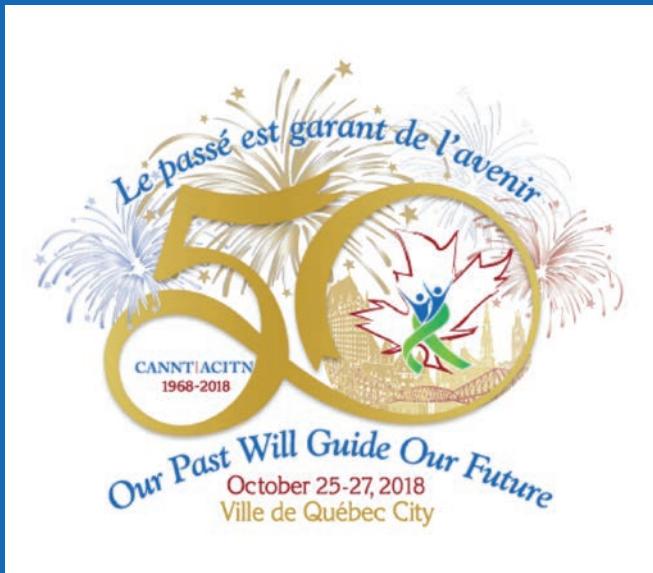




# CANNT JOURNAL JOURNAL ACITN

Volume 28, Issue 1 January–March 2018



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 14** Burnout and empowerment in hemodialysis nurses working in Quebec: A provincial survey  
*By Christina Doré, Linda Duffett-Leger, Mary McKenna, Myriam Breau, and Marc Dorais*
- 28** CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES  
**Uremic pruritis**  
*By Jessica Ragazzo, Annemarie Cesta, and Marisa Battistella*
- 34** L'effet d'un programme de soin de pieds destiné aux infirmier(es) en hémodialyse pour la prévention d'ulcération  
*Par Monique Baxter et Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard*



We're bringing  
**new life**  
to PD therapy

easy to train

easy to learn

easy for everyone



sleep-safe  
**harmony**

[www.FreseniusMedicalCare.ca](http://www.FreseniusMedicalCare.ca)

# CANNT JOURNAL JOURNAL ACITN

## CONTENTS

- 14** **Burnout and empowerment in hemodialysis nurses working in Quebec: A provincial survey**

*By Christina Doré, Linda Duffett-Leger, Mary McKenna, Myriam Breau, and Marc Dorais*

- 28** **CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES**  
**Uremic pruritis**

*By Jessica Ragazzo, Annemarie Cesta, and Marisa Battistella*

- 34** **L'effet d'un programme de soin de pieds destiné aux infirmier(es) en hémodialyse pour la prévention d'ulcération**

*Par Monique Baxter et Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard*

### IN EACH ISSUE:

- 4** **Letter from the Editor:**  
Jovina Bachynski
- 6** **Mot de la rédactrice en chef :** Jovina Bachynski
- 7** CANNT Representatives/ Contacts; Représentants/ contacts ACITN
- 8** **Message from the President:** Heather Dean
- 9** **Message de la présidente :**  
Heather Dean
- 12** EDTNA Update
- 12** Mise à jour EDTNA
- 41** Notice Board
- 41** Connect with CANNT!



The CANNT Journal is  
printed on recycled paper.

The CANNT Journal is the official publication of the Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists, 4 Catarqui St., Suite 310, Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7, telephone: (613) 507-6053, fax: 1-866-303-0626, email: [cannt@cannt.ca](mailto:cannt@cannt.ca). Published quarterly, the journal is received by all members of CANNT. Subscriptions are: Canada \$80.00 (plus HST), US. \$90.00, Outside N. America \$115.00. Back issues, when available, are \$7.50 (+HST) per issue and are available from the editors. Opinions expressed by writers in the CANNT Journal are not necessarily those held by the editors or CANNT. Contrasting views by our readership and membership are welcome. All letters, comments and articles are to be sent to the CANNT office, 4 Catarqui St., Suite 310, Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7.

1-877-720-2819  
Website: [www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca)

The CANNT Journal accepts articles (manuscripts) on an ongoing basis.

The CANNT Journal is indexed in the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), the International Nursing Index (INI), MEDLINE, EBSCO, ProQuest and Thomson Gale.

ISSN 2291-644X (Online)  
ISSN 1498-5136 (Print)

The CANNT Journal is produced by Pappin Communications, The Victoria Centre, 84 Isabella St., Unit 2, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 5S5

**Editor-In-Chief**  
Jovina Bachynski, MN, RN(EC), CNeph(C)  
T: (905) 845-2571 ext 6307  
Email: [cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com)

**Contributing Editor**  
Michelle Trask, MIPH, BSN, RN

**Managing Editor**  
Heather Coughlin, Pembroke, Ontario

**Layout and Design**  
Sherri Keller, Pembroke, Ontario

**Advertising Sales**  
Heather Coughlin, Pappin Communications  
84 Isabella St., Unit 2, Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5  
T: (613) 735-0952; F: (613) 735-7983  
Email: [heather@pappin.com](mailto:heather@pappin.com)  
Rate card: [www.pappin.com](http://www.pappin.com)

JOVINA BACHYNSKI

## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the 2018 edition of *CANNT Journal*. This is a very special year for CANNT, as we look to celebrate our association's 50th year (1968–2018) in historic Quebec City, which itself is celebrating its 410th anniversary since it was founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1608. We look forward to seeing everyone in Quebec City to celebrate excellence in nephrology nursing and technological practice.

Not coincidentally, in this issue, we continue the thread of burnout and empowerment in this issue's lead article by Doré, Duffett-Leger, McKenna, Breau, and Dorais on "Burnout and empowerment in hemodialysis nurses working in Quebec: A provincial survey". Burnout and empowerment, as depicted by Doré et al., are richly nuanced yet complex concepts that the authors skillfully navigate the audience through. We are also pleased to publish Baxter and Dupuis-Blanchard's work on "L'effet d'un programme de soin de pieds destiné aux infirmières en hémodialyse", our first publication of an article in French since 2010. The authors highlight the importance and implications of providing educational training to hemodialysis nurses on a foot screening initiative for patients with diabetes. Finally, in our continuing education series, Raggazzo, Cesta, and Battistella discuss the "frustrating symptom" that is uremic pruritis, which has a tremendous impact on the quality of life of our patients. This is not the first time uremic pruritis has been featured in our fine journal, yet this symptom continues to vex all clinicians in our daily practice.

I would like to thank Michelle Trask, CANNT's multi-talented Director of Communications, for taking on the *ad hoc* role of contributing

editor for the article by Baxter and Dupuis-Blanchard. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful team of peer reviewers who have enthusiastically and indefatigably provided their guidance, constructive critiques, and most valuably, their time so that we at *CANNT Journal* can deliver quality nephrology nursing articles that resonate with and impact your respective practice. I strongly encourage and challenge the members of our association (including frontline nurses and technologists, and nursing and technologist leaders) to submit abstracts (for oral or poster presentation) highlighting innovations in your practice for CANNT 2018, apply for the numerous bursaries and research grants that are awarded yearly, and/or submit manuscripts (in English and French) to *CANNT Journal*. The journal is always looking for manuscripts that present new clinical information or address issues of special interest such as original research papers, relevant clinical articles, innovative quality improvement reports, and narratives describing the nursing experience. *CANNT Journal* also accepts interdisciplinary practice questions and answers; reviews of current articles, books, and videotapes; and letters to the editor. There is an abundance of talent out there in the Canadian nephrology community that needs to be showcased, and *CANNT Journal* is exactly the platform to do this, especially as it pertains to raising awareness of issues of high importance and relevance to our collective practice.

Of note, World Kidney Day is celebrated every second Thursday of March. This year, World Kidney Day and the International Women's Day were commemorated on the same day on March 8. This year's theme for

World Kidney Day 2018 is “Kidneys and Women’s Health – Include, Value, Empower”. **“Chronic kidney disease (CKD)** is a worldwide public health problem with adverse outcomes of kidney failure and premature death. CKD affects approximately **195 million women** worldwide and it is currently the 8th leading cause of death in women, with close to **600,000 deaths** each year” (ISN/IFKF, 2018). These numbers are truly staggering. I hope that your respective programs had the opportunity to participate in the campaign and commemoration on March 8 to highlight women’s health, specifically their kidney health, by promoting “affordable and equitable

access to health education, healthcare and prevention for kidney diseases for all women and girls in the world” (ISN/IFKF, 2018).



**Jovina Bachynski**  
**Editor, CANNT**  
**Journal**

## REFERENCE

International Society of Nephrology (ISN) & International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) (2018). *World Kidney Day—Kidneys & women’s health—Include, value, empower.* Retrieved from <http://www.worldkidneyday.org/resource/2018-campaign-toolkit/>

**Le Journal ACITN** est la publication officielle de l’Association canadienne des infirmiers/infirmières et technologues en néphrologie, a/s 4 Cataraqui St., Suite 310, Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7, téléphone : (613) 507-6053, télécopieur : 1-866-303-0626, Courriel : [cannt@cannt.ca](mailto:cannt@cannt.ca). Publié quatre fois par année, ce journal est envoyé à tous les membres de l’Association. L’abonnement annuel est: Canada, 80 \$ (+TVH), E.-U., 90 \$, hors du Canada et E.-U., 115 \$.

Les publications antérieures, lorsque disponibles, coûtent 7,50 \$ (+TVH) chacune. Les opinions émises par les auteurs dans ce journal ne sont pas nécessairement partagées par l’Association ni par le corédactrices en chef. Nous invitons les lecteurs à nous faire part de leurs opinions. Toute correspondance devra être envoyée à l’ACITN, 4 Cataraqui St., Suite 310, Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7.

1-877-720-2819; Site web : [www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca)

Le Journal ACITN accepte des articles (manuscrits) de façon continue.

Le journal ACITN est maintenant répertorié dans le « Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) », « International Nursing Index » (INI), « MEDLINE », « EBSCO », « ProQuest » et « Thomson Gale ».

ISSN 2291-644X (En ligne)

ISSN 1498-5136 (Dans la presse)

Le journal ACITN est préparé par Pappin Communications

The Victoria Centre, 84 rue Isabella, suite 2, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 5S5.

### Rédactrice en chef

Jovina Bachynski, MN, RN(EC), CNeph(C)  
T: (905) 845-2571 ext 6307  
Courriel: [cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com)

### Collaboratrice à la rédaction

Michelle Trask, MIPH, B.S.inf., inf.

### Éditeur

Heather Coughlin, Pembroke, Ontario

### Conception et design

Sherri Keller, Pembroke, Ontario

### Publicité

Heather Coughlin, Pappin Communications  
84 Isabella St., Unit 2, Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5  
T: (613) 735-0952; F: (613) 735-7983  
Courriel: [heather@pappin.com](mailto:heather@pappin.com)  
Publicité: [www.pappin.com](http://www.pappin.com)

## ERRATUM

Please note an error in the Continuing Education Series article “Update on phosphate binders: The old and new” by Cashin & Battistella that was published in CANNT Journal in 2016 (Issue 26, Volume 1, pp. 17–21). It was reported in Table 1: Comparison of Common Phosphate Binders Available in Canada on page 19 under the Potential Disadvantages column, that sevelamer carbonate (RENVELA®) “tablets can be crushed”. The product monograph for RENVELA® (Sanofi-Aventis, 2017) states that “RENVELA (sevelamer carbonate) tablets should not be bitten, chewed or broken apart prior to dosing.”

### REFERENCES

- Cashin, J., & Battistella, M. (2016). Update on phosphate binders: The old and new. *Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists Journal*, 26(1), 17–21.
- Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc. (2017). *Product Monograph PrRENVELA® sevelamer carbonate tablets*. Retrieved from <http://products.sanofi.ca/en/renvela.pdf>

**2016–2017 CANNT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/  
CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION  
DE L'ACITN 2016–2017**

**President/Président:**  
Heather Dean, RN, CNeph(C)  
T: 403-943-9400  
[CANNT.president@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.president@gmail.com)

**President-Elect, Treasurer/Président-Élué,  
Trésorière:**  
Janice MacKay, RN, CNeph(C), CCRP  
T: 403-210-7439  
[CANNT.presidentelect@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.presidentelect@gmail.com)

**Director of Communications/Directeur des  
communications:**  
Michele Trask, RN, BSN, MIPH  
T: 604-838-0623  
[CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com)

**Vice-President of Technologists/  
Vice-Président des Technologues:**  
José Lloyd  
T: 705-325-2201 ext. 3288/6288  
[CANNT.vptechnology@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.vptechnology@gmail.com)

**Atlantic Region Vice-President/  
Vice-Présidente de l'Atlantique:**  
Cathy Cake, RN, BN, CNeph(C), MN, MEd  
T: 709-777-3704  
[CANNT.vpatlantic@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.vpatlantic@gmail.com)

**Quebec Vice-President/  
Vice-Présidente du Québec:**  
Nancy Filteau, RN, CNeph(C), BScN, MSc(A)  
T: 514-934-1934 ext. 35098  
[CANNT.vpquebec@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.vpquebec@gmail.com)

**Ontario Region Vice-President/  
Vice-Présidente de l'Ontario:**  
Carolyn Ingram, RN, BSc, CNeph(C)  
T: 519-685-8500 ext. 75606  
[CANNT.vpontario@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.vpontario@gmail.com)

**Western Region Vice-President/  
Vice-Présidente de l'Ouest:**  
Rick Luscombe, RN, BScN, CNeph(C)  
T: 778-828-9985  
[CANNT.vpwestern@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.vpwestern@gmail.com)

**CANNT Journal Editor-In-Chief/  
Rédactrice en chef:**  
Jovina Bachynski, RN(EC), MN-NP Adult,  
CNeph(C), T: 905-845-2571 ext. 6307  
[cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com)

JOVINA BACHYNSKI

## Mot de la rédactrice en chef

Bienvenue à notre premier numéro de l'édition 2018 du Journal de l'ACITN. C'est une année bien spéciale pour l'ACITN puisque nous nous apprêtons à célébrer le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire (1968-2018) de notre association dans la ville historique de Québec, qui célèbre elle-même son 410<sup>e</sup> anniversaire puisqu'elle a été fondée en 1608 par Samuel de Champlain. Nous sommes impatients de vous rencontrer à Québec afin de célébrer l'excellence des soins infirmiers et de la pratique technologique en néphrologie.

Ce n'est pas une coïncidence si nous continuons d'exploiter le thème de l'épuisement professionnel et de la responsabilisation dans ce numéro, avec l'article de fond de Doré, Duffett-Leger, McKenna, Breau et Dorais intitulé « Burnout and empowerment in hemodialysis nurses working in Quebec: A provincial survey » (L'épuisement professionnel et la responsabilisation chez les infirmières et infirmiers en hémodialyse travaillant au Québec : un sondage provincial). L'épuisement professionnel et la responsabilisation, comme le décrivent Doré et ses collaboratrices, sont des concepts très nuancés et complexes que les auteurs expliquent avec beaucoup d'adresse aux lecteurs. Nous sommes également heureux de publier l'article de Baxter et Dupuis-Blanchard intitulé « L'effet d'un programme de soin de pieds destiné aux infirmières en hémodialyse », notre premier article en français depuis 2010. Les auteurs soulignent l'importance et les répercussions d'une formation destinée aux infirmières en hémodialyse sur une initiative de dépistage de maladies des pieds pour les patients diabétiques. Enfin, dans notre série d'articles de formation continue, Raggazzo, Cesta et Battistella discutent du « symptôme frustrant » qu'est le prurit urémique, qui a des répercussions considérables sur la qualité de vie de nos patients. Ce n'est pas la première fois que ce sujet est abordé dans notre revue,

mais ce symptôme est toujours un problème épineux dans notre pratique quotidienne.

J'aimerais remercier Michelle Trask, directrice des communications de l'ACITN aux talents multiples, d'avoir joué le rôle ad hoc de collaboratrice à la rédaction pour l'article de Baxter et Dupuis-Blanchard. J'aimerais également profiter de l'occasion pour remercier notre formidable équipe de lecteurs critiques, dont les membres fournissent avec enthousiasme et dynamisme des conseils, des critiques constructives et, surtout, leur temps afin de permettre au Journal de l'ACITN de publier des articles de qualité sur les soins infirmiers en néphrologie qui trouvent écho auprès de nos lecteurs et ont une incidence sur leur pratique respective. J'encourage fortement les membres de notre association, notamment les infirmières et infirmiers de première ligne et les technologues en néphrologie ainsi que les chefs de file dans ces domaines, à soumettre leurs résumés (pour une présentation orale ou une présentation d'affiche) mettant en lumière les innovations qui ont vu le jour dans leur pratique en prévision du Congrès 2018 de l'ACITN. Nous les invitons également à soumettre leur candidature pour les nombreuses bourses et subventions de recherche attribuées chaque année, ainsi que leurs manuscrits (en français et/ou en anglais) aux fins de publication dans le Journal de l'ACITN. L'équipe du Journal est toujours à la recherche de manuscrits qui présentent de nouveaux renseignements cliniques ou abordent des enjeux présentant un intérêt particulier pour le lectorat, comme les documents de recherche originaux, les articles cliniques pertinents, les rapports novateurs d'amélioration de la qualité et les textes narratifs décrivant la profession d'infirmière ou d'infirmier au quotidien. Le Journal de l'ACITN accepte également les questions et les réponses sur la pratique interdisciplinaire, les critiques d'articles, de livres ou de bandes vidéo actuels et les

lettres à la rédaction. La communauté canadienne en néphrologie regorge de talents qui ne demandent qu'à être révélés, et le Journal de l'ACITN est exactement la bonne plateforme pour le faire, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de sensibiliser les gens à des enjeux d'une grande importance et pertinence pour notre pratique collective.

Il convient de noter que la Journée mondiale du rein est toujours célébrée le deuxième mardi du mois de mars, qui se trouve à être le 8 mars cette année, soit le même jour que la Journée internationale de la femme. Le thème de la Journée mondiale du rein 2018 sera « Le rein et la santé de la femme : un facteur majeur à ne pas négliger ». **La néphropathie chronique** est un problème de santé publique mondial dont les effets peuvent entraîner une insuffisance rénale et la mort prématurée. La néphropathie chronique touche environ **195 millions de femmes** dans le monde entier et est actuellement la 8e cause de mortalité chez cette population, avec près de **600 000 décès** chaque

année (ISN/IFKF, 2018). Ces chiffres sont réellement stupéfiant. J'espère que vos programmes respectifs ont eu l'occasion de participer à la campagne et aux célébrations du 8 mars pour mettre l'accent sur la santé des femmes, en particulier la santé de leurs reins, en faisant la promotion d'un « accès abordable et équitable à l'éducation en santé, aux soins de santé et à la prévention des maladies rénales pour toutes les femmes et les filles du monde » (ISN/IFKF, 2018).



**Jovina Bachynski**  
**Réédactrice en chef,**  
*Journal de l'ACITN*

## RÉFÉRENCE

International Society of Nephrology (ISN) et International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) (2018). *Journée mondiale du rein – Le rein et la santé de la femme : un facteur majeur à ne pas négliger*. Tiré de : <http://www.world-kidneyday.org/ckd-2018-french/>

## CANNT REPRESENTATIVES/ CONTACTS; REPRÉSENTANTS/ CONTACTS ACITN

CNA Liaison/Liaison pour AIIC:  
Heather Dean, RN, CNeph(C)  
T: 403-943-9400  
[CANNT.president@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.president@gmail.com)

Kidney Foundation of Canada, MAC Representative/Fondation du rein—Comité de médical consultatif:  
Heather Dean, RN, CNeph(C)  
T: 403-943-9400  
[CANNT.president@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.president@gmail.com)

Bursary Committee/  
Comité des Bourses:  
Heather Dean, RN, CNeph(C)  
T: 403-943-9400  
[CANNT.president@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.president@gmail.com)

CANNT Administrative Office/  
Bureau National de l'ACITN:  
4 Catarqui St., Suite 310  
Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7  
Phone: 613-507-6053  
Same Toll Free: 1-877-720-2819  
Fax: 1-866-303-0626  
General email: [cannt@cannt.ca](mailto:cannt@cannt.ca)

2018 Conference: October 25–27, 2018  
Québec City, QC  
[cannt@cannt.ca](mailto:cannt@cannt.ca)

Journal advertising contact/Personne contact pour la publicité du Journal:  
Heather Coughlin  
Pappin Communications,  
84 Isabella Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5  
T: 613-735-0952; F: 613-735-7983  
[heather@pappin.com](mailto:heather@pappin.com)  
Rate card: [www.pappin.com](http://www.pappin.com)

## ERRATUM

Une erreur s'est glissée dans un article de la Série sur l'enseignement infirmier continu intitulé « Update on phosphate binders: The old and new » rédigé par Cashin & Battistella et publié dans le Journal de l'ACITN en 2016 (numéro 26, volume 1, pp. 17–21). Il était indiqué au tableau 1 « Comparison of Common Phosphate Binders Available in Canada », à la page 19, dans la colonne « Potential Disadvantages » que les comprimés de carbonate de sevelamer (RENELA®) pouvaient être écrasés. Selon la monographie de RENELA® (Sanofi-Aventis, 2017), « On ne doit pas croquer, mâcher ni rompre les comprimés de RENELA (carbonate de sevelamer) avant de les avaler. »

## RÉFÉRENCES

- Cashin, J., & Battistella, M. (2016). Update on phosphate binders: The old and new. *Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists Journal*, 26(1), 17–21.
- Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc. (2017). *Monographie de RENELA®, comprimés de carbonate de sevelamer*. Accessible à l'adresse : <http://products.sanofi.ca/fr/renvela.pdf>

# President's Message

2018 is the beginning of the last year of my term as your CANNT President. I feel privileged, along with our amazing CANNT Board of Directors, to represent dedicated nephrology health professionals across Canada. What a wonderful rewarding experience this has been. I encourage you to think about putting your name forward for a Board position, or saying "yes" to working on the planning committee for our national symposia.

The holiday season gave us a chance to join together and celebrate with our families.

Family. That word usually makes me smile – "You can't live with them, you can't live without them." Sometimes that smile comes with a shake of my head in disbelief! I love them all, they are a piece of the fabric that shaped me to be who I am.

I have been thinking a lot lately about my nursing family. So much attention has been focused on what divides us. Education, credentials, scope of practice, gender, ethnicity, and fear that we can be replaced by one another.

I would like to share my vision of the nursing family and the extended family of allied healthcare professionals and technologists... let's call them my cousins.

The most successful families I know work together. Each family member brings their history, talents, opinions and, most importantly, the love for the family!

My nursing family consists of Nursing Attendants (NA), Licensed/Registered Practical Nurses (LPN/RPN), Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN), Registered Nurses (RN), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), Nurse

Practitioners (NP), and I am sure there are many more titles that I am missing. This mix of education and skill set provides our patients with the exceptional healthcare they deserve. Through my 34-plus years in nursing, I have learned so much from each of you. I am thankful for the mentorship, education, practical skill, and most importantly our teamwork, as we share our passion for the art and skill of nursing.

This year I am going to continue to focus on what we have in common. I am going to ask questions about scope of practice, roles, and education. I am going to tap into, and learn from the wealth of diversity and experience from all the members of my nursing family. I am going to celebrate nursing and my wonderful colleagues who share my passion for this career path.

To all my allied health members (my cousins), no one knows us better than our cousins. Who else could possibly relate to those dinnertime stories and laugh out loud with a nod of understanding? Thank you for all you do to improve the lives of our patients.

I know some of you may not share my vision, and that is okay. That is what makes us individuals and allows us to grow, as we share and discuss differing viewpoints.

One thing I know for sure. We are stronger TOGETHER, and TOGETHER we can ensure delivery of optimal nursing care to our patients.

