

NURSING NOTES



RNAO wins award for technology

Health Minister Deb Matthews (third from left) presents RAO with a *Minister's Award for Excellence* at the *Innovations in Health Care Expo 2010*. Finalists were announced last November, and RAO was selected in the technology category. The award recognizes the association's conversion of all of its best practice guidelines into applications available to nurses in condensed, web-based format on hand-held devices (PDAs). The applications allow nurses to access practice recommendations, implementation tools, and related evidence right at the bedside. Accepting the award for RAO are (L to R) Heather McConnell, Rishma Nazarali, Irmajean Bajnok, Angela Joyce and Frederick Go.

Latest numbers show more students studying to be RNs

Late last year, the Canadian Nurses Association and the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing released *The Nursing Education in Canada Statistics (2008-2009)* report, which shows nursing entry-to-practice programs reached a 10-year high. More than 14,000 students were studying to become RNs. One hundred and eleven schools were surveyed and researchers were struck by the variety of education models. "Nursing education is almost as diverse as our geographic landscape," the report found, noting that "...although graduates must demonstrate achievement of a common set of competencies... there are many education models and paths by which to reach that objective." The data in this report is the only data collected and available to inform HR planning, research and policy decisions regarding the future supply of nurses in Canada. Visit www.cna-nurses.ca and search for 'nursing education statistics.'

Nurse's hard work leads to recognized charity

In December, 2010, Stratford RN Carol Hamilton received word that a charity she and a friend began



Carol Hamilton (left) discusses women's issues with African colleagues.

several years ago now has official status according to Revenue Canada. *Change Her World* was a labour of love for the two women since visiting Malawi, Africa in 2006. Witnessing the harsh reality of poverty and gender inequality in that country, the two began working to create a not-for-profit

charity that provides funds and resources for education projects for girls in the third world. "If we ever hope to change the plight of the developing world, we need to see that the girls become educated," says Hamilton, who is also a volunteer with World Vision. Hamilton, who turned 50 the day she received news of the charity's status, says she is thrilled to begin this "...new venture of learning and influence." Visit www.changeherworld.ca.

RNAO members receive award for excellence

Six RNAO members at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) recently received the most prestigious honour that a health-care professional in that community can receive. The *Tri-Board Award for Excellence* was presented on Nov. 19 to Denise Dodman, Willi Kirenko, Marcel Blais, Phil Taylor, Laurie Duffield and Linda Brown for their promotion of patient-centred care, commitment to

CKHA, and leadership in improving quality and performance. "These professionals are the best of the best," CKHA president and CEO Colin Patey said. "They set the bar high and we aspire to their example. They are the heart and soul of this great organization."

NSO membership included in ancillary fees for nursing students

Beginning this fall, nursing students enrolled in the collaborative BScN program at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham College, and Georgian College will automatically become members of RNAO. The schools are joining a growing trend by incorporating the cost of RNAO membership into student fees. Similar initiatives offering automatic student membership are in place at nursing schools at Trent University, Humber College and St. Clair College. As RNAO members, the students can access career counselling, discounts on conferences and workshops, and more. Please watch future issues of RNJ for a story about this initiative.