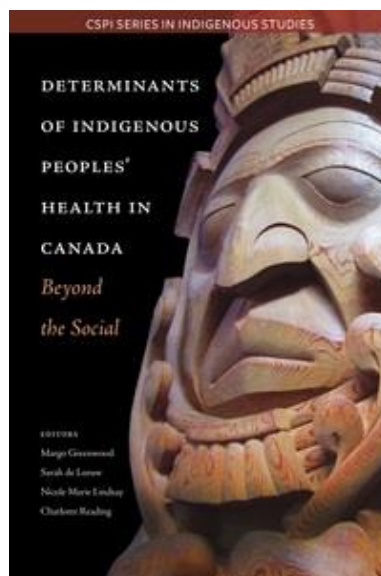
Bundled sage used in smudging ceremonies. Image courtesy Paloma Cervantes/Wikimedia CC.



Following a introduction inviting to rethink the determinants of Indigenous peoples' health in Canada, the book comprises four parts. In part one, four chapters address the context, offering analyses of Aboriginal health and medicine, Inuit knowledge systems from the viewpoint of Elders and spiritual dimensions. Part two introduces readers to views on determinants beyond the social in six chapters, addressing for example peoples' relatedness to the land as a health resource, and it examines the way early childhood experiences or geography and place determine health. In part three the focus is on wellness and knowing who we are. It includes six chapters capturing issues of culture, language and identity by exploring topics such as the importance of understanding Indigenous concepts of health articulated in Indigenous languages and of knowing family history as a source of identity. It also addresses the politics of Aboriginal health policies and programs. In a final part, five chapters address the need to revision medicine and move towards its Indigenization. It offers critical understandings of particular health issues among Indigenous people such as type 2 diabetes and HIV/AIDS and, significantly, addresses the need to understand medicine as a relational practice.

This book is of interest to nurses and other health practitioners, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It also adds to the understanding of nursing and health history by addressing the histories, inequities and current realities of Indigenous peoples. Overall, the book offers a compelling collection of essays forming a valuable resource for teaching, practice and research across disciplines and fields of study.

For more about this book, please visit  
<https://www.canadianscholars.ca/books/determinants-of-indigenous-peoples-health-in-canada>



# Conferences



## **Marketplace, Power, Prestige: The Healthcare Professions' Struggle for Recognition**

This conference explores a variety of themes including developments, conflicts, and areas of tension among healthcare professions in the twentieth century. To participate at the conference, please apply with an abstract of 400 words maximum, which includes the title, research question, methods, and used sources as well as possible hypothesis and results, until **30 June 2017** via post or email to Dr Pierre Pfütsch and Dr Sylvelyn Hähner-Rombach, Institut für Geschichte der Medizin der Robert Bosch Stiftung, Straußweg 17, 70184 Stuttgart, Germany, or [pierre.pfuetsch@igm-bosch.de](mailto:pierre.pfuetsch@igm-bosch.de) and [sylvelyn.haehner@igm-bosch.de](mailto:sylvelyn.haehner@igm-bosch.de).

For more information, please visit [the call for papers](#) on the website of the American Association for the History of Medicine

**Joint Conference: Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM) and  
Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN)  
May 27-29, 2017**

*Theme: From Far and Wide: The Next 150*

The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing will hold a joint conference on May 27 to 29 at Ryerson University (Toronto, ON) in conjunction with the 2017 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Papers will address the theme of this year's Congress: "From Far and Wide: The Next 150."

**Colloque Conjoint : La Société canadienne d'histoire de la médecine (SCHM)  
et l'Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing (ACHN)  
27-29 mai 2017**

*Sujet : L'épopée d'une histoire: 150 ans vers l'avenir*

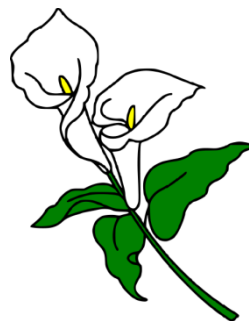
La Société canadienne d'histoire de la médecine et l'Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing tiendront du 27 au 29 mai prochain un colloque conjointe à la Ryerson University de Toronto (ON) dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines 2017. Contributions répondent au thème du congrès de cette année : « L'épopée d'une histoire: 150 ans vers l'avenir ».