"Best nursing", as defined by the Canadian Nurses Association (2018), "relies on a dedication to excellence across the domains of practice. It is exemplified by a high degree of competence, exemplary performance and an

authentic reliance on ethical and equitable imperatives. It draws upon professional values and best practices and serves as a resource to drive transformational change and innovation." The CNA Biennium will be held in Ottawa on June 18, 2018, and CNA will be putting forward a resolution to open membership beyond registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs). According to Mike Villeneuve, CEO of CNA, "the board reached a courageous, unanimous decision in November to recommend that membership in CNA be opened to all regulated categories of nurses. That historic vote by members will take place at our annual meeting of members in June 2018." This inclusive vote, which will include two additional regulated designations in its membership (i.e., licensed/registered practical nurses and registered psychiatric nurses), will only strengthen the voice of CNA across our nursing landscape."

**Yours in Nursing,  
Heather Dean, RN, CNeph(C)  
CANNT President (2016–2018)**

## REFERENCES

- Canadian Nurses Association (2018). *Best nursing*. Retrieved from <https://www.cna-aic.ca/on-the-issues/best-nursing>
- Canadian Nurses Association (2018). *CNA proposes membership expansion to represent all nurses*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadian-nurse.com/articles/issues/2018/january-february-2018/cna-proposes-membership-expansion-to-represent-all-nurses>
- Villeneuve, M. (2018). Membership decision pending from CEO Michael Villeneuve. *Canadian Nursing*, 114(1), 2.

## CANNT Awards

There are general bursaries, certification/recertification awards, awards of excellence, and research grants that CANNT members can apply for yearly. Members are encouraged to nominate a fellow CANNT member for their outstanding work in nephrology.

For more information on eligibility and forms for award applications, see <http://www.cannt.ca> under **Resources - Awards, Bursaries & Grants**.

**IMPORTANT:** Members may apply for more than one bursary per year, but will only be able to be the

recipient of one award per year. They would still, however, be eligible for reimbursement from the certification/re-certification bursary.

**Deadline to apply:** May 1, 2018 or June 30, 2018 (varies for different awards).

# Message de la présidente

L'année 2018 est la dernière année de mon mandat comme présidente de l'ACITN. C'est un honneur, pour moi et mes formidables collègues du conseil d'administration de l'ACITN, de représenter les professionnels de la santé en néphrologie qui œuvrent d'un océan à l'autre. Quelle expérience merveilleuse et enrichissante! Je vous encourage à poser votre candidature à un poste de représentant au conseil d'administration ou à dire « oui » à une participation au comité de planification de nos symposiums nationaux.

La période des Fêtes nous a donné l'occasion de nous regrouper et de célébrer en famille.

Famille. Habituellement, ce mot me fait sourire – « Vous ne pourriez pas vivre avec votre famille, mais vous ne pourriez pas vivre sans elle ». Parfois, mon sourire s'accompagne d'un hochement de tête dubitatif! J'aime tous les membres de ma famille; chacun d'eux a contribué à faire de moi ce que je suis aujourd'hui.

J'ai beaucoup pensé, ces derniers temps, à ma famille que sont mes collègues infirmiers et infirmières. Beaucoup d'encre a coulé autour de sujets qui nous divisent : la formation, le titre professionnel, la portée de la pratique, le décalage entre hommes et femmes, l'ethnicité et la crainte de se voir remplacé(e) par l'un ou l'autre.

J'aimerais vous faire part de ma vision de la famille composée des collègues infirmières et infirmiers et de la famille élargie que représentent les professionnels paramédicaux et les technologues... que j'appellerai mes cousins.

Les familles que je connais qui réussissent le mieux sont celles dont les membres travaillent ensemble. Chacun apporte son histoire, ses compétences, ses opinions, mais aussi et surtout, chacun est animé de l'amour de la famille!

Ma famille professionnelle se compose de préposé(e)s aux soins infirmiers, d'infirmières et d'infirmiers auxiliaires autorisés (IAA), d'infirmières et d'infirmiers psychiatriques autorisés (IPA), d'infirmières et d'infirmiers autorisés (IA), d'infirmières et d'infirmiers cliniciens spécialisés (ICS) et d'infirmières et d'infirmiers praticiens (IP). Et d'autres encore que j'oublie certainement. Toutes

ces personnes, de formations et de compétences diverses, se mobilisent pour apporter des soins exceptionnels à nos patients. Au cours de mes quelque 34 années d'expérience en soins infirmiers, j'ai beaucoup appris de vous tous. Je vous suis sincèrement reconnaissante pour tout ce que vous m'avez apporté : le mentorat, la formation, les connaissances pratiques et, surtout, pour l'esprit d'équipe que nous avons créé parce que nous partageons la même passion pour l'art et la technique des soins infirmiers.

Cette année, je vais continuer à cibler les sujets pour lesquels nous avons un intérêt commun. Je vais poser des questions sur la portée de la pratique, les rôles et la formation. Je vais puiser dans la riche diversité d'expériences des membres de ma famille professionnelle pour en tirer parti au mieux. Je vais célébrer notre profession d'infirmière et d'infirmier, ainsi que mes merveilleux collègues qui partagent ma passion pour cette carrière.

Quant à mes collègues professionnels paramédicaux (mes cousins), ce sont eux, nos cousins, qui nous connaissent le mieux. Qui d'autres pourraient se reconnaître dans ces histoires que l'on raconte autour de la table, en riant aux éclats et en faisant un petit clin d'œil pour montrer qu'ils se sont reconnus? Je tiens à vous remercier de tout ce que vous avez fait pour améliorer la qualité de vie de nos patients.

Je sais que certains d'entre vous ne partagent pas ma vision des choses. C'est très bien. C'est ce qui forme la trame de notre identité individuelle, et ce sont ces divergences de points de vue qui nous permettent de grandir.

Il y a une chose dont je suis certaine : nous sommes plus forts en agissant ENSEMBLE, et c'est ENSEMBLE que nous pouvons optimiser la qualité des soins infirmiers que nous prodigions à nos patients.

La « meilleure pratique », selon l'Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada (2018), se fonde sur le dévouement envers l'atteinte de l'excellence dans tous les domaines de pratique. Elle se caractérise par un niveau élevé de compétence, un rendement exemplaire et une dépendance

réelle face à des impératifs éthiques et équitables. Elle repose sur des valeurs professionnelles et des pratiques exemplaires et constitue une source de changement transformationnel et d'innovation. Le congrès biennal de l'AIIC se tiendra à Ottawa le 18 juin 2018. L'AIIC présentera une résolution visant à permettre à d'autres catégories d'infirmières et d'infirmiers de devenir membres de l'association, pour que celle-ci ne soit plus réservée aux seuls infirmières et infirmiers autorisés (IA) et aux infirmières et infirmiers praticiens (IP). Selon Mike Villeneuve, directeur général de l'AIIC, « le conseil d'administration a pris en novembre, courageusement et à l'unanimité, la décision de recommander que toutes les catégories d'infirmières et infirmiers réglementés puissent devenir membre de l'AIIC. Les membres voteront sur cette décision historique en juin 2018, lors de l'assemblée annuelle des membres ». Ce vote inclusif, qui inclura deux titres officiels additionnels parmi ses membres (soit infirmières/infirmiers auxiliaires autorisés et infirmières/infirmiers psychiatriques autorisés), ne fera que renforcer l'influence de l'AIIC dans le milieu des soins infirmiers.

**Votre partenaire en soins infirmiers,**  
**Heather Dean, Inf., CNéph(C)**  
**Présidente de l'ACITN (2016-2018)**

## RÉFÉRENCES

- Association des infirmières et des infirmiers du Canada (2018). *Meilleure pratique*. Accessible à l'adresse : <https://www.cna-aic.ca/fr/les-enjeux/meilleure-pratique>.
- Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada (2018). *L'AIIC propose d'ouvrir ses portes à l'ensemble du personnel infirmier*. Tiré de <https://www.canadian-nurse.com/fr/articles/issues/2018/janvier-fevrier-2018/laaic-propose-douvrir-ses-portes-a-lensemble-du-personnel-infirmier>
- Villeneuve, M. (2018). Membership decision pending. *Canadian Nursing*, 114(1), 2. Accessible en français à l'adresse : <https://www.infirmiere-canadienne.com/fr/articles/issues/2018/janvier-fevrier-2018/decision-a-venir-souvrir-a-de-nouveaux-groupes>

# Your Board in Action

CANNT/ACITN wishes you all the best during 2018. The year ahead of us will provide fantastic opportunities and possibilities for our association to grow. As your President-Elect, I feel proud of our enthusiastic Board of Directors (BOD) and association management team who work tirelessly to ensure that all of the association's activities are successful. I would like to emphasize that our objectives for 2018 will be achieved through their ongoing dedication and efficient support.

The CANNT Nominating Committee is looking for CANNT/ACITN members to apply for open positions on the CANNT/ACITN Board of Directors. The positions commence October 2018 in Quebec City. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2018. The Board positions available are for Director of Communications and President-Elect/Treasurer.

Your BOD has been active over this past year in setting short- and long-term goals to achieve sustainability and value to our members. We are in the final stages of updating our website, and hope to launch to our members in the coming months. This endeavour has been undertaken with a goal to providing our membership with an easy-to-navigate, updated platform that will provide compelling content to our association's members, and perhaps entice nephrology professionals from across Canada and beyond to join our group. In this world of social media as an integral part of our culture, we have designed our new website to have social media integrated within. We are very excited to launch, and hope to rejuvenate our members.

## MEMBERSHIP

We have a membership of 458 renal professionals as of October 2017. The BOD continually evolves to provide enduring benefits to all our members. I am seeking input from our valued membership, and I want to

hear from you on ways to increase our association membership. Please share your thoughts with me via email at [CANNT.presidentelect@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.presidentelect@gmail.com)

CANNT membership provides you with access to our member's only section of the website. This area provides many resources at your fingertips such as the Vascular Access Guidelines and Standards of Nursing and Technical Practice, which are readily available to our members for use in enhancing their knowledge and supporting their professional practice. Our seasonal peer-reviewed journal is touted as both an educational and informational resource for nephrology professionals across the nation. Becoming a part of CANNT/ACITN offers opportunities to apply for our bursaries and grants, and receive funding support for CNA certification and re-certification in nephrology. We also recognize our professionals nationally with our yearly awards nominations.

## JOURNAL

Guidelines for journal article submission can be found under the "CANNT Journal" section of the CANNT website. We encourage manuscripts that present new clinical information or address issues of special interest to nephrology nurses and technologists.

E-mail your manuscript to Jovina Bachynski at [cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com). Include a cover letter with contact information for the primary author and a one-sentence biographical sketch (credentials, current job title, and location) for each author.

## COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to develop new strategies for engaging our members and communicating timely and relevant information to our membership. Your CANNT Connection is our bi-monthly email that works to provide strategic, targeted, personalized, and properly segmented information to our members.

Additionally, we try to keep the content simple, direct, to the point, and useful, with a goal to engage members from the very start, and successfully motivate our members. If you have a burning question, clinical or otherwise, speak to our Director of Communications at [CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com)

**CANNT website (CANNT.ca)**  
**Twitter (@CANNT1)**

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CANNT 2018 is themed "Our Past Will Guide Our Future." It's our 50th Anniversary! Your conference committee is working hard to create an innovative and exciting program to meet the needs of nephrology professionals from novice to advanced practice. We hope to see you in Quebec City on October 25–27, 2018. We are asking for your help, memorabilia, ideas, and thoughts on how to celebrate this milestone in our association's history. Please share your ideas with us by contacting our office.

## FINANCES

As a Not for Profit professional association, our objective is to provide value to our members that stays true to our mission and vision. In an effort to keep upright and steady, we are consistently seeking out growth and development opportunities to assist in maintaining the viability of the association. We remain fiscally responsible in governing our costs to function as your BOD. Your BOD realizes the need for forecasting and budgeting to support our efforts at representing fiscal responsibility to the membership continues to be our priority in 2018 and beyond. The 2017 Annual Report is available on the CANNT website.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Janice MacKay**  
**President-Elect/Treasurer**

# Votre conseil d'administration en action

L'ACITN vous souhaite ce qu'il y a de mieux pour 2018. L'année qui s'amorce offrira de formidables occasions et possibilités de croissance pour notre association. En tant que présidente élue, je suis fière de l'enthousiasme que manifestent les membres de notre conseil d'administration (CA) et de notre équipe de direction, qui travaillent sans relâche pour assurer le succès de toutes les activités de l'association. J'aimerais souligner que c'est grâce à leur dévouement continu et à leur soutien efficace que nous atteindrons nos objectifs en 2018.

Le comité des candidatures de l'ACITN invite les membres de l'association à présenter leur candidature pour des ouvertures de postes au sein du CA. Les titulaires de ces postes entreront en fonction en octobre 2018 dans la ville de Québec. La date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le 1er juin 2018. Les postes à combler au sein du CA sont ceux de directeur ou directrice des communications et de présidente élue/trésorière ou président élue/trésorier.

Au cours de la dernière année, votre CA s'est appliquée à établir une liste d'objectifs à court et à long terme en vue d'offrir une durabilité et une valeur ajoutée à nos membres. Nous mettons en ce moment la dernière main à la refonte de notre site Web et espérons le lancer au cours des prochains mois. Cette initiative a été entreprise dans l'objectif d'offrir à nos membres une plateforme mise à jour facile à consulter leur proposant un contenu captivant, qui incitera peut-être les professionnels en néphrologie de partout au Canada et d'ailleurs à se joindre à notre groupe. Dans ce monde où les médias sociaux font partie intégrante de notre culture, nous avons conçu notre nouveau site Web de façon à les y intégrer. Nous sommes impatients de lancer ce nouveau site et espérons ainsi attirer des membres de la nouvelle génération.

## MEMBRES

Notre association compte actuellement 458 professionnels en néphrologie (en date d'octobre 2017). Le CA évolue continuellement pour offrir des avantages tangibles à tous nos membres. Je sollicite les commentaires de nos précieux membres sur les façons d'accroître le nombre

d'adhésions à notre association. Pour nous faire part de vos réflexions à ce sujet, écrivez-nous par courriel à [CANNT.presidentelect@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.presidentelect@gmail.com).

L'adhésion à l'ACITN vous donne accès à la section réservée aux membres de notre site Web. Cette section offre de nombreuses ressources au bout des doigts, par exemple les lignes directrices relatives à l'accès vasculaire, les normes de pratique infirmière en néphrologie et les normes de pratique technologique en néphrologie, qui permettent à nos membres d'approfondir leurs connaissances et de perfectionner leur pratique professionnelle. Notre revue périodique évaluée par les pairs est considérée comme une ressource éducative et informative pour les professionnels en néphrologie de partout au Canada. En devenant membre de l'ACITN, vous aurez également la possibilité de demander des bourses et des subventions et de recevoir un soutien financier pour la certification infirmière de l'AIIC en néphrologie ou le renouvellement de certification. Par ailleurs, nous reconnaissions l'excellence professionnelle de nos membres à l'échelle nationale grâce à un programme de reconnaissance annuel.

## JOURNAL

Vous trouverez les lignes directrices pour soumettre un article aux fins de publication dans notre revue à la section « CANNT Journal » du site Web de l'ACITN. Nous privilégions les manuscrits qui présentent de nouveaux renseignements cliniques ou qui abordent des enjeux présentant un intérêt particulier pour les infirmières et infirmiers et les technologies en néphrologie.

Envoyez votre manuscrit par courriel à Jovina Bachynski à l'adresse [cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com). Veuillez y joindre une lettre d'accompagnement comportant les coordonnées du principal auteur et une notice biographique d'une phrase (titre, emploi actuel et lieu de travail) pour chaque auteur.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Nous continuons d'élaborer de nouvelles stratégies pour mobiliser nos membres et leur transmettre des renseignements pertinents en temps opportun. Your CANNT Connection est un bulletin d'information bimensuel

transmis par courrier électronique (en anglais) qui vise à offrir des renseignements ciblés, personnalisés et correctement segmentés à nos membres.

Nous essayons en outre d'offrir un contenu simple, direct, pertinent et utile dans le but de mobiliser et de motiver nos membres dès le tout début. Si vous avez une question à ce sujet, d'ordre clinique ou autre, vous pouvez écrire à notre directrice des communications au [CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com](mailto:CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com).

**Site Web de l'ACITN (CANNT.ca)**  
**Twitter (@CANNT1)**

## CONGRÈS ANNUEL

Le Congrès annuel 2018 de l'ACITN aura pour thème « Notre passé guidera notre avenir ». C'est notre 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire! Votre comité du congrès travaille avec ardeur pour créer une programmation novatrice et captivante qui répond aux besoins des professionnels en néphrologie débutants et chevronnés. Nous espérons vous voir à Québec du 25 au 27 octobre 2018. Nous vous demandons de nous partager vos souvenirs, idées et réflexions sur la façon dont nous pourrions célébrer cette étape importante dans l'histoire de notre association. Veuillez nous partager vos idées en communiquant avec notre bureau.

## FINANCES

En tant qu'association professionnelle à but non lucratif, notre objectif est d'offrir une valeur ajoutée à nos membres afin de remplir notre mission et de concrétiser notre vision. Dans le but d'offrir des services continus, nous recherchons constamment des occasions de croissance et de développement pour maintenir la viabilité de l'association. Nous demeurons fiscalement responsables de la gouvernance de nos coûts pour fonctionner en tant que CA. Votre CA reconnaît la nécessité de faire des prévisions et d'établir un budget en appui à ses efforts pour représenter notre responsabilité financière envers les membres et continue d'en faire sa priorité pour 2018 et les années suivantes. Le rapport annuel 2017 de l'association est accessible sur le site Web de l'ACITN.

**Très cordialement,**  
**Janice MacKay**  
**Présidente élue/trésorière**

# EDTNA Update

The 47th European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association (EDTNA/ERCA) International Conference is in Genoa, Italy, this year. This year's conference will be held from September 15–18, 2018. The deadline for abstract submission was February 28, 2018. The conference theme this year is "Global Approach to Renal Care Innovation—Balancing Compassion and Health Technologies".

With such a complex association as EDTNA/ERCA, with members from more than 75 countries, the management of 19 different languages and several disciplines entails commitment, dedication, and resources. With such a vast membership, this

association has focused on its aim of "Caring Together." Keep yourself continuously informed about the association's activities by visiting the EDTNA/ERCA website: <https://www.edtnaerca.org>

Did you know that EDTNA/ERCA has an electronic library available to you for a free download? You will find valuable information on a variety of topics at [www.edtnaerca.org/education-and-research/electronic-library](https://www.edtnaerca.org/education-and-research/electronic-library)

As a member, you have full access to booklets and publications, both as hard copies, as well as pdf copies. Recently published is *The art of communication—A nurses' guide to implementing best practice in communication*. This

was developed as part of the EDTNA/ERCA's educational objectives for 2017 focusing on improving and fostering best practices in communication with patients. The aim was to gain greater insight and understanding of the importance of effective communication. It is available to members and is one of many valuable tools to help support your practice.

CANNT/ACITN values our partnership with European nephrology professionals and continues to look for ways to support a collaborative relationship. This year, President Heather Dean will be attending the EDTNA/ERCA International Conference in Genoa, Italy.

## Mise à jour—EDTNA

La 47<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale de l'Association européenne d'infirmières et infirmiers de dialyse et de transplantation/Association européenne pour les soins des reins (EDTNA/ERCA) se tiendra du 15 au 18 septembre 2018 à Gênes, en Italie. La date limite pour soumettre un résumé est le 28 février 2018. Le thème de la conférence de cette année est « Global Approach to Renal Care Innovation – Balancing Compassion and Health Technologies » (Une approche globale dans l'innovation en soins rénaux – l'équilibre entre compassion et technologies en santé).

La gestion d'un regroupement aussi complexe que l'EDTNA/ERCA, qui comporte des membres de plus de 75 pays parlant 19 langues différentes et couvrant plusieurs disciplines, demande beaucoup d'engagement, de dévouement et de ressources. Avec autant de membres, l'association s'est

concentrée sur un objectif commun : les soins collaboratifs. Pour vous tenir au courant des activités de l'EDTNA/ERCA, consultez le site Web de l'association : <https://www.edtnaerca.org/>

Saviez-vous que l'association disposait d'une bibliothèque électronique où vous pouvez télécharger gratuitement des documents? Vous y trouverez de précieux renseignements sur divers sujets : [www.edtnaerca.org/education-and-research/electronic-library](https://www.edtnaerca.org/education-and-research/electronic-library)

À titre de membre, vous avez un accès complet à des brochures et à des publications, tant en copie papier qu'en format PDF. Le document « The art of communication : A nurses' guide to implementing best practice in communication » (L'art de la communication : un guide pour le personnel infirmier sur la mise en œuvre de pratiques exemplaires en matière de

communication) y a récemment été publié. Ce document a été élaboré dans le cadre des objectifs éducatifs de l'EDTNA/ERCA pour 2017, axés sur l'amélioration et la promotion de pratiques exemplaires en ce qui a trait à la communication avec les patients. L'objectif était de mieux connaître et comprendre l'importance d'une communication efficace. Il s'agit de l'un des nombreux outils précieux offerts aux membres pour les aider dans leur pratique.

L'ACITN valorise les partenariats avec nos collègues européens en néphrologie et continue de chercher des moyens de favoriser une relation de collaboration. Cette année, notre présidente, Heather Dean, se rendra à Gênes, en Italie, pour participer à la Conférence internationale de l'EDTNA/ERCA.

# Kidneys & Women's Health

Include, Value, Empower

8 March 2018



World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of ISN IFKF

© World Kidney Day 2006 - 2018



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 SPONSORS!

### PLATINUM



### SILVER



### BRONZE



# Burnout and empowerment in hemodialysis nurses working in Quebec: A provincial survey

By Christina Doré, Linda Duffett-Leger, Mary McKenna, Myriam Breau, and Marc Dorais

Copyright © 2018 Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists

## ABSTRACT

*This study investigated a key workplace concern: the existence of burnout and the empowerment status of hemodialysis (HD) registered nurses (RNs) working in Quebec. A sample of 308 participants completed a cross-sectional online survey that included demographic questions and scales for burnout, structural empowerment (SE), and psychological empowerment (PE). The findings revealed that 38% had high levels of emotional exhaustion (EE), 69% reported moderate levels of SE, and 64% moderate levels of PE. SE and PE were significantly related to burnout; therefore, they should be promoted. A website shows potential for empowering HD RNs, as 75% used the Internet to gain information for their practice and 88% would use it for continuing education. In conclusion, high levels of burnout were found among HD RNs in Quebec similar to other North American results. Empowering strategies would be key to reducing their risk of burnout, which a targeted website may help to achieve.*

**Key words:** burnout, empowerment, nurses, hemodialysis

## INTRODUCTION

Burnout manifests as a response to the cumulative effect of stressors within the workplace (Maslach, 2003). Over the years, the Canadian healthcare system has undergone

multiple organizational changes that have led registered nurses (RNs) to face many challenges to maintain quality care with fewer staff. Mounting demands at work create high levels of job stress on RNs who are the largest group of professionals working in the healthcare system (Santé Canada, 2007). Hemodialysis (HD) RNs practice in a highly technical and stressful work environment that is known to be intellectually, physically, and emotionally demanding. In North America, studies reported that burnout affects about 30–41% of RNs working in HD (Flynn, Thomas-Hawkins, & Clarke, 2009; Harwood, Ridley, Wilson, & Laschinger, 2010a; Ridley, Wilson, Harwood, & Laschinger, 2009). The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes burnout as a major global workplace wellness concern and argues for interventions because of its negative effects on employees and organizations (WHO, 2013, 2014). The empowerment of RNs is closely related to workplace wellness since it is viewed as a positive strategy to support nursing practice and enhance RNs' well-being by increasing their job satisfaction and engagement (Laschinger, Finegan, Shamian, & Wilk, 2001). Recent studies have reported that empowerment would be useful to address the burnout of RNs working in HD (Harwood, Ridley, Wilson, & Laschinger, 2010b; Hayes, Douglas, & Bonner, 2014; O'Brien, 2011). To date, there is no information available on the severity of burnout or the empowerment status of HD RNs working in Quebec. Thus, the present study sought to assess the burnout and empowerment status of RNs specializing in HD working in the province of Quebec to obtain accurate and detailed information on the situation.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

*Christina Doré, MScN, PhD(c), RN, Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Quebec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Mont-Laurier, QC*

*Linda Duffett-Leger, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, Health Technology and Informatics, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB*

*Mary McKenna, PhD, Professor and Assistant Dean, School of Graduate Studies, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB*

*Myriam Breau, MScN, PhD (student), RN, Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Moncton, Moncton, NB*

*Marc Dorais, MScN, Statistician, Consultant in Biostatistics*

**Address for correspondence:** Christina Doré, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of School of Graduate Studies, University of New Brunswick, PO Box 4400, 3 Bailey Drive, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3

Email: [cdore@unb.ca](mailto:cdore@unb.ca)

## BACKGROUND

The number of patients with end-stage renal failure receiving HD treatment has been rising steadily in Canada. However, the province of Quebec has a higher rate of new HD patients (MSSS, 2015). Patients are also older and sicker, thus requiring more complex and demanding care (OIIQ-ANQ, 2003). In 2014, there were 4,587 patients in Quebec receiving HD treatment three times per week in a university hospital centre, affiliated hospital, or satellite unit (MSSS, 2015). HD RNs administer the HD treatment and provide direct, individualized continuous care for these patients. HD RNs are responsible for teaching and supporting people receiving HD and their families on how to manage and cope with the illness, and to follow a complex therapeutic regimen (e.g., multiple medications, and strict dietary and fluid restrictions) (Desseix, Merville, & Couzi, 2010).

