

**2019 CANNT Journal Award
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Patricia A. Quinan MN, RN, CNeph(C)



I graduated in 1981 from Humber College nursing diploma program in Toronto and in 1983, I started working as a staff nurse in the hemodialysis unit at a large downtown teaching hospital. In 1998, after 15 years of nephrology experience, I wrote the Canadian Nursing Association (CNA) exam in Nephrology and became a CANNT member, which I have continued to maintain. Being a member of professional organizations provides me with an opportunity to network with other experts in the field, expand my knowledge and confidence to pursue further educational opportunities and

leadership roles.

Obtaining professional certification prompted me to return to university where I obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) in 2002 and I completed a Masters in Nursing (MN) with a focus on chronic illness in 2006. Over my 35-year nephrology career, I have been very fortunate to meet and work with many experts in the field and provide care to patients living with kidney disease. Returning to university helped me to achieve both professional and personal growth. I find that I am able to incorporate theoretical knowledge into my clinical practice and believe that I am a better nurse and clinician as a result. I am currently working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in a large nephrology program at in Toronto, where I provide comprehensive vascular access care in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team.