Are you attending any conferences this year? If so, let us know how it goes, and we will print a note about it in the next edition of the newsletter!



# Obituaries



## Jean Whelan

Jean C. Whelan PhD, RN died on 7 March 2017. She was the Assistant Director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Nursing at the University Of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She was also President of American Association for the History of Nursing until September 2017. A nurse for 44 years, Whelan also worked in nursing education. She earned a Masters degree and a PhD in nursing history. She will be greatly missed.



*Image courtesy The Woodlands.*

For more information about her life and work, please also see:

["Trailblazers, Yesterday & Today: Alice Fisher and Jean C. Whelan, PhD., R.N."](#)

[The Bates Centre Blog](#)

# Members of the Board and Committee Members

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## Nominations Committee

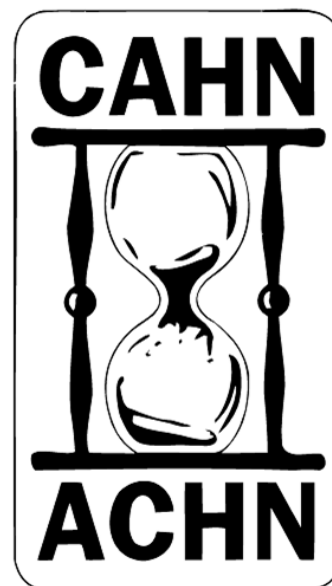
Margaret Scaia (2015-2017)

## Long-Range Planning Committee:

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**VACANCY**



# Nursing History Links

## Canada:

BC History of Nursing Society

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

Canadian Association for the History of Nursing

<http://www.cahn-achn.ca/>

Canadian Society for the History of Medicine

<http://cshn-schm.ca/>

Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry at the UBC School of Nursing

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/nursinghistory/>

Nursing History Nova Scotia

<http://www.nursinghistorynovascotia.com/>

Margaret M. Allemang Society for the History of Nursing

<http://allemang.on.ca/>

AMS Nursing History Research Unit: University of Ottawa

<http://www.health.uottawa.ca/nursing-history/index.htm>

## USA:

American Association for the History of Medicine

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

American Association for the History of Nursing

<http://www.aahn.org/index.html>

Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/Pages/default.aspx#chrome>

Center for Nursing History, Ethics, Human Rights and Innovations: Purdue University

<http://www.nursing.purdue.edu/centersandclinics/cnhehri/collections.php#nurhist>

## UK:

UK Association for the History of Nursing

<http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/ukchnm/ukahn/>

Society for the Social history of Medicine

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

## Australia:

Nursing History Research Unit: University of Sydney

[http://sydney.edu.au/nursing/about\\_us/our\\_campus/nursing\\_history\\_research\\_unit.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/nursing/about_us/our_campus/nursing_history_research_unit.shtml)

## Denmark:

Danish Society of Nursing History

<http://www2.dsr.dk/msite/frotpage.asp?id=109>

## Ireland:

UCD Centre for Nursing and Midwifery History

<http://www.ucd.ie/icnmh/>

## Europe:

European Association for the History of Nursing

<http://www.dsr.dk/dshs/EAHN/Sider/EuropeanAssociationforThehistoryofNursing.aspx>

For more links go to [www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca)

## Other Links

Be sure to check out the Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing newsletter, 'The Chronicle.' The newsletter features stories of Center activities, projects and accomplishments. The Chronicle is published twice a year. See the latest issue [here](#).

David Crawford, Librarian emeritus of McGill University has provided several important bibliographies related to Canadian hospitals, health, medical and nursing history online at: <http://internatlibs.mcgill.ca/>

Several nursing organizations have started Facebook pages/groups including the American Associations for the History of Nursing, The Barbara Bates Center and British Columbia History of Nursing Society. Please 'Like' these pages to support nursing history and be informed about nursing history events.

## From the newsletter team

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition. If you have any news about events, research, conferences or publications, please let us know so we can print it in the next edition. For any questions, comments or to pass along news, please contact us using the information listed below.

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