RNs are known to practise in work environments that are intense and provide a wide range of stressors. Furthermore, a Canadian study revealed that nephrology nursing is a particularly stressful specialty, and that there is a need to better understand the context of care and develop positive work environments (Ridley et al., 2009). Recent studies highlighted numerous stressors in HD such as: (1) the complexity and highly technical nature of care with risks of breakdown of the HD machine (Karkar, Dammang, & Bouhana, 2015) and contamination with blood (Chenoweth, 2013); (2) physically demanding care (Karkar et al., 2015); and (3) management of complications requiring intense reflective thinking and fast actions (Wright & Merriweather, 2013). Other challenges include: inadequate working conditions and low professional status, and poor communication and interprofessional relationships (Bohmert, Kuhnert, & Nienhaus, 2011; Hayes & Bonner, 2010); lack of opportunities, time, and support to update knowledge and skills and for patient education (mandatory for their practice) (Dermody & Bennett, 2008; Hayes & Bonner, 2010); and the intensity of the therapeutic relationship related to dealing with the gravity of the patient's condition, suffering and death (Ashker, Penprase, & Salman, 2012).

According to Maslach (2003), RNs exposed to chronic work stressors are at risk for developing burnout, a syndrome consisting of emotional exhaustion (EE), depersonalization (DP), and reduced personal accomplishment (PA) (Maslach & Jackson, 1986). Emotional exhaustion occurs when an RN feels emotionally and physically depleted from work. Depersonalization is marked by RN irritability, negative attitudes, and/or distancing oneself from patients and others. Reduced personal accomplishment occurs when an RN feels incompetent or useless at work (Maslach, 2003). Burnout is known to have detrimental effects on RNs, patients, and healthcare organizations so it is important to identify effective interventions to address burnout (Maslach, 2003). Furthermore, Maslach, Schaufeli, and Leiter (2001) argue that burnout develops from a combination of individuals and organizational contributing factors, and propose that burnout interventions can target either the individuals or the organization. A combined approach (individual-organizational) is recommended due to longer-lasting positive effects (Awa, Plaumann, & Walter, 2010). Empowerment is one burnout strategy that can address both the individual and organizational needs, and was recently found to be promising in reducing burnout among HD RNs (Harwood et al., 2010b; Hayes et al., 2014; O'Brien, 2011).

Workplace empowerment is a process of enabling RNs to optimize control over their practice (Page, 2004). It has two distinctive perspectives that should be integrated to obtain a global perspective (Spreitzer, 2008). Structural empowerment (SE) refers to the organization and psychological empowerment (PE) refers to the individual. Structural empowerment (SE) focuses on actions taken to enhance the shared power (manager-RNs) and decision-making influencing the way RNs accomplish their work. Kanter (1977, 1993) has argued that the organizational structures put in place by managers are essential

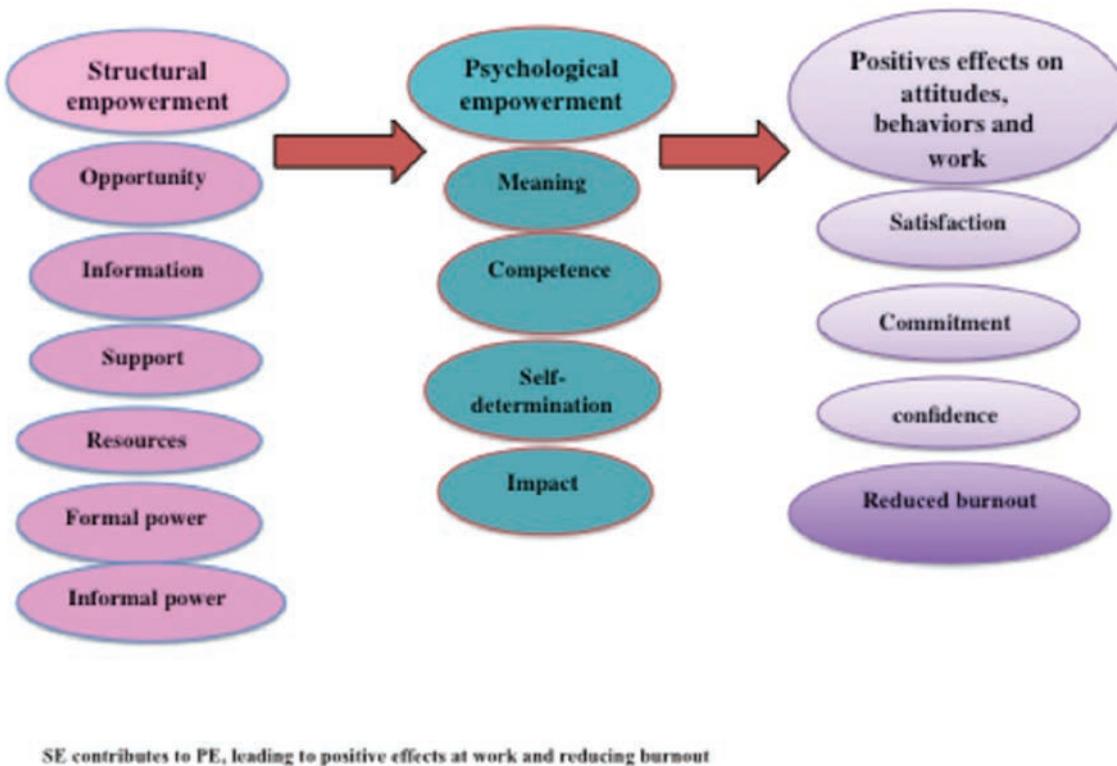
to the growth of empowerment. Health organizations are considered empowering to RNs if access to six dimensions is provided: opportunity, information, resources, support, and formal and informal power (Laschinger & al., 2001). For RNs, these dimensions involve: access to opportunities to learn and grow; information and resources essential to perform work; the support needed; a job that provides high visibility, creativity, and flexibility in completing tasks; and positive relationships at work with colleagues and managers. Working conditions are improved by these empowering structures, causing RNs to be more effective, satisfied, and engaged in their work, leading to a reduced risk of burnout, and resulting in better outcomes for patients (Laschinger, Finegan, Shamian, & Wilk, 2003).

Psychological empowerment (PE) focuses on the individual's attributes of empowerment contributing to a cognitive state of feeling empowered (Seibert, Silver, & Randolph, 2004). Spreitzer (1995) identified four cognitive dimensions that are key motivational factors that employees must experience at work to determine their own work role, accomplish meaningful work, and influence important decisions. The four dimensions are: meaning, competence, self-determination, and impact. They involve the employees' value of work task, goal, or purpose judged in relation to their own ideals or standards; the capacity to do the work well; a sense of choice about how to perform the work; and a sense that the work accomplished or their organizational contribution makes a difference. Authors have reported on the benefits of empowering healthcare professionals, such as RNs, without giving a precise and simple way to attain it (Dooher & Byrt, 2005). One potential strategy to strengthen empowerment and address burnout risk is through the use of information and communication technology (ICT) since it was recently suggested that ICT can respond to individuals' needs, and support the professional practice of RNs (Jackson, Fraser, & Ash, 2014).

Burnout is an issue affecting HD RNs and using ICT to promote empowerment in HD may enhance their well-being and reduce burnout risk. Research on nursing burnout and empowerment in HD is limited worldwide and non-existent in Quebec, and is therefore worthy of study.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Laschinger, Finegan, Shamian and Wilk (2001) actualized Kanter's theory of structural power in organizations and integrated Spreitzer's theory of psychological empowerment in the workplace, which serves as a guiding framework for this study because it can examine burnout and the global empowerment of RNs (see Figure 1). They contend that organizations that provide access to the six structural empowerment (SE) dimensions in the workplace allow the emergence of the four psychological empowerment (PE) dimensions within individuals. Thus, RNs' attitudes, behaviours, and work are positively influenced, resulting in a greater control over situations, work productivity, trust, and engagement toward the organization and job satisfaction, consequently enhancing the well-being of RNs and reducing their risk of burnout.



**Figure 1: Actualized Kanter Theory**

## METHODOLOGY

### Aim and Objectives

The purpose of this descriptive correlational study was to explore the burnout and empowerment status of RNs specialized in HD working in the province of Quebec, and to achieve the following objectives: (1) Assess their level of burnout; (2) evaluate their SE and PE indicators; and (3) explore association(s) between burnout and empowerment.

### Sample: Participants and Data Collection

Approval to conduct this study was granted by the University of New Brunswick's Research Ethics Board and the OIQ (Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec). Participants were recruited from the OIQ. On March 31, 2016, there were 1,375 RNs practising in nephrology (HD, peritoneal dialysis, pre-dialysis, transplant, research, and others unspecified areas) of which approximately 60% (approximately 825 RNs) worked in HD (Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues de néphrologie, personal communication, June, 6, 2016). The OIQ provided a contact list with email addresses of 376 RNs who agreed to participate in any study when they renewed their nursing license (29% of nephrology RNs). Strategies used to enhance participation followed key aspects of the Dillman survey method (Dillman & Dillman, 2000; Dillman, Smyth, & Christian, 2014). In addition to sending emails to these RNs, a recruitment poster was posted in Quebec HD centres, with follow-up telephone

calls to HD nursing managers and visits to 13 HD centres in the surrounding Montreal area. An online survey was used to collect data in French from November 9 to December 12, 2016. The anonymous survey required approximately 30 minutes to complete. In the study, there were 308 respondents out of a possible 825 participants, representing a response rate of 39%. The average response rate is 27% for surveys with healthcare staff (Carley-Baxter et al., 2009) and 33% for online surveys (Nulty, 2008).

### Instruments

A questionnaire developed by the primary researcher was used to collect information on sociodemographic/occupational data (Table 1) and Internet use (Table 2), and three pre-existing instruments on burnout, structural and psychological empowerment. The occupational section was composed of a well-being at work measure, which included pre-existing questions (Table 3): one item from the Psychological General Well-Being Index (Dupuy, 1977) to assess well-being; one item from the Overall Job Satisfaction Scale (Judge, Boudreau, & Bretz, 1994) to assess work satisfaction; three items from the Affective Organizational Commitment Scale (Meyer & Allen, 1997) to assess work engagement; and two items developed to capture the RNs' intention to leave their HD practice and the profession. All pre-existing instruments had sound psychometric properties (i.e., valid and reliable) Cronbach's alpha between 0.65 and 0.80) (Vaske, Beaman, & Sponarski, 2017).

**Table 1: Sociodemographic and Occupational Descriptive Profile of Participants**

| Characteristics   | Number | Percentage |       |                    |
|---|--------|------------|-------|--------------------|
| Gender (n=297)  |        |            |       |                    |
| Female  | 271    | 91.25      |       |                    |
| Male  | 26     | 8.75       |       |                    |
| Marital Status (n=299)  |        |            |       |                    |
| Single  | 51     | 17.06      |       |                    |
| Married   | 108    | 36.12      |       |                    |
| Common law  | 111    | 37.12      |       |                    |
| Separated   | 8      | 2.68       |       |                    |
| Divorced  | 20     | 6.69       |       |                    |
| Widowed   | 1      | 0.33       |       |                    |
| Children (n=299)  |        |            |       |                    |
| 0   | 95     | 31.77      |       |                    |
| 1   | 57     | 19.06      |       |                    |
| 2   | 99     | 33.11      |       |                    |
| 3   | 40     | 13.38      |       |                    |
| > 3   | 8      | 2.68       |       |                    |
| Educational Background (n=301)  |        |            |       |                    |
| College diploma in Nursing  | 158    | 52.49      |       |                    |
| Baccalaureat  | 102    | 33.89      |       |                    |
| Certificate (1-2)   | 29     | 9.63       |       |                    |
| Master  | 12     | 3.99       |       |                    |
| Certification in Nephrology (n=299)                                   |        |            |       |                    |
| Yes   | 29     | 9.70       |       |                    |
| No  | 270    | 90.30      |       |                    |
| Continuing Education in Nephrology Nursing (in the last year) (n=300) |        |            |       |                    |
| Yes   | 203    | 67.67      |       |                    |
| No  | 97     | 32.33      |       |                    |
| Work Status (n=296)   |        |            |       |                    |
| Full time   | 192    | 64.86      |       |                    |
| Part time   | 104    | 35.14      |       |                    |
| Type of Renal Unit (n=296)  |        |            |       |                    |
| University hospital centre  | 71     | 23.99      |       |                    |
| Affiliated hospital   | 173    | 58.45      |       |                    |
| Satellite   | 52     | 17.57      |       |                    |
| RN-to-Patient Ratio (n=297)   |        |            |       |                    |
| 1:2   | 18     | 6.06       |       |                    |
| 1:3   | 163    | 54.88      |       |                    |
| 1:4   | 91     | 30.64      |       |                    |
| 1:5   | 25     | 8.42       |       |                    |
|   |        |            |       |                    |
|   | Number | Percentage | Mean  | Standard Deviation |
| Age (years) (n=295)   |        |            |       |                    |
| 20-30   | 55     | 18.64      | 41.60 | 10.51              |
| 31-40   | 87     | 29.49      |       |                    |
| 41-50   | 80     | 27.12      |       |                    |
| 51-60   | 67     | 22.71      |       |                    |
| + 61  | 6      | 2.03       |       |                    |

*continued on page 18...*

|                                 | Number | Percentage | Mean  | Standard Deviation |
|---------------------------------|--------|------------|-------|--------------------|
| Seniority in HD (years) (n=297) |        |            |       |                    |
| < 1                             | 8      | 2.69       | 9.12  | 7.08               |
| 1–5                             | 112    | 37.71      |       |                    |
| 6–10                            | 73     | 24.58      |       |                    |
| 11–15                           | 44     | 14.81      |       |                    |
| 16–20                           | 37     | 12.46      |       |                    |
| 21–25                           | 14     | 4.71       |       |                    |
| 26–30                           | 9      | 3.03       |       |                    |
| Seniority as RN (years) (n=297) |        |            |       |                    |
| < 1                             | 3      | 1.01       | 16.48 | 10.27              |
| 1–5                             | 42     | 14.14      |       |                    |
| 6–10                            | 55     | 18.52      |       |                    |
| 11–15                           | 58     | 19.53      |       |                    |
| 16–20                           | 38     | 12.79      |       |                    |
| 21–25                           | 31     | 10.44      |       |                    |
| 26–30                           | 36     | 12.12      |       |                    |
| 31–35                           | 22     | 7.41       |       |                    |
| 36–40                           | 10     | 3.37       |       |                    |
| 41–43                           | 2      | 0.67       |       |                    |

N.B. Not all respondents answered the questions; therefore, the calculations were performed with available data.

The Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) was developed by Maslach and Jackson (1986), and translated into French by Dion and Tessier (1994). This 22-item questionnaire assesses the three dimensions of burnout: emotional exhaustion (EE), depersonalization (DP), and personal accomplishment (PA). Each item is rated using a seven-point Likert-type scale ranging from 0 (*never*) to 6 (*every day*). For the analysis, the average of each dimension's subscale was used. These scores were then categorized into low, average, and high risk of burnout according to established normative data for North American RNs (Maslach & Jackson, 1986). High risk of burnout is observed with high mean scores of EE and DP, and low mean scores of PA. Currently, subscale scores are mostly presented separately (Dyrbye, West, & Shanafelt, 2009). The MBI has well established reliability with Cronbach's alpha subscale scores ranging from 0.64–0.90 (Dion & Tessier, 1994), and in this study, scores ranged from 0.71–0.91 (see Table 4).

The Conditions for Work Effectiveness (CWEQ-II) was developed by Laschinger et al. (2001) and translated into French by Laschinger and her team in 2005 (personal communication, July 27, 2015). The CWEQ-II is a 19-item questionnaire measuring the six dimensions of structural empowerment (SE): opportunity, information, support, resources, and formal power and informal power. Each item was rated using a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*none*) to 5 (*a lot*). The global score of SE is calculated by summing up the mean score of each dimension's subscale, and can vary from low, moderate, and high. The global score represents the RN's perception of working in an empowering work environment. The internal consistency of the CWEQ-II was previously reported with Cronbach's alphas of 0.97 for the global score and subscale scores ranging from 0.67–0.89 (Laschinger et al., 2001). We obtained Cronbach's

Table 2: Internet Use Behaviours Descriptive Profile of HD RNs

| Characteristics  | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------|------------|
| Where (mostly) (n=294)   |        |            |
| Home   | 283    | 96.26      |
| Work   | 11     | 3.74       |
| When (mostly) (n=294)  |        |            |
| During work  | 12     | 4.08       |
| After work   | 282    | 95.92      |
| Purpose: To seek information for personal health (n=290)                 |        |            |
| Yes  | 201    | 69.31      |
| No   | 89     | 30.69      |
| Work (updating practice) (n=292)   |        |            |
| Yes  | 219    | 75.00      |
| No   | 73     | 25.00      |
| Part of a chat group/online support group (n=292)                        |        |            |
| Yes  | 11     | 3.77       |
| No   | 281    | 96.23      |
| At present using Internet to obtain continuing education credits (n=290) |        |            |
| Yes  | 130    | 44.83      |
| No   | 160    | 55.17      |
| Would use Internet for continuing education (n=259)                      |        |            |
| Yes  | 229    | 88.42      |
| No   | 30     | 11.58      |

N.B. Not all respondents answered the questions; therefore, the calculations were performed with available data.

**Table 3: Wellness at Work Descriptive Profile of Participants**

| Characteristics   | Number | Percentage |
|---|--------|------------|
| Sense of well-being (in last month) (n=294)                                 |        |            |
| In excellent spirits  | 19     | 6.46       |
| In very good spirits  | 47     | 15.99      |
| In good spirits   | 117    | 39.80      |
| Up and down in spirits a lot  | 90     | 30.61      |
| In low spirits mostly   | 14     | 4.76       |
| In very low spirits   | 7      | 2.38       |
| Work satisfaction (n=292)   |        |            |
| Yes   | 229    | 78.42      |
| No  | 63     | 21.58      |
| Sense of pride to work in the organization (n=294)                          |        |            |
| Yes   | 246    | 83.67      |
| No  | 48     | 16.33      |
| Strong personal attachment to the organization (n=292)                      |        |            |
| Yes   | 193    | 66.10      |
| No  | 99     | 33.90      |
| Considering to leave job for another specialty (n=291)                      |        |            |
| Yes   | 78     | 26.80      |
| No  | 213    | 73.20      |
| Considering changing career (n=292)   |        |            |
| Yes   | 43     | 14.73      |
| No  | 249    | 85.27      |
| Manager appears concerned about well-being at work and health (n=293)       |        |            |
| Yes   | 133    | 45.39      |
| No  | 160    | 54.61      |
| Manager appears committed to implement changes to improve workplace (n=294) |        |            |
| Yes   | 147    | 50.00      |
| No  | 147    | 50.00      |

N.B. Not all respondents answered the questions; therefore, the calculations were performed with available data.

alphas of 0.89 for the global score and a range from 0.70–0.85 for subscale scores (see Table 4).

The Psychological Empowerment Scale (PES), developed by Spreitzer (1995) and translated into French by Boudrias, Rousseau, Migneault, Morin, and Courcy (2010), is a 12-item questionnaire measuring the four dimensions of psychological empowerment (PE): meaning, self-determination, competence, and impact. Each item was rated using

a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*none*) to 5 (*a lot*). The global score of PE is calculated by summing up the mean scores of each dimension's subscale, and can vary from low, moderate, and high. The global score of PE represents the RN's perception of being empowered at work. The internal consistency of PES was previously demonstrated with Cronbach's alphas of 0.90 for the global score and subscale scores ranging from 0.73–0.90 (Boudrias et al., 2010). We calculated Cronbach's alphas of 0.90 for the global score and a range from 0.65–0.73 for the subscale scores (see Table 4).

### Data Analysis

Descriptive analyses were performed for continuous variables using mean and standard deviation (SD) for normal distribution or median with interquartile range for non-normal distribution. Categorical variables were presented using frequency and percentage data. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was performed to verify the normality of distributions. Cronbach's alphas were calculated to estimate the reliability within the burnout, structural empowerment (SE), and psychological empowerment (PE) scales and subscales. Wilcoxon Mann-Whitney test (for two groups) or Kruskal-Wallis test (for three groups or more) were used to compare the scores between groups. Comparisons between categorical variables were performed using the Chi-Square test or Fisher's exact test. Spearman correlations were calculated between scale scores. All burnout analysis used North American cut-off values. Missing data were removed from the analysis. SAS software, version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA) was used to perform the analysis and a *p* value ≤ .05 was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

### HD RNs' characteristics

The sociodemographic and occupational profile of participants is summarized in Table 1. The majority of HD RNs were women (91%), either married or in a relationship (73%), and had children (68%). Half were older than 40 years (52%) with a mean age across participants of 41.6 years (standard deviation [SD] = 10.51). Twenty percent of these RNs were considered novice in HD (less than five years) and 20% were considered senior (more than 16 years) with a mean number of years worked in HD across participants of 9.12 years (SD = 7.08). Two-thirds (65%) of RNs were working full-time and providing HD treatments in a university hospital (24%), affiliated hospital (58%), or in a satellite (18%). RNs were either college prepared (52%) or university educated (48%).

The descriptive statistics on burnout, structural empowerment (SE), and psychological empowerment (PE) for the participants in this study are presented in Table 4. In regard to burnout, the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) scores indicate moderate levels across all three subscales: emotional exhaustion (EE) (mean [*M*] = 22.48, [SD] = 11.65), depersonalization (DP) (*M* = 5.96, *SD* = 5.47), and personal accomplishment (PA) (*M* = 36.12, *SD* = 6.61). Thirty-eight percent of the sample had high levels of EE,

*continued on page 21...*

**Table 4: Burnout and Empowerment Descriptive Profile of Participants**

| Characteristics  | Classification Percentage |               | Scores |       | Possibilities Range | Cronbach's Alpha |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|---------------------|------------------|
|  |                           |               | Mean   | SD*   |                     |                  |
| Burnout  |                           |               | 22.48  | 11.65 | (0–54)              | 0.91             |
| Emotional Exhaustion (EE)  | Quebec                    | North America |        |       |                     |                  |
| Low  | 41%                       | 41%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mod  | 26%                       | 21%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| High   | 33%                       | 38%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| Depersonalization (DP)   | Quebec                    | North America | 5.96   | 5.47  | (0–30)              | 0.71             |
| Low  | 46%                       | 56%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mod  | 23%                       | 22%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| High   | 31%                       | 22%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| Personal Accomplishment (PA)   | Quebec                    | North America | 36.12  | 6.61  | (0–48)              | 0.71             |
| Low  | 33%                       | 33%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mod  | 32%                       | 35%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| High   | 35%                       | 32%           |        |       |                     |                  |
| Cut-offs thresholds to define RNs burnout risk according to Quebec classification: EE: low ( $\leq 18$ ), moderate (19–27), high ( $\geq 28$ ); DP: low ( $\leq 3$ ), moderate (4–7), high ( $\geq 8$ ); PA: low ( $\geq 40$ ), moderate (39–35), high ( $\leq 34$ ).          |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Cut-offs thresholds to define RNs burnout risk according to North American classification: EE: low ( $\leq 18$ ), moderate (19–26), high ( $\geq 27$ ); DP: low ( $\leq 5$ ), moderate (6–9), high ( $\geq 10$ ); PA: low ( $\geq 40$ ), moderate (39–34), high ( $\leq 33$ ). |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Empowerment  |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Structural Empowerment (SE)  |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Opportunity  | —                         |               | 3.41   | 0.93  | (3–15)              | 0.82             |
| Information  | —                         |               | 2.36   | 0.93  | (3–15)              | 0.84             |
| Support  | —                         |               | 2.67   | 0.98  | (3–15)              | 0.85             |
| Resources  | —                         |               | 2.79   | 0.82  | (3–15)              | 0.72             |
| Formal Power   | —                         |               | 2.16   | 0.83  | (3–15)              | 0.70             |
| Informal Power   | —                         |               | 3.36   | 0.79  | (4–20)              | 0.73             |
| Total Score  |                           |               | 16.74  | 3.80  | (6–30)              | 0.89             |
| Low  | 25.48%                    |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mod  | 68.82%                    |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| High   | 5.70%                     |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mean range scores for each dimension (1–5).  |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Cut-offs of SE global score: Low (6–13), moderate (14–22), high (23–30).   |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Psychological Empowerment (PE)   |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Meaning  | —                         |               | 3.78   | 0.73  | (3–15)              | 0.66             |
| Competency   | —                         |               | 3.71   | 0.74  | (3–15)              | 0.70             |
| Self-determination   | —                         |               | 3.49   | 0.79  | (3–15)              | 0.65             |
| Impact   | —                         |               | 3.44   | 0.82  | (3–15)              | 0.73             |
| Total Score  |                           |               | 14.42  | 2.75  | (4–20)              | 0.90             |
| Low  | 4.89%                     |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mod  | 63.91%                    |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| High   | 31.20%                    |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Mean range scores for each dimension (1–5).  |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |
| Cut-offs of PE global score: Low (4–9), moderate (10–15), high (16–20).  |                           |               |        |       |                     |                  |

N.B. Not all respondents answered the questions; therefore, the calculations were performed with available data.

\*SD: standard deviation

*...continued from page 19*

22% had high levels of DP, and 33% had low levels of PA. For SE, the CWEQ-II global scores indicated that two-thirds (69%) of HD RNs perceived their workplaces as moderately empowering. For all RN respondents, global scores of SE were of moderate levels ( $M = 16.74$ ,  $SD = 3.80$ ). In addition, subscale scores demonstrated that RNs rated their workplaces to provide inadequate access to information ( $M = 2.36$ ,  $SD = 0.84$ ), support ( $M = 2.67$ ,  $SD = 0.85$ ), resources ( $M = 2.79$ ,  $SD = 0.72$ ), opportunity ( $M = 3.41$ ,  $SD = 0.82$ ), and a lack of formal power ( $M = 2.16$ ,  $SD = 0.70$ ) and informal power ( $M = 3.36$ ,  $SD = 0.73$ ). For PE, the Psychological Empowerment Scale (PES) global scores demonstrated that nearly two-thirds (64%) of HD RNs felt moderately empowered at work. RNs who responded reported total scores of PE that were of moderate levels ( $M = 14.42$ ,  $SD = 2.75$ ); subscale scores were rated lower in impact ( $M = 3.44$ ,  $SD = 0.73$ ) and self-determination ( $M = 3.49$ ,  $SD = 0.65$ ), and higher in competency ( $M = 3.71$ ,  $SD = 0.70$ ) and meaning ( $M = 3.78$ ,  $SD = 0.66$ ). In addition, 78% of HD RNs reported being satisfied and 34% being disengaged at work, and 30% complained of being up and down in spirits a lot, while 27% of HD RNs intended to leave their job for another specialty and 15% intended to leave the profession (Table 3). Internet use behaviours were examined to understand if a professional website would be useful to address HD RNs' health needs and strengthen their empowerment. Results are presented in Table 2. Almost all HD RNs (96%) reported having access to the Internet after work hours. Two-thirds (69%) of HD RNs used the Internet to gain information on personal health needs, whereas three-quarters (75%) of HD RNs used it for work-related topics and information on evidence-based innovations regarding their practice. Nearly half (44%) of these RNs reported using the Internet as a modality to obtain continuing education credits, and the majority (88%) indicated that they would actively use the Internet for continuing education if given the chance.

### **Sociodemographic and Professional Factors**

#### **Influencing Burnout of HD RNs**

The results demonstrated that there were no statistically significant associations between the three burnout subscales and gender, education background, the type of renal unit, and the RN-to-patient ratio in our sample. However, single, separated, divorced, and widowed participants had higher scores of depersonalization (DP) ( $p = .0244$ ) and lower scores of personal accomplishment (PA) ( $p = .0260$ ). Participants who had at least one child had higher scores of emotional exhaustion (EE) ( $p = .0103$ ) and depersonalization (DP) ( $p = .0090$ ). Participants who worked full-time had higher scores of PA ( $p = .0280$ ). When participants were compared between low and high risk of burnout, RNs with more seniority in HD had higher scores of PA ( $p = .0503$ ), and when compared between low/moderate and high risks of burnout, older HD RNs had higher scores of PA ( $p = .0357$ ). With the RN-to-patient ratio, a trend was identified: as the RN-to-patient ratio

increased from 1:3 to 1:4, an increase in the levels of emotional exhaustion (EE) and depersonalization (DP) levels occurred. In Table 5, all associations between wellness at work characteristics with burnout and empowerment scales were significant ( $p = < .05$ ), where the satisfaction, engagement, and well-being at work were inversely proportional to greater EE and DP scores, and proportional to greater PA scores. In addition, higher scores of structural empowerment (SE) and psychological empowerment (PE) were associated with greater satisfaction, engagement, and well-being at work.

### **Associations Between Empowerment and Burnout of HD RNs**

Spearman's correlation associations between burnout and structural empowerment (SE) and with psychological empowerment (PE) are presented in Table 6. All correlations were statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ). SE and PE (subscales and scales) were negatively correlated with the emotional exhaustion (EE) and depersonalization (DP) scales while being positively associated with the personal accomplishment (PA) scale, indicating that higher scores of SE and PE are associated with a lower risk of burnout (all three dimensions).

## **DISCUSSION**

To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate burnout and empowerment of HD RNs working in Quebec and to examine the relationships between empowerment and burnout. Given the stressful nature of HD, it is not surprising that nearly 40% of these HD RNs had high levels of emotional exhaustion (EE), 44% experienced dehumanizing contact with their patients, and 33% had a low sense of personal accomplishment (PA). These results support previous research reporting high levels of burnout among North American HD RNs (Flynn et al., 2009; Harwood et al., 2010a, 2010b; O'Brien 2011).

Results of this study suggest that the age of HD RNs and their seniority in HD increased their levels of personal accomplishment (PA). These findings are consistent with results from a previous study indicating that HD RNs had higher levels of PA when compared to intensive care unit (ICU) RNs because they were older and more experienced (Arikan, Köksal, & Gökçe, 2007). HD RNs' professional activities are oftentimes reported being similar as those of ICU RNs. Conversely, another study demonstrated that older and more senior staff reported lower levels of PA (Ross, Jones, Callaghan, Eales, & Ashman, 2009). However, this study did not distinguish frequency ratings of clinical versus non-clinical staff (e.g., hospital porters). Our results may be related to the fact that HD RNs who are older and have more years of employment have a higher level of experience and decision-making skills that could contribute to greater confidence and enhanced sense of personal efficacy. We found that HD RNs working full-time had higher levels of PA. Similar and contradictory findings were reported in the literature. According to a previous study conducted in the general nursing population, RNs working full-time

**Table 5: Associations Among RNs' Wellness at Work Characteristics, Burnout, and Empowerment**

| Variables   | Burnout Subscales and Global Score of Empowerment <sup>a</sup> |                        |                              |                             |                                |
|---|--|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | Emotional Exhaustion (EE)                                      | Depersonalization (DP) | Personal Accomplishment (PA) | Structural Empowerment (SE) | Psychological Empowerment (PE) |
| <b>Well-being at Work (n=294)</b>                           |  |                        |                              |                             |                                |
| In excellent spirits  | 11.0 (3.0–19.0)  | 2.5 (1.0–6.0)          | 41.0 (37.0–45.0)             | 19.5 (17.25–20.58)          | 15.0 (13.33–17.67)             |
| In very good spirits  | 10.0 (7.0–23.0)  | 3.0 (1.0–7.0)          | 39.5 (35.0–43.0)             | 18.67 (16.33–20.75)         | 16.0 (14.0–17.33)              |
| In good spirits mostly                                      | 17.0 (12.0–25.0)   | 3.0 (1.0–7.0)          | 37.0 (32.0–41.0)             | 16.33 (14.42–19.17)         | 14.67 (13.0–16.33)             |
| I have been up and down in spirits a lot                    | 30.0 (24.0–37.0)   | 7.0 (3.0–11.0)         | 35.0 (30.5–38.5)             | 15.33 (12.67–18.29)         | 13.67 (11.67–15.0)             |
| In low spirits mostly                                       | 38.0 (27.0–41.0)   | 5.0 (5.0–14.0)         | 38.0 (27.0–41.0)             | 13.92 (9.83–16.42)          | 11.67 (9.0–14.67)              |
| In very low spirits   | 30.0 (20.0–46.0)   | 10.5 (6.0–12.0)        | 38.0 (35.0–42.0)             | 16.75 (15.58–16.83)         | 15.5 (11.67–17.0)              |
| p value <sup>b</sup>  | <.0001   | 0.0002                 | <.0001                       | 0.0003                      | <.0001                         |
| <b>Work Satisfaction (n=292)</b>                            |  |                        |                              |                             |                                |
| - Yes   | 19.0 (11.5–27.0)   | 3.0 (1.0–7.0)          | 38.0 (33.0–41.0)             | 17.25 (14.5–19.88)          | 15.0 (13.33–16.67)             |
| - No  | 36.0 (27.0–40.0)   | 8.0 (3.0–14.0)         | 34.0 (30.0–39.0)             | 14.58 (12.67–16.83)         | 12.33 (10.67–14.67)            |
| p value <sup>b</sup>  | <.0001   | <.0001                 | .0018                        | <.0001                      | <.0001                         |
| <b>Work Engagement (n=294)</b>                              |  |                        |                              |                             |                                |
| - Yes   | 19.0 (12.5–28.0)   | 4.0 (2.0–8.0)          | 38.0 (33.0–41.0)             | 17.33 (14.58–19.83)         | 14.67 (13.0–16.67)             |
| - No  | 33.5 (23.5–41.0)   | 7.5 (2.0–14.0)         | 33.5 (28.5–37.5)             | 13.71 (11.42–15.58)         | 12.5 (10.33–14.5)              |
| p value <sup>b</sup>  | <.0001   | .0044                  | .0004                        | <.0001                      | <.0001                         |
| <b>Intention to Leave Job for Another Specialty (n=291)</b> |  |                        |                              |                             |                                |
| - Yes   | 26.5 (18.5–36.0)   | 6.0 (3.0–11.0)         | 35.0 (30.0–39.0)             |                             |                                |
| - No  | 20.0 (12.0–28.0)   | 4.0 (2.0–8.0)          | 37.5 (33.0–42.0)             |                             |                                |
| p value <sup>b</sup>  | .0008  | .0228                  | .0102                        |                             |                                |
| <b>Changing Career (n=292)</b>                              |  |                        |                              |                             |                                |
| - Yes   | 29.0 (19.0–38.0)   | 6.0 (3.0–14.0)         | 35.0 (30.0–39.0)             |                             |                                |
| - No  | 21.0 (13.0–29.0)   | 4.0 (2.0–8.0)          | 37.0 (32.0–41.0)             |                             |                                |
| p value <sup>b</sup>  | .0027  | 0.0314                 | 0.0216                       |                             |                                |

<sup>a</sup> Data are presented as median and interquartile range (Q1–Q3).

<sup>b</sup> Comparisons of two groups were done using Wilcoxon Mann-Whitney test and comparisons of more than 2 groups were done using Kruskal-Wallis test.

were more engaged in their organizations and invested in their work, and they felt more satisfied and competent (Oudot, 2009), which may have contributed to higher levels of PA. In contrast, a study that investigated the working status of women suggested that those working part-time may achieve a better work-life balance, which enables them to better manage work demands and increase their general sense of PA (Higgins, Duxbury, & Johnson, 2000). With regard to marital status, we found that single, separated, divorced, and widowed HD RNs had higher levels of depersonalization (DP), as well as lower levels of PA. Moreover, we found that HD RNs with children had higher levels of emotional exhaustion (EE) and DP. Another study has also shown that HD RNs with children had high levels of EE and DP with lower levels of PA (Kavurmaci, Cantekin, & Tan, 2014). RNs in these circumstances may benefit from additional support in the workplace. Workload had an impact on burnout levels such as an increase of EE and DP levels that occurred when the RN-to-patient ratio increased from 1:3 to 1:4. This is important information for nursing practice when designing guidelines for suitable workloads. Previously, a North American study found that excessive

workload, care activities left undone (due to lack of time), and unsupportive work environments were the main contributors to HD RNs' burnout (Flynn et al., 2009).

The results in this study indicate that workplace empowerment would be key to reducing burnout and enhancing the well-being of HD RNs; the results further support the use of Laschinger, Finegan, Shamian and Wilk's (2001) conceptual framework to examine and address burnout and empowerment of HD RNs. Specifically, structural empowerment (SE) represents the perception of RNs about the presence of empowering structures within the workplace, and our findings demonstrated that SE was significantly negatively associated with emotional exhaustion (EE) and depersonalization (DP), and positively associated with personal accomplishment (PA). This means that for HD RNs in our sample, higher levels of SE reduced the levels of EE and DP and increased the levels of PA. These results are consistent with the Hatcher and Laschinger (1996) study, which discovered among Canadian RNs that empowering structures in the workplace reduce burnout by impacting its three dimensions. Although these associations are well established in the literature concerning RNs in general

**Table 6: Correlations Between Burnout and Structural Empowerment (SE) and Psychological Empowerment (PE) (Subscales and Global Score)**

| Variables                           | EE                  | DP                  | PA                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>SE</b>                           |                     |                     |                    |
| Opportunity                         | $\rho = -0.28^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.15^*$    | $\rho = 0.33^{**}$ |
| Information                         | $\rho = -0.16^*$    | $\rho = -0.05^*$    | $\rho = 0.25^{**}$ |
| Support                             | $\rho = -0.34^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.16^*$    | $\rho = 0.25^{**}$ |
| Resources                           | $\rho = -0.40^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.20^{**}$ | $\rho = 0.15^*$    |
| Formal Power                        | $\rho = -0.37^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.10^*$    | $\rho = 0.21^{**}$ |
| Informal Power                      | $\rho = -0.21^*$    | $\rho = -0.13^*$    | $\rho = 0.28^{**}$ |
| SE Global Score                     | $\rho = -0.40^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.16^*$    | $\rho = 0.34^{**}$ |
| <b>PE</b>                           |                     |                     |                    |
| Meaning                             | $\rho = -0.44^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.27^{**}$ | $\rho = 0.41^{**}$ |
| Competency                          | $\rho = -0.29^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.14^*$    | $\rho = 0.49^{**}$ |
| Self-determination                  | $\rho = -0.35^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.18^*$    | $\rho = 0.39^{**}$ |
| Impact                              | $\rho = -0.35^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.15^*$    | $\rho = 0.35^{**}$ |
| PE Global Score                     | $\rho = -0.40^{**}$ | $\rho = -0.20^*$    | $\rho = 0.45^{**}$ |
| SE Global Score and PE Global Score | $\rho = 0.54^{**}$  |                     |                    |

$\rho$ : Spearman correlation coefficient

\*  $p < .05$    \*\*  $p < .0001$

(EE: emotional exhaustion; DP: depersonalization;  
PA: personal accomplishment)

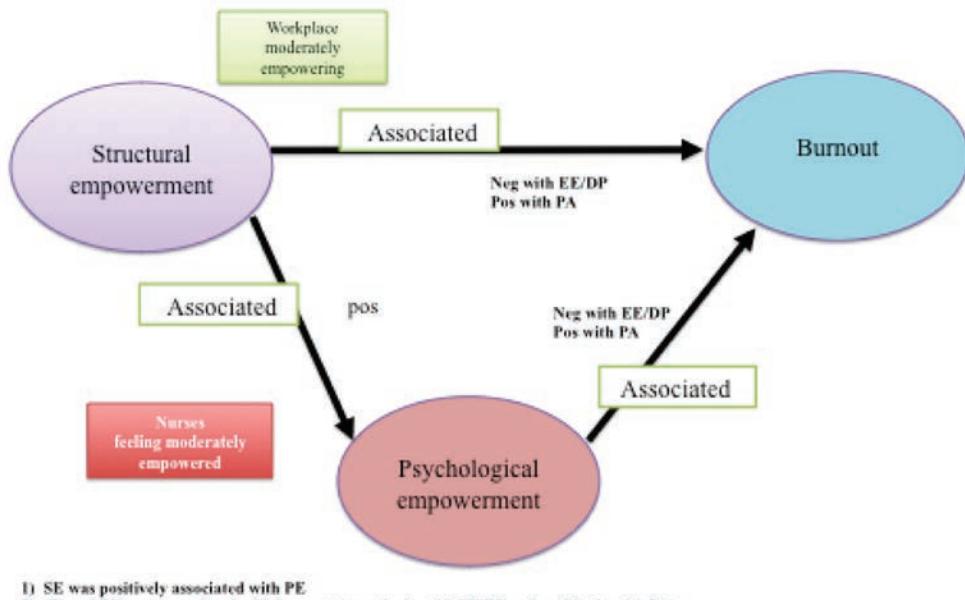
nursing practice, our results contribute to the very limited evidence in HD, indicating that SE within this specialized setting is beneficial in reducing burnout among RNs (Hayes, Douglas, & Bonner, 2015; Harwood et al., 2010b; O'Brien, 2011).

Psychological empowerment (PE) represents the perception of RNs being empowered at work. Our findings demonstrated that PE was significantly negatively associated with emotional exhaustion (EE) and depersonalization (DP), and positively associated with personal accomplishment (PA). Again, this means that for HD RNs in our sample, higher levels of PE reduced the levels of EE and DP, and increased the levels of PA. Although these results are consistent with previous studies with RNs in general practice, our results highlight that HD RNs who possess individual characteristics of empowerment are more likely to feel empowered at work and have lower risk of burnout (Boudrias, Morin, & Brodeur, 2012; Hochwalder, 2007). However, O'Brien (2011) reported that structural empowerment (SE) was the sole predictor of EE among RNs working in outpatient

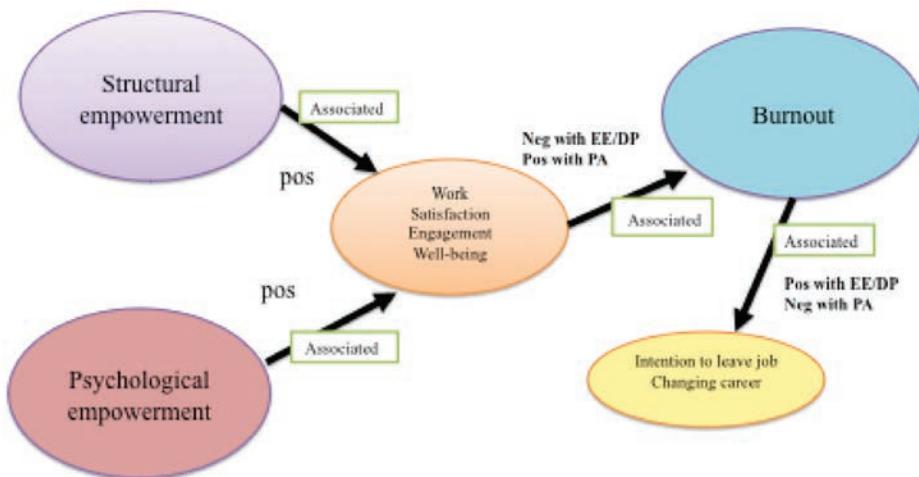
HD centres. When comparing our findings for Quebec HD RNs with results from an American study conducted in HD (O'Brien, 2011), we find that the American HD RNs rated their workplace higher than Quebec HD RNs in terms of having access to information to perform work, support from peers and manager, and opportunities for continuing education and professional development. American HD RNs also felt they had low access to formal power and lack of resources in their work environment. Harwood et al. (2010b) conducted a study on SE with Canadian nephrology RNs (68% were HD RNs) and found a significant negative association between the global SE score and EE (correlation [ $r$ ] = -0.276,  $p < .001$ ). In addition, results indicated that RNs who perceived their workplace as lacking resources to accomplish work were more likely to experience burnout. Importantly, our results identified that two-thirds of HD RNs in Quebec reported their workplace to be moderately empowering and feeling empowered at work suggesting that workplaces and managers in HD still have room to improve.

In terms of the wellness at work characteristics in HD, research has previously identified that burnout is associated with RNs' intention to leave the job (Flynn et al., 2009; Harwood et al., 2010a). Our results support these findings and provide further evidence (Table 5). All three dimensions of burnout were associated with HD RNs' intention to leave their job and/or leave the profession. Results indicated that 27% of HD RNs intended to leave their job for another specialty and 15% intended to leave the profession, and that satisfaction, engagement, and well-being at work were significantly associated with the three burnout dimensions. Given the costs associated with hiring and training new staff, these results warrant more attention.

While the majority (78%) of HD RNs felt satisfied at work, 34% felt disengaged at work, and 30% complained of being up and down in spirits frequently. Encouragingly, structural empowerment (SE) and psychological empowerment (PE) were found to be significantly associated with RNs' satisfaction, engagement, and well-being at work. Recently, research in workplace wellness has intensified on the influence of nursing managers on their staff. In our study, it was unfortunate that only half of the RNs surveyed felt that their manager was concerned about their well-being and committed to making changes to improve the workplace. Authentic nursing managers in the general practice were found to play an instrumental role in creating positive nursing work environments, thereby, fostering RNs' empowerment, and resulting in positive outcomes for wellness at work for RNs such as work engagement (Greco, Laschinger & Wong, 2006; Laschinger, Finegan, & Wilk, 2009), work satisfaction (Laschinger, Finegan, & Wilk, 2009; Wong & Laschinger, 2013) and job retention (Laschinger et al., 2009; Laschinger, & Read, 2016). These results have important implications for the practice of nursing and managers (see Figures 2a and 2b for a summary of the interrelationships found in this research). Lastly, our results highlight that the Internet shows potential to promote empowerment of HD RNs and address risk of burnout.



**Figure 2a: Summary of Findings on Burnout and Empowerment for Hemodialysis Nurses in Quebec**



**Figure 2b: Summary of Findings for Wellness at Work Characteristics with Burnout and Empowerment Among Hemodialysis Nurses in Quebec**

## LIMITATIONS

Some challenges were encountered in this study. The survey was limited to the province of Quebec; therefore, the generalization of results must be considered with caution. The nature of the cross-sectional study design makes it impossible to infer causality. This study used a self-reported survey, and therefore, it may include response set biases such as: (1) social desirability (participants' tendency to misrepresent their beliefs and behaviours by answering questions in a consistent manner with social views); (2)

acquiescence (participants' tendency to automatically agree with all the questions regardless of their content); or (3) extreme responding (participants' tendency to consistently answer questions with extreme responses such as "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree") (Loiselle, Polit, & Beck, 2007; Polit & Beck, 2006). However, RNs are known to be reliable and consistent when responding to surveys (Aiken & al., 2012), and an anonymous survey was utilized to reduce the potential of these biases (Tourangeau & Yan, 2007).

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE**

### **For RNs**

This research provides meaningful results for individual HD RNs to promote their self-knowledge and critical thinking regarding their practice, well-being, and health. HD RNs must be able to identify signs of stress and burnout, and periodically perform self-assessments, recognize their personal limits, and seek appropriate resources if necessary. HD RNs are encouraged to take personal responsibility and actions for their health and well-being by first identifying the stressors at work. They can actively participate in decisions and measures to manage work-related issues and reduce stress. As with other employees, HD RNs need to be aware of strategies for healthy living that can reduce the risk of burnout such as eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, relaxing, getting the proper amount of sleep, engaging in leisure activities, and spending quality time with friends and family. At work, HD RNs need to work as a team, prioritize work, avoid missing meal breaks, and try to take short breaks to recharge from stressful situations, and practice relaxation techniques.

### **For Professional Practice**

Burnout is a significant problem among HD RNs in Quebec that managers and decision-makers must acknowledge and address. Our results provide useful information to improve the work environment of HD RNs and delivery of care. A culture of wellness including burnout prevention should be promoted. At the micro level, HD managers must set the stage for an equal partnership with their RN staff and develop and implement empowering strategies. To achieve this, we recommend that HD managers be educated to foster workplace empowerment. Furthermore, it is critical that they provide a clear structure of tasks and responsibilities with ongoing workload assessment, and find new strategies to achieve work and address the lack of resources in the HD settings. They must share information necessary for RNs to do their work and allow them to participate in decision-making about their clinical practice and patient care. HD managers could schedule regular team meetings to discuss work issues and provide support, and encourage social activities to foster positive work relationships. They ought to meet RNs individually to give feedback, guidance, and performance appraisal. It is crucial that HD managers value and recognize RNs' work, and provide opportunities to be visible within the organization, and participate in innovative activities to keep them engaged and feeling efficient. They must supply or facilitate continuing education and professional development opportunities (e.g., develop in-services on disease and its therapeutic regimen for patients, and participate in the development of resources and tools) because these foster a sense of competency and autonomy for HD RNs. HD managers may rely on qualified professionals (e.g., organizational psychologist) to support nursing teams in identifying and implementing empowerment strategies,

and increase staff sense of meaning and personal accomplishment in their work. HD managers may organize self-reflective sessions to improve critical thinking on complex cases or ethical issues in collaboration with educational team members (e.g., educator, nurse practice consultant, or nurse practitioner) and, thereby, increase the RNs' sense of competency. At the macro level, the OIIQ recognizes that professional associations are privileged partners to address specific needs and provide quality and up-to-date training for their professionals (OIIQ, 2011). Information and communication technology (ICT) has slowly migrated into nursing practice and has recently been found to be helpful in addressing the health needs of RNs (e.g., health promotion information, social support) and supporting their professional practice (e.g., continuing education, clinical guidelines). The development of a professional website could be beneficial since the majority of RNs would be inclined to use a professional website if one existed.

## **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH**

This study was the first to examine burnout and empowerment among HD RNs working in Quebec and shed light on important results for RNs, clinical practice, and future research. A significant number of HD RNs experienced high levels of emotional exhaustion (EE) and depersonalization (DP), and moderate-high levels of personal accomplishment (PA). In this study, HD RNs rated their HD settings to be moderately empowering; they also reported feeling moderately empowered at work. Importantly, structural empowerment (SE) and psychological empowerment (PE) had a significant negative association with EE and DP, and a significant positive association with PA. This indicates that RNs who possess high perceptions of SE and PE are less likely to experience burnout, substantiating the need for managers to implement workplace empowerment strategies in HD. The use of a professional website could be a useful tool to enhance the empowerment and reduce the burnout of HD RNs.

The results from this research will form the basis for future research using a participatory action research approach with HD RNs to develop recommendations for the creation of a future professional website. Relatively few studies have been conducted in HD, and further research would be beneficial to examine the relationships among burnout and empowerment of HD RNs related to the quality of care, and to gain a deeper understanding of factors influencing job retention, engagement, and satisfaction of these highly specialized RNs.

## **DISCLOSURE OF FUNDING AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

*The authors confirm that no financial aid was received to conduct this research. No conflict of interest relevant to the conduct of this study or the publication of this article was reported.*

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

CD was responsible for the study conception and design, and conducted the survey data collection. CD performed the data analysis in collaboration with the statistician (MD). The survey results were presented and discussed with the PhD co-supervisors (LD-L, MM), the Advisory Team members for this study, and a co-author who specializes in empowerment (MB). CD drafted the article and revisions were made in collaboration with the co-authors (CD, LD-L, MM, MB, MD).

## REFERENCES

- Aiken, L.H., Sermeus, W., Van den Heede, K., Sloane, D.M., Busse, R., McKee, M., ... Kutney-Lee, A. (2012). Patient safety, satisfaction, and quality of hospital care: cross sectional surveys of nurses and patients in 12 countries in Europe and the United States. *The BMJ*, 344, e1717. doi: 10.1136/bmj.e1717
- Arikan, F., Köksal, C.D., & Gökçe, C. (2007). Work-related stress, burnout, and job satisfaction of dialysis nurses in association with perceived relations with professional contacts. *Dialysis & Transplantation*, 36(4), 182–191.
- Ashker, V.E., Penprase, B., & Salman, A. (2012). Work-related emotional stressors and coping strategies that affect the well-being of nurses working in hemodialysis units. *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 39(3), 231–236.
- Awa, W.L., Plaumann, M., & Walter, U. (2010). Burnout prevention: A review of intervention programs. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 78(2), 184–190. doi:10.1016/j.pec.2009.04.008
- Bohmert, M., Kuhnert, S., & Nienhaus, A. (2011). Psychological stress and strain in dialysis staff: A systematic review. *Journal of Renal Care*, 37(4), 178–189. doi:10.1111/j.1755-6686.2011.00236.x
- Boudrias, J.S., Morin, A.J., & Brodeur, M.M. (2012). Role of psychological empowerment in the reduction of burnout in Canadian healthcare workers. *Nursing and Health Sciences*, 14(1), 8–17. doi:10.1111/j.1442-2018.2011.00650.x
- Boudrias, J.S., Rousseau, V., Migneault, P., Morin, A.J.S., & Courcy, F. (2010). Habilitation psychologique: Validation d'une mesure en langue Française. *Swiss Journal of Psychology*, 69(3), 147–159. doi:10.1024/1421-0185/a000017
- Carley-Baxter, L.R., Hill, C.A., Roe, D.J., Twiddy, S.E., Baxter, R.K., & Ruppenkamp, J. (2009). Does response rate matter? Journal editors' use of survey quality measures in manuscript publication decisions. *Survey Practice*, 2(7). Retrieved from <http://www.surveypartice.org/article/2948.pdf>
- Chenoweth, C. (2013). Reducing nursing needlestick injuries in haemodialysis clinics: A quality improvement program. *Renal Society of Australasia Journal*, 9(1), 22–26.
- Dermody, K., & Bennett, P.N. (2008). Nurse stress in hospital and satellite haemodialysis units. *Journal of Renal Care*, 34(1), 28–32. doi:10.1111/j.1755-686.2008.00007.x
- Desseix, A., Merville, P., & Couzi, L. (2010). Analyse des représentations de l'hémodialyse et de la transplantation chez les patients insuffisants rénaux chroniques: Une approche anthropologique. *Nephrologie & Therapeutique*, 6(2), 111–120. doi:10.1016/j.nephro.2010.02.001
- Dillman, D.A., & Dillman, D.A. (2000). *Mail and internet surveys: The tailored design method*. New York, NY: John Wiley.
- Dillman, D.A., Smyth, J.D., & Christian, L.M. (2014). *Internet, mail, and mixed-mode surveys: The tailored design method*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley.
- Dion, G., & Tessier, R. (1994). Validation de la traduction de l'Inventaire d'épuisement professionnel de Maslach et Jackson. [Validation of a French translation of the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI)]. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science / Revue canadienne des sciences du comportement*, 26(2), 210–227. doi:10.1037/0008-400X.26.2.210
- Dooher, J., & Byrt, R. (2005). A critical examination of the concept of empowerment. In J.R. Cutcliffe & H.P. McKenna (Eds.), *The essential concepts of nursing: Building blocks for practice* (pp. 109–124). Edinburgh, Scotland: Elsevier.
- Dupuy, H.J. (1977). The general well-being schedule. In I. McDowell (Ed.), *Measuring health: A guide to rating scales and questionnaires* (3rd ed., pp. 240–247). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Dyrbye, L.N., West, C.P., & Shanafelt, T.D. (2009). Defining burnout as a dichotomous variable. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 24(3), 440–440. doi:10.1007/s11606-008-0876-6
- Flynn, L., Thomas-Hawkins, C., & Clarke, S.P. (2009). Organizational traits, care processes, and burnout among chronic hemodialysis nurses. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 31(5), 569–582. doi:10.1177/0193945909331430
- Greco, P., Laschinger, H.K., & Wong, C. (2006). Leader empowering behaviours, staff nurse empowerment and work engagement/burnout. *Nursing Leadership*, 19(4), 41–56.
- Harwood, L., Ridley, J., Wilson, B., & Laschinger, H.K. (2010a). Occupational burnout, retention and health outcomes in nephrology nurses. *Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists Journal*, 20(4), 18–23.
- Harwood, L., Ridley, J., Wilson, B., & Laschinger, H.K. (2010b). Workplace empowerment and burnout in Canadian nephrology nurses. *Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists Journal*, 20(2), 12–17.
- Hatcher, S., & Laschinger, H.K. (1996). Staff nurses' perceptions of job empowerment and level of burnout: A test of Kanter's theory of structural power in organizations. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Administration*, 9(2), 74–94.
- Hayes, B., & Bonner, A. (2010). Job satisfaction, stress and burnout associated with haemodialysis nursing: A review of literature. *Journal of Renal Care*, 36(4), 174–179. doi:10.1111/j.1755-6686.2010.00194.x
- Hayes, B., Douglas, C., & Bonner, A. (2014). Predicting emotional exhaustion among haemodialysis nurses: A structural equation model using Kanter's structural empowerment theory. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 70(12), 2897–2909. doi:10.1111/jan.12452
- Hayes, B., Douglas, C., & Bonner, A. (2015). Work environment, job satisfaction, stress and burnout among haemodialysis nurses. *Journal of Nursing Management*, 23(5), 588–598. doi:10.1111/jonm.12184
- Higgins, C., Duxbury, L., & Johnson, K.L. (2000). Part-time work for women: Does it really help balance work and family? *Human Resource Management*, 39(1), 17–32. doi:10.1002/(SICI)1099-050X(200021)39:1<17::AID-HRM3>3.0.CO;2-Y
- Hochwalder, J. (2007). The psychosocial work environment and burnout among Swedish registered and assistant nurses: The main, mediating, and moderating role of empowerment. *Nursing and Health Sciences*, 9(3), 205–211. doi:10.1111/j.1442-2018.2007.00323.x

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to acknowledge and thank HD RNs working in Quebec for their participation, the OIIQ for its contribution in the recruitment of participants, and the Advisory Team for their insights during this research project.

- Jackson, J., Fraser, R., & Ash, P. (2014). Social media and nurses: Insights for promoting health for individual and professional use. *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 19(3), 2.
- Judge, T.A., Boudreau, J.W., & Bretz, R.D. (1994). Job and life attitudes of male executives. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 79, 767–782.
- Kanter, R.M. (1977). *Men and women of the corporation*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Kanter, R.M. (1993). *Men and women of the corporation* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Karkar, A., Dammang, M.L., & Bouhaha, B.M. (2015). Stress and burnout among hemodialysis nurses: A single-center, prospective survey study. *Saudi Journal of Kidney Diseases and Transplantation*, 26(1), 12–18.
- Kavurmacı, M., Cantekin, I., & Tan, M. (2014). Burnout levels of hemodialysis nurses. *Renal Failure*, 36(7), 1038–1042. doi:10.3109/0886022x.2014.917559
- Laschinger, H.K., Finegan, J., Shamian, J., & Wilk, P. (2001). Impact of structural and psychological empowerment on job strain in nursing work settings: Expanding Kanter's model. *The Journal of Nursing Administration*, 31(5), 260–272.
- Laschinger, H.K., Finegan, J., Shamian, J., & Wilk, P. (2003). Workplace empowerment as a predictor of nurse burnout in restructured healthcare settings. *Healthcare Quarterly*, 6(4), 2–11.
- Laschinger, H.K.S., Finegan, J., & Wilk, P. (2009). New graduate burnout: The impact of professional practice environment, workplace civility, and empowerment. *Nursing Economics*, 27(6), 377–383.
- Laschinger, H.K., & Read, E.A. (2016). The effect of authentic leadership, person-job fit, and civility norms on new graduate nurses' experiences of coworker incivility and burnout. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 46(11), 574–580. doi:10.1097/nna.0000000000000407
- Loiselle, C.G., Polit, D.F., & Beck, C.T. (2007). *Méthodes de recherche en sciences infirmières: Approches quantitatives et qualitatives*. Saint-Laurent, Québec: Éditions du Renouveau pédagogique.
- Maslach, C. (2003). *Burnout: The cost of caring*. Cambridge, MA: Malor Books.
- Maslach, C., & Jackson, S.E. (1986). *Maslach burnout inventory manual* (2nd ed.). Palo Alto, CA: Consulting Psychologists Press.
- Maslach, C., Schaufeli, W.B., & Leiter, M.P. (2001). Job burnout. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 52, 397–422. doi:10.1146/annurev.psych.52.1.397
- Meyer, J.P., & Allen, N.J. (1997). *Commitment in the workplace: Theory, research, and application*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux. (2015). Orientations ministérielles pour les personnes atteintes de maladies rénales: Paramètres d'organisation des services pour les personnes nécessitant des services de protection et de suppléance rénales par des traitements de dialyse. Retrieved from <http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/fichiers/2015/15-928-01.pdf>
- Nulty, D.D. (2008). The adequacy of response rates to online and paper surveys: What can be done? *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 33(3), 301–314. doi:10.1080/02602930701293231
- O'Brien, J.L. (2011). Relationships among structural empowerment, psychological empowerment, and burnout in registered staff nurses working in outpatient dialysis centers. *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 38(6), 475–481.
- Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ). (2011). *Vers une culture de formation continue pour la profession infirmière au Québec: Document d'orientation*. Retrieved from <http://www.oiiq.org/sites/default/files/270GCO-Document-Orientation-Web.pdf>
- Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec & Association des néphrologues du Québec (OIIQ-ANQ). (2003). *Avis concernant la position des directrices et directeurs de soins infirmiers et de l'Association des néphrologues du Québec en regard de l'organisation des soins infirmiers en néphrologie (dialyse)*. Retrieved from [https://www.oiiq.org/uploads/publications/avis/avis\\_positions/Avis\\_positions.pdf](https://www.oiiq.org/uploads/publications/avis/avis_positions/Avis_positions.pdf)
- Oudot, M.-L. (2009). *The repercussions of the atypical work in a hospital environment: A comparison between CHU of Angers and Quebec*. (Doctoral dissertation), Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. Retrieved from <http://depot-e.uqtr.ca/1735/1/030105386.pdf>
- Page, A. (2004). *Keeping patients safe: Transforming the work environment of nurses*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
- Polit, D.F., & Beck, C.T. (2006). *Essentials of nursing research* (6th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- Ridley, J., Wilson, B., Harwood, L., & Laschinger, H.K. (2009). Work environment, health outcomes and magnet hospital traits in the Canadian nephrology nursing scene. *Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists Journal*, 19(1), 28–35.
- Ross, J., Jones, J., Callaghan, P., Eales, S., & Ashman, N. (2009). A survey of stress, job satisfaction and burnout among haemodialysis staff. *Journal of Renal Care*, 35(3), 127–133. doi:10.1111/j.1755-6686.2009.00102.x
- Santé Canada. (2007). *Conditions de travail des infirmières et infirmiers: Comment relever le défi*. Recherche sur les politiques de santé, 1). Retrieved from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/sr-sr/alt-formats/hpb-dgps/pdf/pubs/hpr-rps/bull/2007-nurses-infirmieres/2007-nurses-infirmieres-fra.pdf>
- Seibert, S., Silver, Sr., & Randolph, W. (2004). Taking empowerment to the next level: A multiple-level model of empowerment, performance, and satisfaction. *Academy of Management Journal*, 47(3), 332–349.
- Spreitzer, G.M. (1995). An empirical test of a comprehensive model of intrapersonal empowerment in the workplace. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 23(5), 601–629.
- Spreitzer, G. (2008). Taking stock: A review of more than twenty years of research on empowerment at work. In J. Barling & C.L. Cooper (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of organizational behavior* (Vol. 1 - micro approaches, pp. 54–72). London, England: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Tourangeau, R., & Yan, T. (2007). Sensitive questions in surveys. *Psychological Bulletin*, 133(5), 859–883. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.133.5.859
- Vaske, J.J., Beaman, J., & Sponarski, C.C. (2017). Rethinking internal consistency in Cronbach's alpha. *Leisure Sciences*, 39(2), 163–173. doi:10.1080/01490400.2015.1127189
- Wong, C.A., & Laschinger, H.K. (2013). Authentic leadership, performance, and job satisfaction: The mediating role of empowerment. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 69(4), 947–959. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2648.2012.06089.x
- World Health Organization (2013). *WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health (2008–2017): Baseline for Implementation*. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/occupational\\_health/who\\_workers\\_health\\_web.pdf](http://www.who.int/occupational_health/who_workers_health_web.pdf)
- World Health Organization. (WHO) (2014). *Policy brief: Promoting and creating an enabling environment for health behaviour among workers*. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-coordination-mechanism/Policybrief33.pdf>
- Wright, S., & Merriweather, J. (2013). Dialysis disequilibrium syndrome: Rapid recognition and rapid intervention decrease the risk of mortality—A case study. *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 40(4), 333–337.

# Uremic pruritis

By Jessica Ragazzo, Annemarie Cesta, and Marisa Battistella

Copyright © 2017 Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the epidemiology and clinical features of uremic pruritus.
2. Review the morbidity of uremic pruritus.
3. Describe the challenges associated with identifying and treating uremic pruritus.
4. Summarize an approach to treating uremic pruritus.

## WHAT IS UREMIC PRURITUS?

Uremic pruritus, also known as uremic itch, is a well-documented and distressing symptom that is experienced by patients with kidney disease. It is a daily or near-daily occurrence of itch that may be localized, commonly in the back, face and arms, or a generalized itch all over the body (Simonsen et al., 2017). Uremic pruritus is not associated with a primary skin lesion or a characteristic dermatomal pattern (Simonsen et al., 2017). However, excoriations and ulcerations can be seen on the skin of these patients due to intense scratching (Mettang & Kremer, 2015). It can vary from sporadic discomfort to total restlessness throughout the day and worsening at night (Mettang & Kremer, 2015).

The pathophysiology of uremic pruritus remains largely unknown, but is likely multifactorial. Some proposed mechanisms include uremic neuropathy, skin or nerve inflammation due to kidney failure-associated chronic systemic inflammation, an increase in activity of  $\mu$ -opioid receptors due to kidney failure (Simonsen et al., 2017),

or accumulation of pruritogenic substances (Manenti, Tansinda & Vaglio, 2009). Pruritus may also be under-recognized as being secondary to kidney disease due to the large number of other potential causes, including xerosis (dry skin), opioid-related pruritus, skin infestations (e.g. scabies), allergy, liver disease, iron-deficiency anemia, inflammation, and others (Murphy & Carmichael, 2000; Mettang & Kremer, 2015). Because its mechanism has not been found to date, and there are many other potential causes of pruritus, diagnosis and treatment of uremic pruritus remains difficult for patients and prescribers.

## WHY IS UREMIC PRURITUS A CONCERN?

Uremic pruritus is a frustrating symptom for patients and clinicians. It has a very significant impact on patients, as it has been associated with poor sleep, depression, reduced quality of life, and increased mortality (Narita et al., 2006; Pisoni et al., 2006; Mathur et al., 2010). The prevalence of uremic pruritus in dialysis patients in the 1970s was reported to be up to 85%, which has since declined with the emergence of higher efficiency dialysis (Mettang & Kremer, 2014). However, it remains a very common occurrence, affecting up to 42–52% of adult patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) (Pisoni et al., 2006) and up to 46% of those receiving hemodialysis (Simonsen et al., 2017). Its prevalence and morbidity highlight the importance of recognizing uremic pruritus, and providing treatment and management strategies to affected patients.

There is currently weak and conflicting evidence for various therapies for uremic pruritus. Despite a large body of literature examining many different interventions, the majority contain flawed methodology, high risk of bias, small sample size and study heterogeneity, with a significant lack of large randomized trials (Simonsen et al., 2017). This has largely prevented any strong and robust treatment recommendations from emerging. As a result, management of uremic pruritus can prove challenging to healthcare professionals.

## HOW CAN UREMIC PRURITUS BE TREATED?

Prescribers do not currently have clear, validated guidelines for prescribing evidence-based therapies for their patients experiencing uremic pruritus. As such, patients and prescribers may try different therapy options by considering both patient comorbidities and goals of therapy to find the most effective regimen for the individual patient.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

*Jessica Ragazzo, PharmD, Pharmacy Resident, University Health Network, Toronto, ON*

*Annemarie Cesta, BScPhm, ACPR, CDE, Clinical Pharmacist Nephrology, University Health Network, Toronto, ON*

*Marisa Battistella, PharmD, ACPR, Clinician Scientist, Assistant Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, Pharmacy Clinician Scientist, Clinical Pharmacist – Nephrology, University Health Network, Toronto, ON*

**Address for correspondence:** Marisa Battistella, University Health Network, 200 Elizabeth Street, EB 214, Toronto, ON M5G 2C4

Email: [marisa.battistella@uhn.ca](mailto:marisa.battistella@uhn.ca)

An approach to the treatment of uremic pruritus is to first rule out other causes for pruritus, as described above, while recommending non-pharmacological strategies and baseline emollient therapy (Manenti, Tansinda, & Vaglio, 2009; Mettang & Kremer, 2014). If pharmacologic therapy is to be initiated, either topical or systemic, it should begin with agents with the most favourable side effect profile, while also considering individual patient factors and goals of therapy.

### **Non-Pharmacological Strategies**

Keeping the skin moist and cool is very important for patients with pruritus. Patients can be instructed to wear light clothing to maintain a cool body temperature and keep their home environment from becoming too dry with the use of a humidifier. Irritating clothing materials, such as wool, should be eliminated. Patients who frequently scratch can be instructed to keep their nails short to avoid excoriating their skin (Manenti, Tansinda, & Vaglio, 2009). Although these strategies are not evidence-based, they are unlikely to cause harm and may provide some benefit for patients' symptoms.

Other non-pharmacological strategies have been shown in some studies to improve uremic pruritus. UV-B phototherapy has shown efficacy in reducing uremic pruritus in several studies (Simonsen et al., 2017). However, the potential risks of malignancy and long-term immune suppression associated with phototherapy must also be considered before prescribing this treatment (Mettang & Kremer, 2014). Acupuncture has also shown efficacy in some studies, and may provide benefit to appropriate patients (Simonsen et al., 2017).

For patients receiving hemodialysis, modification of their hemodialysis prescription may benefit their uremic pruritus symptoms. Some studies have shown that high-flux hemodialysis or high-permeability hemodialysis may reduce uremic pruritus (Simonsen et al., 2017). These changes must be carefully considered and tailored to the individual patient.

### **Topical Therapies**

Dry skin can contribute to pruritus. As such, primary therapy for all patients experiencing uremic pruritus should involve the regular use of moisturizers containing emollients (Manenti, Tansinda, & Vaglio, 2009; Mettang & Kremer, 2014). Emollients are substances that seal moisture into the skin, making it feel softer and smoother; examples include cocoa butter, ceramides, coconut oil, fatty acids, lipids, and mineral oil (Kleiman, 2014). Although there is limited evidence to support their use, studies have demonstrated the benefit of emollients for uremic pruritus with minimal to no associated adverse effects (Morton et al., 1996; Okada, 2004). Other beneficial ingredients in moisturizers can include humectants, which draw water up from the dermis into the epidermis, as well as from the environment into the skin; examples include urea and propylene glycol (Kleiman, 2014).

Moisturizers are available in different topical formulations including ointments, creams and lotions, in order

from highest to lowest oil content. The higher oil content in ointments allows for less skin drying via evaporation and more trapping of water in the skin. These preparations tend to be greasy in comparison to lotions, which are easier to spread on the skin, but are the most drying of the three (Sibbald, 2014). Creams are preferred over lotions due to the higher oil content, and should be used for mild-to-moderately dry skin, whereas ointments should be recommended for severely dry skin. These products should be applied several times per day, as well as after bathing (Kleiman, 2014). Emollients only function to trap existing water in the skin, and are, therefore, best applied when skin is still damp from bathing (Sibbald, 2014). Products should be free from fragrances and alcohol, which can cause skin irritation and dryness (Kleiman, 2014). Table 1 lists commonly used and available moisturizing products that can be recommended to patients.

If emollients alone fail to provide relief after several weeks of use, medicated topical treatments may be tried in patients with localized itch. Anti-itch preparations, such as compounded 0.25% menthol with 0.25% camphor in a suitable vehicle or doxepin 5% cream, have not been adequately studied in uremic pruritus, but may be of benefit with little risk of adverse effects. Capsaicin 0.025% is an over-the-counter topical analgesic that has been shown in some studies to reduce the severity of uremic pruritus when applied three to four times daily (Simonsen et al., 2017). However, irritation such as burning or tingling that can occur initially may discourage patients from using it despite these effects typically subsiding with several days of use (Manenti, Tansinda & Vaglio, 2009; Grindrod & Marra, 2014). Pramoxine 1% is a topical local anesthetic with antipruritic properties that was shown in a study to reduce uremic pruritus when compared to placebo (Young et al., 2009), and is also available without a prescription. If therapy with these agents is initiated, patients should be re-evaluated after approximately two weeks of therapy to assess for improvement or adverse effects.

Topical steroid preparations should generally be reserved for inflamed skin. They should be used on the smallest area of skin at the lowest effective strength and for no more than two weeks due to the risk of adverse effects.

### **Systemic Therapies**

Due to a lack of robust data on their efficacy in uremic pruritus and significant side effect profiles, systemic therapies should generally be reserved until appropriate non-pharmacological strategies and topical therapies have failed.

Gabapentin is an anticonvulsant considered to be the first-line systemic pharmacologic agent for uremic pruritus, as it has the most evidence for its efficacy in this population compared to other agents (Simonsen et al., 2017). However, its use should be reserved for patients with refractory uremic pruritus due to common adverse effects of drowsiness, dizziness, somnolence, and tremor (Simonsen et al., 2017), as well as its elimination via the kidney leading to potential accumulation in patients with kidney dysfunction (Manenti, Tansinda & Vaglio, 2009).

**Table 1: Moisturizers and Topical Therapy**

| Treatment                                   | Formulation     | Instructions for use  | Relative Cost             | Comments  |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Non-Medicated Over-the-Counter Moisturizers |                 |   |                           |   |
| Aveeno®                                     | Lotion or Cream |   | \$\$                      |   |
| CeraVe®                                     | Lotion or Cream |   | \$\$                      |   |
| Cetaphil®                                   | Lotion or Cream |   | \$                        |   |
| Complex 15®                                 | Lotion          |   | \$                        |   |
| Curel®                                      | Lotion          |   | \$                        |   |
| Dermal Therapy®                             | Lotion or Cream | Apply liberally to itchy area(s) 4-6 times per day, as needed, and after bathing (i.e. while skin is still wet) | \$                        | Lotion contains 10% urea. Cream contains 15% urea |
| Dormer 211®                                 | Lotion or Cream |   | \$\$                      |   |
| Eucerin®                                    | Lotion          |   | \$                        | Lotion available with or without 10% urea         |
| Glaxal Base®                                | Lotion or Cream |   | Lotion: \$<br>Cream: \$\$ |   |
| Lipikar Baume AP®                           | Lotion or Cream |   | \$\$\$                    |   |
| Udderly Smooth®                             | Cream           |   | \$                        |   |
| Petroleum jelly (e.g. Vaseline®)            | Ointment        | Apply liberally to itchy area(s) 4-6 times per day, as needed   | \$                        |   |
| Eucerin Aquaphor®                           | Ointment        |   | \$\$                      |   |
| Medicated Over-the-Counter Treatments       |                 |   |                           |   |
| Pramoxine 1% (Gold Bond® Anti-Itch)         | Lotion or Cream | Apply to affected area(s)<br>3-4 times daily  | \$                        |   |
| Capsaicin 0.025%                            | Cream           |   | \$\$\$\$                  |   |

Pregabalin is an anticonvulsant similar in mechanism and adverse effect profile to gabapentin that has also been studied off-label in uremic pruritus (Simonsen et al., 2017). It has also shown to be efficacious, but is less studied in this population than gabapentin and is, therefore, considered second-line oral therapy (Mettang & Kremer, 2014; Simonsen et al., 2017).

Other systemic pharmacologic agents with limited evidence in uremic pruritus that can be considered third-line include paroxetine, sertraline, naltrexone, cholestyramine, montelukast, ondansetron, and doxepin (Chan et al., 2013; Seccareccia & Gebara, 2011; Simonsen et al., 2017). Like gabapentin and pregabalin, these agents can

cause significant side effects, such as nausea, heartburn, constipation, and drowsiness, and many have mixed results in the literature regarding their efficacy in uremic pruritus (Simonsen et al., 2017). As such, their use should be limited to more severe cases with widespread itch after other therapies have failed (i.e., topical therapies).

First- or second-generation oral antihistamines are often used for patients who have not responded to topical therapies. However, there is a lack of evidence to support their effectiveness for uremic pruritus (Simonsen et al., 2017). Examples include diphenhydramine, dimenhydrinate, hydroxyzine, cetirizine, loratadine, and desloratadine. These agents may cause anticholinergic adverse effects, including

blurry vision, dry mouth, urinary retention, and constipation (Kendrick, 2014). Any benefit seen on uremic pruritus symptoms is likely due to their sedating effects, which also put patients at risk of falls and, as such, they are not an ideal treatment (Manenti, Tansinda, & Vaglio, 2009).

## CONCLUSION

Uremic pruritus remains a common, distressing problem faced by patients with chronic kidney disease. It has been shown to have a very significant impact on quality of life and, therefore, should be identified and treated as early as possible. The evidence for most treatments used for uremic

pruritus is largely poor. The mainstay of therapy for uremic pruritus should involve non-pharmacological strategies and regular use of emollients. Treatments such as UV-B phototherapy and systemic pharmacologic agents should be reserved for refractory uremic pruritus not responding to topical therapy. Prescribing treatment for uremic pruritus should move away from the use of agents lacking evidence of efficacy and having significant adverse effects, such as oral antihistamines. More research is greatly needed to find more effective and safer treatment alternatives for patients suffering from uremic pruritus.

## REFERENCES

- Chan, K.Y., Li, C.W., Wong, H., Yip, T., Chan, M.L., Cheng, H.W., & Sham, M.K. (2013). Use of sertraline for antihistamine refractory uremic pruritus in renal palliative care patients. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 16(8), 966–970.
- Grindrod, K., & Marra, C. (2014). Osteoarthritis. In B. Jovaisas, L. Arman, F. Dandachi, J. Hutsul, G. Lewis, N.L. Pearson, ... A. Raghaver (Eds.), *Compendium of therapeutics for minor ailments* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) (pp. 458–474). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Pharmacists Association.
- Kendrick, J. (2014). Allergic Rhinitis. In B. Jovaisas, L. Arman, F. Dandachi, J. Hutsul, G. Lewis, N.L. Pearson, ... A. Raghaver (Eds.), *Compendium of therapeutics for minor ailments* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) (pp. 179–193). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Pharmacists Association.
- Kleiman, N. (2014). Dry Skin. In B. Jovaisas, L. Arman, F. Dandachi, J. Hutsul, G. Lewis, N. L. Pearson, ... A. Raghaver (Eds.), *Compendium of therapeutics for minor ailments* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) (pp. 618–622). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Pharmacists Association.
- Manenti, L., Tansinda, P., & Vaglio, A. (2009). Uraemic pruritus: Clinical characteristics, pathophysiology and treatment. *Drugs*, 69(3), 251–263.
- Mathur, V.S., Lindberg, J., Germain, M., Block, G., Tumlin, J., Smith, M., ... McGuire, D. (2010). A longitudinal study of uremic pruritus in hemodialysis patients. *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, 5(8), 1410–1419.
- Mettang, T., & Kremer, A.E. (2015). Uremic pruritus. *Kidney International*, 87(4), 685–91.
- Morton, C.A., Lafferty, M., Hau, C., Henderson, I., Jones, M., & Lowe, J.G. (1996). Pruritus and skin hydration during dialysis. *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, 11(10), 2031–2036.
- Murphy, M., & Carmichael, A.J. (2000). Renal itch. *Clinical and Experimental Dermatology*, 25(2), 103–6.
- Narita, I., Alchi, B., Omori, K., Sato, F., Ajiro, J., Saga, D., ... Gejyo, F. (2006). Etiology and prognostic significance of severe uremic pruritus in chronic hemodialysis patients. *Kidney International*, 69(9), 1626–1632.
- Okada, K., & Matsumoto, K. (2004). Effect of skin care with an emollient containing a high water content on mild uremic pruritus. *Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis*, 8(5), 419–422.
- Pisoni, R.L., Wikström, B., Elder, S.J., Akizawa, T., Asano, Y., & Keen, M.L. (2006). Pruritus in hemodialysis patients: international results from the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS). *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, 21(12), 3495–3505.
- Seccareccia, D., & Gebara, N. (2011). Pruritus in palliative care: Getting up to scratch. *Canadian Family Physician*, 57(9), 1010–1013.
- Sibbald, D. (2014). Atopic, contact, and stasis dermatitis. In B. Jovaisas, L., Arman, F. Dandachi, J. Hutsul, G. Lewis, N L. Pearson, ... A. Raghaver (Eds.), *Compendium of therapeutics for minor ailments* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) (pp. 517–539). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Pharmacists Association.
- Simonsen, E., Komenda, P., Lerner, B., Askin, N., Bohm, C., Shaw, J., ... Rigatto, C. (2017). Treatment of uremic pruritus: A systematic review. *American Journal of Kidney Disease*, 70(5), 638–655.
- Young, T.A., Patel, T.S., Camacho, F., Clark, A., Freedman, B.I., Kaur, M., ... Fleischer Jr., A. B. (2009). A pramoxine-based anti-itch lotion is more effective than a control lotion for the treatment of uremic pruritus in adult hemodialysis patients. *Journal of Dermatological Treatment*, 20(2), 76–81.

# Uremic pruritis

By Jessica Ragazzo, Annemarie Cesta, and Marisa Battistella

*Copyright © 2017 Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists*

1. Uremic pruritus is associated with all of the following EXCEPT:
  - a) Skin excoriations due to scratching
  - b) Characteristic skin rash
  - c) Large areas of itchy skin
  - d) Trouble sleeping at night
2. Potential mechanisms of uremic pruritus include:
  - a) Neuropathy due to kidney disease
  - b) Increase in  $\mu$ -opioid receptor activity
  - c) Accumulation of pruritogenic substances
  - d) All of the above
3. Which of the following is a potential cause of pruritus?
  - a) Liver disease
  - b) Skin infestation, such as scabies
  - c) Allergic reaction
  - d) All of the above
4. According to the literature, what percentage of patients receiving hemodialysis experience uremic pruritus?
  - a) 22%
  - b) 34%
  - c) 46%
  - d) 59%
5. Which of the following complications can result from uremic pruritus?
  - a) Increased mortality
  - b) Poor sleep
  - c) Depression
  - d) All of the above
6. Which of the following non-pharmacological strategies may be recommended for patients experiencing uremic pruritus?
  - a) Wear light clothing to keep cool
  - b) Bathe with hot water
  - c) Wear soft fabrics, such as wool
  - d) Use a dehumidifier to keep the house dry
7. Which of the following ingredients in moisturizers draw water into the skin from the body and from the environment?
  - a) Emollients
  - b) Occlusives
  - c) Humectants
  - d) Barrier repair agents
8. Which of the following moisturizer formulations traps the most water in the skin?
  - a) Lotion
  - b) Gel
  - c) Cream
  - d) Ointment
9. Which of the following is a common side effect of topical capsaicin?
  - a) Skin tingling
  - b) Itching
  - c) Rash
  - d) Swelling
10. For patients who require systemic therapy for uremic pruritus, which of the following agents should be tried first (if no contraindications are present)?
  - a) Diphenhydramine
  - b) Sertraline
  - c) Gabapentin
  - d) Naltrexone

CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDY  
ANSWER FORMCE: 2.0 HRS CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

# Uremic pruritis

Volume 28, Number 1

By Jessica Ragazzo, Annemarie Cesta, and Marisa Battistella

**Post-test instructions:**

- Select the best answer and circle the appropriate letter on the answer grid below.
- Complete the evaluation.
- Send only this answer form (or a photocopy) to:  
CANNT National Office  
4 Cataraqui Street, Suite 310  
Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7  
or submit online to [www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca)
- Enclose a cheque or money order payable to CANNT.
- Post-tests must be postmarked by March 31, 2019.
- If you receive a passing score of 80% or better, a certificate for 2.0 contact hours will be awarded by CANNT.
- Please allow six to eight weeks for processing. You may submit multiple answer forms in one mailing, however, you may not receive all certificates at one time.

CANNT member – \$12 + HST (\$13.56); Non-member – \$15 + HST (\$16.95)

**POST-TEST ANSWER GRID***Please circle your answer choice:*

1. a b c d

2. a b c d

3. a b c d

4. a b c d

5. a b c d

6. a b c d

7. a b c d

8. a b c d

9. a b c d

10. a b c d

**EVALUATION**

Strongly disagree      Strongly agree

1. The offering met the stated objectives.

1    2    3    4    5

2. The content was related to the objectives.

1    2    3    4    5

3. This study format was effective for the content.

1    2    3    4    5

4. Minutes required to read and complete:

50    75    100    125    150

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_CANNT member?  Yes  No Expiration date of card \_\_\_\_\_

# L'effet d'un programme de soin de pieds destiné aux infirmier(es) en hémodialyse pour la prévention d'ulcération

Par Monique Baxter et Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard

Copyright © 2018 Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists

## RÉSUMÉ

*Les personnes atteintes du diabète, en plus d'être hémodialysées, sont à risque élevé d'avoir des problèmes de pieds dus à l'insuffisance vasculaire et la neuropathie. Une simple évaluation physique des membres inférieurs par l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse peut déceler plusieurs problèmes imprévus liés au soin de pieds. Le but de cette étude quasi expérimentale était d'évaluer l'effet d'un programme éducatif de soins des pieds diabétiques destinés aux infirmier(es) en hémodialyse. Un total de 14 infirmières a participé au programme d'enseignement et les étapes de la collecte des données. Suite à l'analyse statistique, les résultats révèlent que les infirmières ont enrichi leurs connaissances suite au programme éducatif et ont décelé des facteurs de risque de l'ulcération chez bon nombre de patients. Les soins infirmiers destinés à la population diabétique et hémodialysée doivent inclure un dépistage par l'infirmier(e) à des intervalles réguliers dans le but de réduire les problèmes aux pieds.*

## INTRODUCTION

Les pieds sont des membres inférieurs du corps humain qui sont souvent oubliés. Des pieds en santé permettent à l'être humain de maintenir son équilibre pour prévenir des chutes ou même se déplacer avec aisance. En particulier, les personnes atteintes du diabète, en plus d'être hémodialysées, sont à risque élevé d'avoir des problèmes de pieds dus à l'insuffisance vasculaire et la neuropathie qui sont des complications liées au diabète et à l'insuffisance

rénale (Freeman, May, Frescos, et Wraight, 2008; Kaminski, Frescos, et Tucker, 2012; Margolis, Hofstad, et Feldman, 2008; Ndip, Rutter et al., 2010). En 2008-2009, près de 2,4 millions de Canadiens et Canadiennes vivaient avec la maladie du diabète, dont 15 % développeront un ulcère du pied diabétique dans leur vie (Agence de la santé publique du Canada, 2011; Canadian Institute for Health Information [CIHI], 2013). En fait, la principale cause de l'insuffisance rénale terminale au Canada est le diabète, ce qui représentait 38 % des nouveaux patients en 2012 (CIHI, 2014). Des études confirment que les patients diabétiques atteints d'insuffisance rénale chronique sont à risque de développer un ulcère au pied (Freeman et al., 2008; Game, Chipchase, Hubbard, Burden, et Jeffcoate, 2006; Locking-Cusolito et al., 2005; Neil, Knuckey, et Tanenberg, 2003). L'ulcération du pied est un problème de santé inquiétant qui est associé à des conséquences significatives de débilité, de douleur et malheureusement d'amputation pour les personnes atteintes du diabète (Freeman et al., 2008). Pour ces raisons très évidentes, le but de cette étude quasi expérimentale était d'évaluer l'effet d'un programme éducatif de soins des pieds de personnes diabétiques destinés aux infirmier(es) en hémodialyse quant à leur degré de connaissances, et ce par le dépistage des facteurs de risque d'ulcération ainsi que leur niveau de satisfaction à l'égard de l'information reçue au sujet du soin des pieds.

## REVUE DE LA LITTÉRATURE

Plusieurs auteurs sont d'accord que les complications aux pieds sont des préoccupations de santé majeures, affectant gravement la qualité de vie et l'état fonctionnel des personnes atteintes (Freeman et al., 2008; Locking-Cusolito et al., 2005; Margolis et al., 2008; Pollock, Unwin, et Connolly, 2004; Reda et al., 2012; Ribu, Hanestad, Moum, Birkeland, et Rustoen, 2007; Stolt, Routasalo, Suhonen, et Leino-Kilpi, 2011). Une simple évaluation physique des membres inférieurs chez les patients diabétiques par l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse peut déceler plusieurs problèmes imprévus liés au soin de pieds. Lors de l'examen physique et fonctionnel du pied, l'infirmier(e) prend l'occasion d'évaluer les pratiques d'auto-soin et de faire de l'enseignement au patient ainsi que dépister les anomalies physiques présentes afin d'organiser une consultation précoce pour des soins plus spécialisés selon la nécessité. Désormais, le soin de pieds n'a peu d'importance, car la pratique de soins est surtout orientée vers les maladies qui sont menaçantes pour la vie immédiate. En effet, l'étude de Chan et al. (2012) indique

### NOTE DE L'AUTEUR

Monique Baxter, MScInf, CNeph (C), Infirmière clinicienne spécialisée en soins complexes du pied diabétique, Centre hospitalier universitaire Dr Georges-L.-Dumont, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick

Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard, PhD, Professeure agrégée, École de science infirmière, Université de Moncton, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick

La correspondance concernant cet article doit être adressée à Monique Baxter, Centre hospitalier universitaire Dr George-L.-Dumont, 330, avenue Université, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, E1C 2Z3.

Téléphone : (506) 869-2842

Courriel : [monique.baxter@vitalitenb.ca](mailto:monique.baxter@vitalitenb.ca)

que pour les patients admis avec un diagnostic principalement lié à la maladie cardio-vasculaire, suivie par des problèmes orthopédiques et des maladies pulmonaires, le pied et les ongles n'ont guère attiré l'attention de l'équipe de soin puisque le soin était orienté vers les complications aiguës et non vers les extrémités inférieures.

Nous observons un nombre alarmant de facteurs de risque qui prédisposent les personnes hémodialysées à développer des ulcères aux pieds. Bien que plusieurs de ces facteurs de risque puissent être évités par des interventions simples comme l'évaluation et le soin quotidien des pieds et une consultation précoce, cela n'empêche pas que ces gens présentent des problèmes sérieux qui peuvent diriger le soin vers l'amputation d'un membre inférieur. L'étude de Locking-Cusolito et al. (2005) a identifié de nombreux facteurs de risque physiques ou de déformations chez les patients hémodialysés tel que la peau sèche, les fissures à la peau, les orteils de marteau, les callosités et les ongles incarnés. Les résultats de cette étude ont révélé qu'il existe une relation entre le diabète, l'amputation, l'ulcère du pied et l'absence de pouls pédieux. Une autre étude (Freeman et al., 2008) comparait la fréquence des facteurs de risque de l'ulcération des pieds chez les individus atteints d'insuffisance rénale chronique et les individus atteints de diabète. Les résultats démontrent que la prévalence des plaies aux pieds était plus élevée chez les personnes atteintes de diabète et d'insuffisance rénale chronique que chez ceux du groupe contrôle; ainsi que les participants souffrant de diabète et de maladie rénale terminale étaient troublés plus fréquemment par la neuropathie périphérique et l'insuffisance vasculaire.

La prévention de l'ulcère aux pieds exige un bon programme de soin de pieds qui renseigne l'infirmier(e) et le patient sur le port de souliers appropriés, le dépistage fréquent, la pratique d'auto-soin des extrémités inférieures et l'éducation. Si ces mesures préventives sont adaptées à la pratique quotidienne en vue de maintenir des pieds en santé, il préviendra certainement des blessures aux membres inférieurs. Stolt et al. (2013) ont démontré dans leur étude que 46 % des infirmier(es) pratiquaient une simple évaluation des pieds lors de la visite à domicile; ils effectuaient des comportements inadéquats tels que l'application de la crème hydratante entre les orteils et ils orientaient les patients atteints de problèmes de pieds à un pédicure au lieu d'un podiatre, un professionnel de la santé avec une formation plus avancée dans le soin de pieds. Bien que le soin des pieds et le port de chaussures appropriées sont des facteurs essentiels à la prévention d'ulcération auprès des patients à risque élevé, il est également important que les infirmier(es) soient en mesure d'appliquer des stratégies préventives et sécuritaires.

L'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse a des moments opportuns pour effectuer une évaluation aux pieds, ainsi que de fournir de l'information pertinente aux patients concernant des pratiques d'auto-soin appropriées à la maison. Un programme éducatif aiderait l'infirmier(e) à acquérir les connaissances nécessaires afin de pouvoir identifier les facteurs de risque pour mieux soigner les pieds des patients

hémodialysés qui sont à risque d'ulcère. L'étude de Pataky et al. (2007) a ressorti que les infirmier(es) et les infirmier(es)-auxiliaires étaient ceux qui ont démontré une plus grande amélioration des connaissances après un an de participation à un programme éducatif. Aussi, pendant la recherche, il a été noté que les participants appliquaient plus de stratégies préventives chez les patients plus à risque d'ulcération tel qu'une consultation pour des souliers orthopédiques. Une autre étude (Stolt et al., 2011) a rapporté une amélioration significative des connaissances du pied chez les infirmier(es) travaillant dans un foyer de soin qui ont suivi un programme éducatif.

L'importance des stratégies préventives des lésions cutanées aux membres inférieurs des patients hémodialysés diabétiques est indispensable, alors il est raisonnable de suggérer qu'une participation active des professionnels de la santé est de grande importance. Schmidt, Mayer, et Panfil (2008) suggèrent que les patients diabétiques ont besoin de plus de trois programmes éducatifs avant de commencer à effectuer adéquatement l'auto-soin des pieds. C'est pour cette raison que les infirmier(es) cliniques en hémodialyse sont dans un environnement propice pour enseigner, encourager et responsabiliser des pratiques d'auto-soin auprès de cette population à risque élevé de plaies aux extrémités.

L'infirmier(e) est possiblement moins attentif(ve) aux troubles reliés aux pieds comparativement à d'autres parties de l'anatomie, car ceux-ci sont souvent minimisés par la cause de la mortalité. Cependant, les affections du pied peuvent entraîner une incapacité significative et compromettre l'indépendance et la qualité de vie des gens touchés (Pierson, 1991; Stolt et al., 2011). C'est pourquoi il est essentiel que l'infirmier(e) reçoive une formation éducative afin d'améliorer ses connaissances et d'éliminer les idées préconçues dans l'intention de cibler la population à risque et de mettre en place des interventions appropriées pour mieux soigner les pieds. En fait, trois questions de recherche ont été posées :

1. Quel est l'impact d'un programme de soin des pieds sur le niveau de connaissances de l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse à l'égard des soins de pieds auprès de patients atteints du diabète?
2. L'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse est-elle satisfaite à l'égard de l'information reçue au sujet des soins de pieds auprès des patients atteints du diabète?
3. Est-ce que l'outil de la grille d'évaluation physique du pied permet à l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse de dépister des facteurs de risque d'ulcération?

## MÉTHODOLOGIE

### Variables et instruments de mesure de l'étude

Il était important de mettre en œuvre un programme de formation qui comprend des renseignements pertinents et récents sur les pieds basés sur des études scientifiques afin d'aider les infirmier(es) en dialyse rénale à dépister des pieds qui ont des troubles réels ou potentiels. Le programme d'enseignement du soin des pieds a été élaboré à l'aide des écrits de plusieurs chercheurs dans le domaine de

la dialyse rénale et du diabète. Les quatre objectifs suivants ont été retenus en guise de l'élaboration du programme d'enseignement de soin des pieds de personnes diabétiques à l'intention des infirmier(es) en hémodialyse: (1) réviser l'anatomie et la physiologie de pieds en santé; (2) sensibiliser les infirmier(es) des stratégies préventives d'ulcération aux pieds afin d'obtenir les connaissances essentielles pour faire de l'enseignement auprès des patients en hémodialyse; (3) aider les infirmier(es) à identifier les facteurs de risque associés à l'ulcération des pieds de personnes diabétiques; et (4) amener les infirmier(es) à intégrer les connaissances apprises dans leur travail afin de pouvoir évaluer et déterminer les pieds à risque d'ulcères diabétiques. Le contenu du programme d'enseignement a été divisé en deux parties, dont la description de pieds en santé en faisant état des stratégies préventives et un aperçu des problèmes courants de pieds afin de mieux les connaître et mieux les traiter.

Le formulaire des données sociodémographiques et deux instruments de mesure ont été utilisés pour cette étude. Le formulaire des données sociodémographiques incluait les données personnelles comme l'âge, le sexe, l'état civil, la langue, le nombre d'années d'expérience en tant qu'infirmier(e) immatriculé(e) et le nombre d'années travaillé à l'unité d'hémodialyse. L'instrument de mesure qui a évalué le niveau de connaissances des infirmier(es) en hémodialyse a été adapté à partir de l'échelle Diabetes Foot Care Knowledge Scale (Shiu et Wong, 2007). Cette échelle adaptée a été validée par l'infirmière stomothérapeute et deux infirmières cliniciennes spécialisées à l'établissement où avait lieu la recherche, une infirmière stomothérapeute pratiquante dans le secteur privé ainsi que la deuxième auteure de cette étude. Le questionnaire distribué avant et après le programme d'enseignement comptait 48 questions ayant un choix de réponses, vrai ou faux ou je ne sais pas, développé en lien avec le contenu de la formation d'enseignement. Chaque bonne réponse méritait un point tandis que la réponse « je ne sais pas » ne méritait aucun point. L'autre instrument de mesure utilisé pour cette étude était celui de l'indice de satisfaction à l'égard des savoirs développé par Aucoin-Gallant (1998). Cette échelle de mesure permettait d'indiquer le degré de satisfaction de la personne. Ce questionnaire adapté et validé par la directrice de thèse de cette recherche comptait une dizaine de questions ayant un choix de cinq réponses selon l'échelle de Likert. Enfin, le dépistage des facteurs de risque d'ulcération a été mesuré à l'aide de la grille d'évaluation physique du pied élaboré par la chercheure en se basant par les écrits dans la littérature. L'objectif pour l'élaboration de cette grille d'évaluation physique était en sorte pour aider à guider l'infirmier(e) dans l'évaluation physique et établir un meilleur suivi chez les patients pour intervenir le plus rapidement possible en présence d'une détérioration des pieds. Les données recueillies étaient liées à une évaluation historique des antécédents du patient hémodialysé en plus d'effectuer une évaluation physique, une évaluation vasculaire et une évaluation neurologique du pied.

## **Population et milieu de l'étude**

Une invitation pour participer à l'étude quasi expérimentale a été envoyée à un potentiel de 43 infirmier(es) qui travaillaient dans une unité d'hémodialyse au Réseau de santé Vitalité au Nouveau-Brunswick. Pour participer à cette étude, les sujets devaient être un(e) infirmier(e) avec au moins deux mois d'expérience en hémodialyse. Les critères d'exclusion pour ce groupe de sujet étaient de posséder une formation en soin de pieds et/ou être un(e) infirmier(e) conseiller(e) en hémodialyse. Lors du recrutement, il y avait six infirmières qui ne respectaient pas les critères d'inclusion, deux infirmières au dernier terme de grossesse et une infirmière qui avait accepté un poste temporaire à une autre unité. En fait, un total de 14 (n=14) infirmières ont démontré un intérêt à participer à toutes les étapes de la collecte de données. Les participantes ont reçu le programme d'enseignement d'une durée approximative de 90 minutes, dont un taux de participation de 33 %. Suite au programme d'enseignement, un sujet s'est retiré de l'étude, l'un n'a pas remis son évaluation (n=12) et un autre sujet n'a pas rempli le questionnaire de l'indice de satisfaction à l'égard des savoirs. Toutes les participantes à cette étude étaient du sexe féminin, le groupe d'âge variait de 26 à 45 ans et les années d'expérience en hémodialyse variaient de plus de 6 mois à 19 ans (voir Tableau 1).

**Tableau 1: Données sociodémographiques préinterventions et postinterventions**

| Caractéristiques personnelles | Préintervention |     | Postintervention |     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------------------|-----|
|                               | n               | %   | n                | %   |
| Sexe                          |                 |     |                  |     |
| Féminin                       | 14              | 100 | 12               | 100 |
| Groupe d'âge                  |                 |     |                  |     |
| 26–35 ans                     | 11              | 79  | 9                | 75  |
| 36–45 ans                     | 3               | 21  | 3                | 25  |
| État civil                    |                 |     |                  |     |
| Célibataire                   | 2               | 14  | 2                | 17  |
| Marié/conjoint de fait        | 12              | 86  | 10               | 83  |
| Langue                        |                 |     |                  |     |
| Français                      | 14              | 100 | 12               | 100 |
| Année infirmière immatriculée |                 |     |                  |     |
| 5–9 ans                       | 4               | 29  | 2                | 17  |
| 10–14 ans                     | 8               | 57  | 8                | 67  |
| 15–19 ans                     | 2               | 14  | 2                | 17  |
| Année en hémodialyse          |                 |     |                  |     |
| 0–1 an                        | 1               | 7   | 1                | 8   |
| 1–4 ans                       | 4               | 29  | 4                | 33  |
| 5–9 ans                       | 2               | 14  | 1                | 8   |
| 10–14 ans                     | 5               | 36  | 4                | 33  |
| 15–19 ans                     | 2               | 14  | 2                | 17  |

## Procédure éducative

Suite à l'obtention de l'approbation éthique, les infirmières intéressées ont complété le formulaire de données sociodémographiques ainsi que le prétest pour évaluer le niveau de connaissances à l'égard du soin de pieds (temps 1). Immédiatement suivant le prétest, le contenu du programme d'enseignement des soins de pieds a été livré par l'étudiante chercheuse ainsi que l'explication de la grille d'évaluation des pieds de personnes diabétiques qui recueillait des données cliniques. L'infirmière a été renseignée et encouragée à faire de l'enseignement de stratégies préventives des comportements d'auto-soin chez le patient lors de l'évaluation physique de pieds à l'unité d'hémodialyse. Quatre semaines suivant le programme de formation, un posttest a été distribué afin d'évaluer le niveau de connaissances retenues par les infirmières en hémodialyse et le niveau de satisfaction de l'information reçue à l'égard des soins de pieds (temps 2).

## Analyse statistique

Le formulaire des données sociodémographiques a été analysé par le moyen de la distribution des fréquences, la mesure de tendance centrale et la mesure de dispersion. Les hypothèses de cette étude ont été analysées à partir du test *t* de Student et l'échelle de l'effet de la taille. L'échelle adaptée Diabetes Foot Care Knowledge Scale (Shiu et Wong, 2011) a été effectuée par la validité apparente. La fidélité et l'homogénéité de l'échelle de la satisfaction des savoirs ont

été validées par l'alpha de Cronbach; cette échelle a obtenu une valeur de 0,925 au temps 2.

## RÉSULTATS

La première question de recherche précisait l'impact d'un programme de soin des pieds sur le niveau de connaissances de l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse à l'égard des soins de pieds auprès de patients atteints du diabète. On a constaté que la moyenne du score total des connaissances est passée de 41,07 à 45,25 et cette différence était significative  $p < 0,001$  avec une grande taille à l'effet  $\eta^2 = 0,499$ . Une amélioration des connaissances a été notée sur les premières 31 questions de l'évaluation; la moyenne des résultats obtenus en préintervention était de 26,50 et celle en postintervention était de 29,67 ce qui est significatif statistiquement  $p = 0,001$  avec une grande taille de l'effet  $\eta^2 = 0,42$  (voir Tableau 2).

La deuxième question de recherche pour cette étude laissait entendre que l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse serait satisfaite de l'information reçue au sujet des soins de pieds auprès des patients atteints du diabète. Les résultats de cette recherche ont démontré que tous les sujets ont retiré une certaine satisfaction suite au programme d'enseignement. Plus de la moitié des sujets ont rapporté être tout à fait satisfaits des renseignements reçus portant sur les facteurs de risque physiques qui contribuent à l'ulcération, à l'importance des pratiques de soin d'hygiène quotidienne, à l'hydratation des pieds, au port de chaussures et de bas (voir tableau 3).

La dernière question de recherche pour cette étude portait sur le fait que l'outil de la grille d'évaluation physique du pied permettrait à l'infirmier(e) en hémodialyse de dépister des facteurs de risque d'ulcération. Les infirmières en hémodialyse, grâce à l'aide d'une grille d'évaluation physique des pieds, ont pu dépister des facteurs de risque de l'ulcération suite à un programme d'enseignement. Les résultats ont démontré que 87 % des patients hémodialysés sont atteints de la maladie du diabète, 34 % ont développé un ulcère aux membres inférieurs au cours de leur vie et 26 % ont subi une amputation (voir Tableau 4). L'un des facteurs de risque de l'ulcération le plus commun observé aux pieds est la callosité; soit 39,5 % au pied droit et 21 % au pied gauche (voir Tableau 5). En somme, à l'évaluation neurologique, les hémodialysés ont exprimé des sensations de brûlure aux membres inférieurs soit de 37 % au pied droit et de 34 % au pied gauche. De plus, le taux d'engourdissement mentionné par les patients était de 45 % au pied droit et 39,5 % au pied gauche. Parmi tous les sites évalués, celui avec la perte de sensibilité la plus élevée est au premier orteil du pied droit (50 %).

## DISCUSSION

Les résultats de cette étude ont révélé que suite à l'enseignement d'un programme éducatif lié aux soins des pieds de personnes diabétiques, les infirmières ont enrichi leurs connaissances, et ce, en comparant l'évaluation du prétest (temps 1) avec celui du posttest (temps 2). En 2011, l'étude de Stolt et al. a mentionné l'importance du

Tableau 2: Test *t*, valeur *p* et taille de l'effet ( $\eta^2$ ) pour le niveau des connaissances des infirmières

| Variable                              | Test <i>t</i> | <i>p</i> * | $\eta^2$ ** |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Évaluation globale (questions 1-48)   | -4,891        | 0,001      | 0,499       |
| Soin de pieds (questions 1-31)        | -4,200        | 0,001      | 0,424       |
| Chaussures (questions 3)              | -1,928        | 0,066      | 0,134       |
| Risque d'ulcération (questions 39-44) | -1,049        | 0,305      | 0,044       |
| Consultation (questions 45-48)        | -0,382        | 0,705      | 0,006       |

\* Le *p* < 0,05 est statistiquement significatif.

\*\* Le  $\eta^2$  > 0,06 a un effet de taille moyen et  $\eta^2$  > 0,14 a un effet de grande taille.

**Tableau 3: Distribution en pourcentage des sujets selon le degré de satisfaction à l'égard de la compréhension de la gestion des pieds de personnes diabétiques après avoir bénéficié du programme**

| Satisfaction relative à la compréhension du, de la, des, l', le | Degré de satisfaction du sujet |                 |                           |                   |               |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
|   | Pas du tout satisfait %        | Peu satisfait % | Plus ou moins satisfait % | Assez satisfait % | Tout à fait % |
| <b>Postintervention</b>   |                                |                 |                           |                   |               |
| 1. Soin des pieds de personnes diabétiques                      | -                              | -               | -                         | 73                | 27            |
| 2. Connaissances des pieds en santé                             | -                              | -               | -                         | 64                | 36            |
| 3. Façon d'évaluer les pieds diabétique                         | -                              | -               | -                         | 55                | 45            |
| 4. Facteurs de risques physiques de l'ulcération                | -                              | -               | -                         | 45                | 55            |
| 5. Importance des pratiques d'hygiène quotidienne               | -                              | -               | -                         | 27                | 73            |
| 6. Hydratation des pieds  | -                              | -               | -                         | 27                | 73            |
| 7. Porter des chaussures  | -                              | -               | -                         | 46                | 54            |
| 8. Porter des bas   | -                              | -               | -                         | 27                | 73            |
| 9. Troubles physiques liés aux pieds diabétiques                | -                              | -               | -                         | 73                | 27            |
| 10. Traitement des facteurs de risques physiques                | -                              | -               | -                         | 73                | 27            |
| 11. Facilité d'utilisation de la grille d'évaluation            | -                              | -               | -                         | 64                | 36            |

**Tableau 4: Fréquence et pourcentage d'antécédents d'ulcération, d'antécédents d'amputation et du diabète**

|                          | Fréquence | %    |
|--------------------------|-----------|------|
| <b>Variable</b>          |           |      |
| Antécédents d'ulcération | 13        | 34,2 |
| Antécédents d'amputation | 10        | 26,3 |
| Diabète                  | 33        | 86,8 |

besoin de recherches pour identifier les domaines où les infirmier(es) sont plus compétent (es) à l'égard du soin des pieds afin de concentrer l'éducation sur les faiblesses. Dans le cadre de notre étude, nous avons divisé les questions de l'évaluation des connaissances en quatre groupes soit le soin des pieds, les chaussures, le risque d'ulcération et la consultation d'un professionnel de la santé. Au temps 1, les infirmières ont obtenu une moyenne de 26,50 tandis qu'au temps 2 celles-ci ont obtenu une moyenne de 29,67 qui était significatif au plan statistique ( $p=0,001$ ). Dans les autres groupes de questions, aucune amélioration des connaissances significative au plan statistique n'a été démontrée. En comparant la moyenne au temps 1 et au temps 2 de l'évaluation sur les chaussures, le risque d'ulcération et la consultation de professionnels de la santé, les sujets ont bien répondu à la plupart des questions, alors on peut

**Tableau 5: Fréquence et pourcentage des facteurs de risque d'ulcération des pieds**

|                  | Fréquence | %    |
|------------------|-----------|------|
| <b>Variable</b>  |           |      |
| Ulcère           |           |      |
| pied droit       | 3         | 7,9  |
| pied gauche      | 3         | 7,9  |
| Fissure au talon |           |      |
| pied droit       | 2         | 5,3  |
| pied gauche      | 2         | 5,3  |
| Callosité        |           |      |
| pied droit       | 15        | 39,5 |
| pied gauche      | 8         | 21,1 |
| Cors             |           |      |
| pied droit       | 3         | 7,9  |
| pied gauche      | 7         | 18,4 |
| Phlyctène        |           |      |
| pied droit       | 0         | 0    |
| pied gauche      | 0         | 0    |

conclure que les connaissances liées à ces sujets sont possiblement déjà acquises et maîtrisées par les infirmières participant à l'étude. Tout compte fait, la recherche révèle que les lacunes à l'égard des connaissances des infirmières étaient liées au soin quotidien des pieds, alors celles-ci ont certainement bénéficié d'un programme éducatif.

Les études consultées touchant la connaissance des infirmier(es) quant au soin des pieds de personnes diabétiques, mais plus spécifiquement ceux qui travaillent dans une unité d'hémodialyse, est pratiquement inexistante. Par contre en 2014, l'Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues de néphrologie (ACITN) a élaboré des normes et des recommandations sur la pratique infirmière en néphrologie. L'une des recommandations élaborées par cette association stipule qu'une surveillance doit être établie pour déceler les complications du pied auprès des patients atteints de l'insuffisance rénale chronique et de la maladie du diabète. Effectivement, le programme d'enseignement de notre étude a permis d'outiller l'infirmière avec les connaissances nécessaires permettant d'identifier les risques d'ulcération afin de pouvoir procéder à un examen des pieds et d'offrir de l'éducation au patient des soins d'hygiène quotidiens.

Effectivement, tous les sujets de l'étude sont satisfaits de l'information reçue par le biais d'un programme éducatif. Même qu'immédiatement après l'enseignement du programme, plus que la majorité des participantes ont mentionné qu'elles étaient très satisfaites d'avoir reçu la formation. Quelques-unes ont mentionné que le contenu du programme était une excellente révision et que cela les a permis de réfléchir à leur pratique professionnelle afin de fournir de meilleur soin aux patients hémodialysés. Notre étude se compare à celle de Young (2011) qui mentionne que les infirmier(es) étaient satisfait(es) ou très satisfait(es) du contenu de la formation livrée. Les questions de l'évaluation de la satisfaction à l'égard des savoirs où les infirmières ont retiré le plus de satisfaction sont celles liées à l'importance du soin quotidien de pieds. Il est intéressant de relever cette donnée, car ce même type de question a soulevé une amélioration des connaissances.

De toute évidence, les infirmières en hémodialyse ont décelé des facteurs de risque de l'ulcération à l'aide d'une grille d'évaluation physique des pieds suite à un programme éducatif. Lors de l'étude, il y avait un total de 199 patients atteints d'insuffisance rénale chronique qui avaient besoin de traitements à l'unité d'hémodialyse, dont 38 personnes (19 %) ont bénéficié d'un examen physique des pieds grâce à l'outil de la grille d'évaluation. Dans cette étude, il est très évident que la sensibilité aux pieds des patients hémodialysés est touchée. Il a été noté que plus d'un tiers des patients évalués ont exprimé la présence des sensations de brûlures et d'engourdissement aux membres inférieurs. Un des patients n'était pas diabétique et présentait des signes

d'engourdissement aux pieds. L'examen neurologique avec l'aide du monofilament Semmes-Weinstein 5,07 (10g) a dépisté un total de 25 personnes hémodialysées (66 %) avec une perte de sensibilité aux membres inférieurs. Il est important de souligner qu'un total de 13 sites aux 2 pieds étaient affectés par plus de 30 % d'une perte de sensation lors du dépistage. L'endroit le plus fréquent de perte de sensation était le premier orteil du pied droit.

L'état de santé des patients hémodialysés est très imprévisible dû à une population âgée avec des limites physiques en plus de multiples comorbidités. Une évaluation physique des pieds est un moyen très simple et efficace pour déceler de nombreux facteurs de risque de l'ulcération des pieds. Ce dépistage pourrait éliminer ou réduire des problèmes sérieux liés à l'ulcère des membres inférieurs comme l'amputation et la mortalité. Un programme d'enseignement est un moyen qui permet d'améliorer les connaissances ainsi que de sensibiliser les gens sur l'importance d'une évaluation physique des pieds.

Cette recherche présentait quelques limites comme la petite taille de l'échantillon. Un échantillon plus nombreux aurait permis de mieux généraliser le niveau de connaissances parmi l'ensemble des infirmier(es) à l'unité d'hémodialyse. Une autre limite est l'absence d'un groupe contrôle.

## CONCLUSION

Il est très inquiétant de voir que la population hémodialysée à cette unité n'est pas dépistée par le personnel infirmier à des intervalles réguliers, bien que plusieurs auteurs mentionnent que les patients atteints d'insuffisance rénale chronique, de diabète et de neuropathie périphérique ont un risque fortement élevé menant au développement d'un ulcère aux pieds (Bowering et Embil, 2013; Freeman et al., 2008; Kaminski et al., 2012; Locking-Cusolito et al., 2005; Ndip et al., 2010). Même qu'une étude récente menée par Pernat et al. (2016) a démontré que la mise en place d'un programme d'évaluation mensuelle des pieds auprès des patients hémodialysés et diabétiques par les infirmier(es) est associée à une diminution de l'amputation aux membres inférieurs.

La littérature fait mention que les connaissances des infirmier(es) sur le sujet des pieds diabétiques sont améliorées par un programme éducatif. Alors, un programme éducatif basé sur les écrits récents a été livré par la chercheuse auprès de quatorze infirmières en hémodialyse. Nous avons conclu dans le cadre de notre étude qu'effectivement les connaissances des infirmières se sont améliorées avec un programme éducatif en plus que celles-ci ont été satisfaites du contenu de l'information reçue. Également, l'enseignement les a permises d'obtenir les compétences nécessaires pour dépister les facteurs de risque de l'ulcération.

## RÉFÉRENCES

- Agence de la santé publique du Canada. (2011). *Le diabète au Canada: perspective de santé publique sur les faits et chiffres*. Ottawa: Auteur. Repéré de <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cd-mc/diabetes-diabete/index-fra.php>
- Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues de néphrologie (2014). *Normes de pratique infirmière en néphrologie et recommandations sur la pratique infirmière en néphrologie*. Repéré de <http://www.cannt.ca/files/CANNT%20Nursing%20Standards%20April%202014%20FR%20NP.pdf>
- Aucoin-Gallant, G. (1998). *L'indice de satisfaction des savoirs*. Moncton, N.-B. : Université de Moncton.
- Bowering, K., & Embil, J. (2013). Lignes directrices de pratique clinique: soins des pieds. *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*, 37, 522-527. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcjd.2013.07.045>
- Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). (2013). *Les plaies difficiles au Canada*. Ottawa, Canada: Auteur. Repéré de [https://secure.cihi.ca/free\\_products/AiB\\_Compromised\\_Wounds\\_FR.pdf](https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/AiB_Compromised_Wounds_FR.pdf)
- Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). (2014). *Canadian Organ Replacement Register Annual Report: Treatment of End-Stage Organ Failure in Canada, 2003-2012*. Ottawa, Canada: Auteur. Repéré de [https://secure.cihi.ca/free\\_products/2014\\_CORR\\_Annual\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/2014_CORR_Annual_Report_EN.pdf)
- Chan, H., Lee, D., Leung, E., Man, C., Lai, K., Leung, M., & Wong, I. (2012). The effects of a foot and toenail care protocol for older adults. *Geriatric Nursing*, 33(6), 446-453. doi:[10.1016/j.gerinurse.2012.04.003](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gerinurse.2012.04.003)
- Freeman, A., May, K., Frescos, N., & Wraith, P.R. (2008). Frequency of risk factors for foot ulceration in individuals with chronic kidney disease. *Internal Medicine Journal*, 38, 314-320. doi:[10.1111/j.1445-5994.2007.01528.x](http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1445-5994.2007.01528.x)
- Game, F. L., Chipchase, S.Y., Hubbard, R., Burden, R., & Jeffcoate, W. (2006). Temporal association between the incidence of foot ulceration and the start of dialysis in diabetes mellitus. *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, 21, 3207-3210. doi:[10.1093/ndt/gfl427](http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfl427)
- Kaminski, M., Frescos, N., & Tucker, S. (2012). Prevalence of risk factors for foot ulceration in patients with end-stage renal disease on haemodialysis. *Internal Medicine Journal*, 42(6), 120-128. doi:[10.1111/j.1445-5994.2011.02605.x](http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1445-5994.2011.02605.x)
- Locking-Cusolito, H. L., Harwood, L., Wilson, B., Burgess, K., Elliot, G., Ische, J., ... Tigert, J. (2005). Prevalence of risk factors predisposing to foot problems in patients on hemodialysis. *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 32(4), 373-384.
- Margolis, D., Hofstad, O., & Feldman, H. (2008). Association between renal failure and foot ulcer or lower-extremity amputation in patients with diabetes. *Diabetes Care*, 31(7), 1331-1336. doi:[10.2337/dc07-2244](http://dx.doi.org/10.2337/dc07-2244)
- Ndip, A., Rutter, M., Vileikyte, L., Vardhan, A., Asari, A., Jameel, M., ... Boulton, J. (2010). Dialysis treatment is an independent risk factor for foot ulceration in patients with diabetes and stage 4 or 5 chronic kidney disease. *Diabetes Care*, 33(8), 1811-1816. doi:[10.2337/dc10-0255](http://dx.doi.org/10.2337/dc10-0255).
- Neil, J., Knuckey, C., & Tanenberg, R. (2003). Prevention of foot ulcers in patients with diabetes and end stage renal disease. *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, 30(1), 39-43.
- Pataky, Z., Golay, A., Rieker, A., Grandjean, R., Schiesari, L., & Vuagnat, H. (2007). A first evaluation of an educational program for health care providers in a long-term care facility to prevent foot complications. *Lower Extremity Wounds*, 6(2), 69-75. doi:[10.1177/1534734607302238](http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1534734607302238)
- Pernat, A.M., Persic, V., Usvyat, L., Saunders, L., Rogus, J., Maddux, F.W., ... Kotanko, P. (2016). Implementation of routine foot check in patients with diabetes on hemodialysis: associations with outcomes. *BMJ Open Diabetes Research and Care*, 4 (1). doi:[10.1136/bmjdrc-2015-000158](http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjdrc-2015-000158)
- Pierson, M. (1991). Nurses' knowledge and perceptions related to foot care for older persons. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 30(2), 57-62.
- Pollock, R.D., Unwin, N.C., & Connolly, V. (2004). Knowledge and practice of foot care in people with diabetes. *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*, 64, 117-122. doi:[10.1016/j.diabres.2003.10.014](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2003.10.014)
- Reda, A., Hurton, S., Embil, J., Smallwood, S., Thomson, L., Zacharias, J., ... Joulack, J. (2012). Effect of a preventive foot care program on lower extremity complications in diabetic patients with end-stage renal disease. *Foot and Ankle Surgery*, 18(4), 283-286. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jfas.2012.05.002>
- Ribu, L., Hanestad, B.R., Moum, T., Birkeland, K., & Rustoen, T. (2007). A comparison of the health-related quality of life in patients with diabetic foot ulcers, with a diabetes group and a non diabetes group from the general population. *Quality of Life Research*, 16(2), 179-189. doi:[10.1007/s11136-006-0031-y](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11136-006-0031-y)
- Schmidt, S., Mayer, H., & Panfil, E.-M. (2008). Diabetes foot self-care practices in the German population. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 17(21), 2920-2926. doi:[10.1111/j.1365-2702.2008.02352.x](http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2702.2008.02352.x)
- Shiu, A., & Wong, R. (2011). Diabetes foot care knowledge: A survey of registered nurses. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 20(15-16), 2367-2370. doi:[10.1111/j.1365-2702.2011.03748.x](http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2702.2011.03748.x)
- Stolt, M., Routasalo, P., Suhonen, R., & Leino-Kilpi, H. (2011). Effect of an educational intervention on nurses' knowledge of foot care and on the foot health of older residents. *Journal of American Podiatric Medical Association*, 101(2), 159-166.
- Stolt, M., Suhonen, R., Puukka, P., Viitanen, M., Voutilainen, P., & Leino-Kilpi, H. (2013). Nurses' foot care activities in home health care. *Geriatric Nursing*, 34(6), 491-497. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gerinurse.2013.08.003>
- Young, J. (2011). Educating staff nurses on diabetes: knowledge enhancement. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 20(3), 143-150.

# NOTICE BOARD

Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Exam Timeline.  
<https://www.nurseone.ca/certification/renewing-your-certification#sthash.IDBqg5i7.dpuf>

## SPRING 2018

- **January 10–March 1, 2018:** Initial exam or renewal by exam application window
- **May 1–15, 2018:** Exam period

## FALL 2018

- **June 1–September 10, 2018:** Initial exam or renewal by exam application window
- **November 1–15, 2018:** Exam period
- **January 10–November 1, 2018:** Application window to renew by continuous learning

- **March 3–6, 2018.** Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC), World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL.  
[www.annualdialysisconference.org](http://www.annualdialysisconference.org)
- **March 8, 2018.** World Kidney Day—Kidneys & Women's Health: Include, Value, and Empower
- **April 15–18, 2018.** American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) National Symposium, Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, NV.  
[www.annanurse.org](http://www.annanurse.org)

- **May 5–8, 2018.** 17th Congress of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD), Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC.  
[www.ispdvancouver2018.org](http://www.ispdvancouver2018.org)
- **May 24–27, 2018.** 55th European Renal Association—European Dialysis and Transplant Associatin (ERA-EDTA) Congress, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark. [www.era-edta.org](http://www.era-edta.org)
- **September 15–18, 2018.** 47th Annual European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association (EDTNA/ERCA) International Conference: Global approach to renal care innovation—Balancing compassion and health technologies, Genova, Italy. [www.edtna-erca.com](http://www.edtna-erca.com)
- **September 19, 2018.** Nephrology Health Care Professionals' Day (celebrated every third Wednesday of September annually)
- **October 25–27, 2018.** Canadian Association Nephrology Nurses and Technologists (CANNT) 50th National Symposium 2018: Our past will guide our future/Le passé est garant de l'avenir, Ville de Quebec City, QC. [www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca)
- **October 23–28, 2018.** The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) 2018 Kidney Week, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA.  
[www ASN-online.org](http://www ASN-online.org)

## Connect with CANNT!



Toll-free 1-877-720-2819  
or local 613-507-6053



1-866-303-0626



Canadian-Association-  
Of-Nephrology-Nurses-  
And-Technologists



[cannnt@cannt.ca](mailto:cannnt@cannt.ca)



CANNT National Office,  
4 Cataraqui St., Suite 310  
Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7



@CANNT1



## NOMINATING FORM

**Position:**

---

**Name of Candidate:**

---

**Membership Number:**

---

**Nominated by\*:**

**1. Name:**

---

**2. Membership Number:**

---

*\*Nominations can only be made by current members.*

*\*\*I agree to let my name stand for office and if elected, I agree to serve my term of office.*

Signature of candidate\*\*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# CANNT Nominations

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2018

The CANNT Nominating Committee is looking for CANNT/ACITN members to apply for the following positions on the CANNT/ACITN Board of Directors. Positions will commence in October 2018 in Québec City.

**Deadline for nominations is June 1, 2018.**

The positions open are:

President-Elect/Treasurer, President (Four-year term)

Director of Communications (Two-year term)

Eligibility for office: Member in good standing

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Each candidate must:

- Understand the responsibilities of each position.
- Be willing to commit the required amount of time to fulfill the duties of the office.
- Be willing to work within parliamentary procedure, which is used to ensure an efficient and fair voting procedure by self-governing organizations.
- Will submit a National Officer Candidate Information Form available online at [www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca) or from the National Office (see address below).

### BENEFITS TO BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- Having a direct voice in how your Association is run.
- Complimentary registration for the annual conference, with travel and accommodations covered as well!
- CNA recognition of a professional committee membership/participation (executive of a specialty association), and 25 hours can be claimed annually toward certification hours.

### POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

**1. President-Elect/Treasurer, President:** Elected by membership for a period of four years: two as President-Elect/Treasurer followed by two as President. Assists the President in the overall administration of the Association while becoming familiar with the operation of CANNT in preparation for assuming the role of President. In conjunction with the President, provides financial reports to the Executive, Board Members, and for the Annual General Meeting. The total commitment would be for a four-year period.

**2. Director of Communications:** Elected by membership for a period of two years. Ensures that CANNT website and all social media sites are responsive to the needs of the membership.

For more information and forms for candidates and nominations, see [www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca) under **Members – Call for Nominations for the CANNT Board of Directors.**

#### CANNT National Office

4 Cataraqui Street, Suite 310,

Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7

[www.cannt.ca](http://www.cannt.ca)

Email: [cannt@cannt.ca](mailto:cannt@cannt.ca)

Tel: 613-507-6053

## Let's Celebrate!

Join us in beautiful Québec City  
for CANNNT 2018 and the  
50th Anniversary Celebrations!

Together we will explore how ...

### Our Past Will Guide Our Future

We're creating a 50th anniversary  
conference to be remembered:

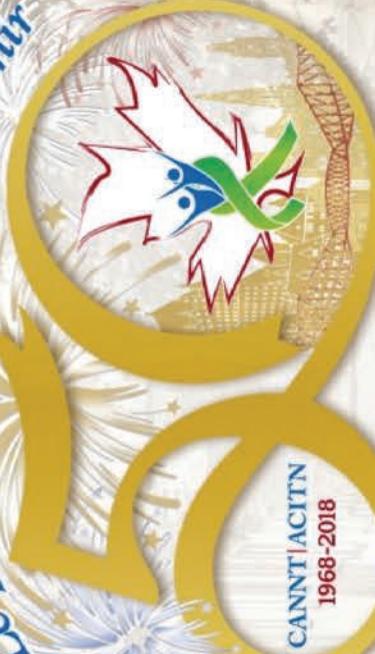
- messages from top rated speakers that look back at our dynamic history and strategize about the challenges ahead
- workshops and breakout sessions on topics that educate and challenge you professionally
- leading-edge exhibits
- displays that highlight milestones and key accomplishments, and ...
- social activities that center on celebrations

Plan to attend CANNNT 2018  
and the 50th celebrations!

October 25-27, 2018  
Québec City



Le passé est garant de l'avenir



## Our Past Will Guide Our Future

October 25-27, 2018  
Ville de Québec City

## Célébrer!

Rendez-vous à Québec pour célébrer le  
50ième anniversaire de l'ACITN  
Le passé est garant de  
l'avenir ...

nous dirigerons vers le futur  
Nous préparons un 50ième anniversaire  
mémorable :

- Des conférenciers relateront l'histoire de notre association, de la néphrologie et de leur vision pour le futur
- Des sessions et ateliers qui nous apporteront de nouvelles connaissances et de nouveaux défis professionnels
- Des exposants nous présenteront leurs produits et nouveautés
- Un exibit présentant les événements marquants et l'évolution de l'ACITN au fil des ans ...
- Et des activités célébrant notre 50ième anniversaire

Planifiez pour vous joindre à nous pour :  
ACITN 2018 et célébrer son  
50ième anniversaire !

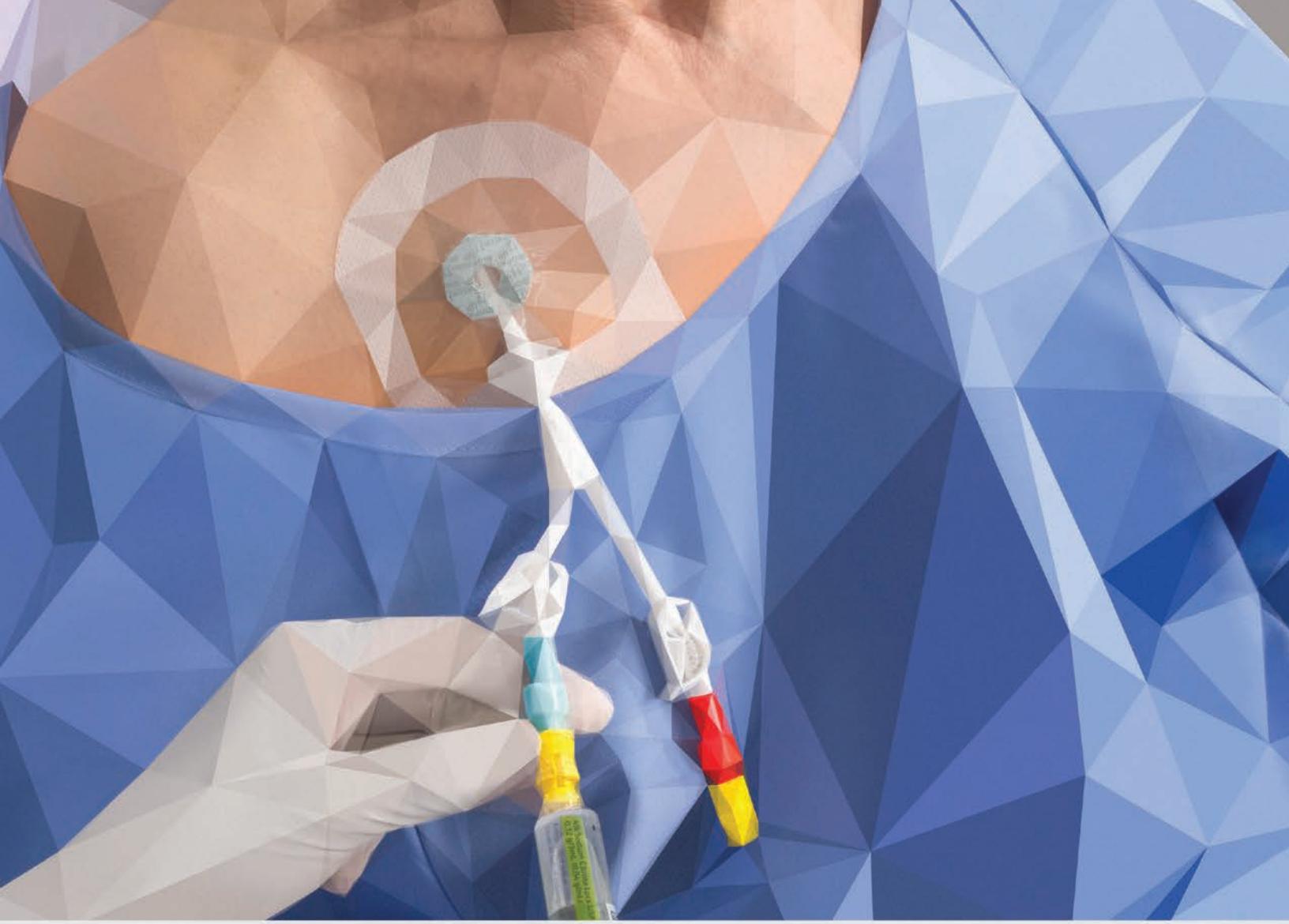
du 25 au 27 octobre 2018  
dans la belle Ville de Québec



**CANNT|ACITN**

Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists  
L'Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues de néphrologie





# THE DIFFERENCE OF MAXIMIZING CATHETER PATENCY



**BECAUSE SO MUCH IS ON THE LINE.** Our integrated portfolio of BD PosiFlush™ pre-filled flush and lock syringes empowers you to maintain catheter patency and reduce complications. The new BD PosiFlush™ 4% Sodium Citrate Pre-Filled Lock Syringe features a unique 10 mL stubby design that helps prevent blood reflux within the catheter and decreases occlusion and incidence of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia. BD PosiFlush pre-filled flush and lock syringes are part of BD™ Vascular Access Management, an integrated approach to vascular access care. Discover the difference of catheter patency redefined. **Discover the difference of BD.**

Learn more about our portfolio of flush and lock syringes at [bd.com/BD1-PosiFlush](http://bd.com/BD1-PosiFlush)

© 2017 BD. BD, the BD Logo and BD PosiFlush are trademarks of Becton, Dickinson and Company. MC8821



# Guidelines for authors

The Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists (CANNT) Journal invites letters to the editor and original manuscripts for publication in its quarterly journal. We are pleased to accept submissions in either official language—English or French.

## Which topics are appropriate for letters to the editor?

We welcome letters to the editor concerning recently published manuscripts, association activities, or other matters you think may be of interest to the CANNT membership.

## What types of manuscripts are suitable for publication?

We prefer manuscripts that present new clinical information or address issues of special interest to nephrology nurses and technologists. In particular, we are looking for:

- Original research papers
- Relevant clinical articles
- Innovative quality improvement reports
- Narratives that describe the nursing experience
- Interdisciplinary practice questions and answers
- Reviews of current articles, books and videotapes
- Continuing education articles

## How should the manuscript be prepared?

Form: The manuscript should be typed double-spaced, one-inch margins should be used throughout, and the pages should be numbered consecutively in the upper right-hand corner. More formal research or clinical articles should be between five and 15 pages. Less formal narratives, question and answer columns, or reviews should be fewer than five pages.

**Style:** The style of the manuscript should be based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), Sixth Edition (2009)*, available from most college bookstores.

**Title page:** The title page should contain the manuscript title, each author's name (including full first name), professional qualifications [e.g., RN, BScN, CNeph(C)], position, place of employment, address, telephone, fax numbers, and email address. The preferred address for correspondence should be indicated.

**Abstract:** On a separate page, formal research or clinical articles should have an abstract of 100 to 150 words. The abstract should summarize the main points in the manuscript.

**Text/Reference List:** Proper names should be spelled out the first time they are used with the abbreviation following in brackets, for example, the Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists (CANNT). Generic drug names should be used. Measurements are to be in Standards International (SI) units. References should be cited in the text using APA format. A reference list containing the full citation of all references used in the manuscript must follow the text.

**Tables/Figures:** Manuscripts should only include those tables or figures that serve to clarify details. Authors using previously published tables and figures must include written permission from the original publisher. Such permission must be attached to the submitted manuscript. Table/figure formatting should comply with APA style.

## How should the manuscript be submitted?

Email your manuscript to: [cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com). Include a covering letter with contact information for the primary author and a one-sentence biographical sketch (credentials, current job title and location) for each author.

## How are manuscripts selected for the CANNT Journal?

Each manuscript will be acknowledged following receipt. Research and clinical articles are sent out to two members of the *CANNT Journal* manuscript review panel to be reviewed in a double-blind review process. All manuscripts may be returned for revision and resubmission. Those manuscripts accepted for publication are subject to copy editing; however, the author will have an opportunity to approve editorial changes to the manuscript. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject manuscripts. The criteria for acceptance for all articles include originality of ideas, timeliness of the topic, quality of the material, and appeal to the readership. Manuscripts that do not comply with APA formatting and style will be returned to the author(s).

## What are the implications for copyright ownership?

Authors should note that manuscripts will be considered for publication on the condition that they are submitted solely to the *CANNT Journal*. Upon acceptance of submitted material, the author(s) transfer(s) copyright ownership to CANNT. Statements and opinions contained within the work remain the responsibility of the author(s). Authors retain the right to include their respective published work in a thesis or dissertation provided that it is not published commercially. Although no permission is required in this instance, it is expected that you reference *CANNT Journal* as the original source. All other material may not be reproduced without the written permission of CANNT.

## Checklist for authors

- ✓ Cover letter
- ✓ Article
  - Title page to include the following:
    - Title of article
    - Each author's name (including full first name)
    - Professional qualifications
    - Position
    - Place of employment
    - Author to whom correspondence is to be sent, including address, phone, fax number, and email address
  - Text of article, with abstract if applicable, **double-spaced, pages numbered**
  - References (on a separate sheet)
  - Tables (one per page)
  - Illustrations (one per page)
  - Letters of permission to reproduce previously published material

# Lignes directrices à l'intention des auteurs

**Le Journal de l'Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues de néphrologie (ACITN)** vous invite à faire parvenir articles, textes et manuscrits originaux pour publication dans son journal trimestriel. Nous sommes heureux d'accepter vos documents soumis dans l'une ou l'autre des langues officielles, anglais ou français.

## Quels sont les sujets d'article appropriés?

Nous acceptons les articles portant sur des manuscrits récemment publiés, des activités de l'Association ou tout sujet d'intérêt pour les membres de l'ACITN.

## Quels types de manuscrits conviennent à la publication?

Nous préférerons des manuscrits qui présentent de nouveaux renseignements cliniques ou qui traitent des enjeux propres aux champs d'intérêt des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues en néphrologie. Nous recherchons plus particulièrement :

- Exposés de recherche originaux
- Articles cliniques pertinents
- Rapports sur des approches innovatrices en matière d'amélioration de la qualité
- Textes narratifs relatant une expérience de pratique infirmière ou technologique
- Textes sous forme de questions et de réponses sur la pratique interdisciplinaire
- Revues d'articles courants, de livres et films
- Articles en éducation continue.

## Comment les manuscrits doivent-ils être présentés?

**Forme :** Le manuscrit doit être présenté à double interligne avec une marge de 1 po et une numérotation consécutive des pages dans le coin supérieur droit de la page. Les articles plus formels de recherche ou d'études cliniques doivent compter de 5 à 15 pages. Les articles moins formels, tels que textes narratifs, questions-réponses ou revues, doivent compter moins de 5 pages.

**Style :** Le style du manuscrit doit être conforme au manuel de publication de l'Association américaine de psychologie (AAP), 6<sup>e</sup> édition (2009), offert dans la plupart des librairies universitaires.

**Page titre :** La page titre doit inclure le titre du manuscrit ainsi que les renseignements suivants : nom de chacun des auteurs (incluant prénoms au complet), titres professionnels (c.-à-d., inf., B.Sc. Inf., CNéph[C]), titre du poste occupé, nom de l'employeur, adresse, numéros de téléphone et de télécopieur et adresse courriel. L'adresse privilégiée de correspondance doit aussi être indiquée.

**Résumé :** Sur une page distincte, les articles formels de recherche ou d'études cliniques doivent être accompagnés d'un résumé de 100 à 150 mots, reprenant brièvement les principaux points du manuscrit.

**Texte/Liste de références :** Les sigles, abréviations ou acronymes doivent être écrits au long la première fois qu'ils apparaissent dans le texte, suivis de l'abréviation entre parenthèses; p. ex., Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers et des technologues de néphrologie (ACITN). Les noms génériques des médicaments doivent être employés. Les unités de mesure doivent être indiquées selon le Système international d'unités (SI). Les références doivent être citées dans le texte en utilisant le format de l'AAP. Une liste de références comprenant la bibliographie complète de toutes les références utilisées doit suivre le texte.

**Tableaux/Figures :** Les manuscrits ne doivent inclure que les tableaux et figures (incluant schémas, illustrations, croquis, etc.) visant à clarifier certains détails. Les auteurs qui utilisent des tableaux et des figures qui ont déjà fait l'objet d'une publication

doivent fournir l'autorisation écrite de l'éditeur d'origine et la joindre au manuscrit soumis. La mise en forme des tableaux et des figures doit être conforme au style de l'AAP.

## De quelle manière doit-on soumettre les manuscrits?

Veuillez envoyer par courriel votre manuscrit à : [cannt.journal1@gmail.com](mailto:cannt.journal1@gmail.com)

Veuillez inclure une lettre de présentation en précisant les coordonnées de l'auteur principal ainsi qu'une notice biographique d'une phrase (incluant titres de compétences, titre du poste actuel et lieu de travail) pour chaque auteur.

## Quel est le processus de sélection des manuscrits pour publication dans le Journal de l'ACITN?

À la réception de chaque manuscrit, un accusé de réception est envoyé. Les articles de recherche et d'études cliniques sont envoyés à deux membres du comité de révision du Journal de l'ACITN afin d'être révisés suivant un processus à double insu. Tous les articles peuvent être retournés aux auteurs pour révision et nouvelle soumission par la suite. Les manuscrits acceptés pour publication peuvent subir des changements éditoriaux; toutefois, les auteurs pourront approuver ces changements. La rédactrice en chef se réserve le droit d'accepter ou de refuser tout manuscrit. Les critères d'acceptation pour tous les manuscrits comprennent l'originalité des idées, l'actualité du sujet, la qualité du matériel et l'attrait des lecteurs. Les manuscrits qui ne sont pas conformes à la mise en forme et au style de l'AAP seront renvoyés à l'auteur ou aux auteurs.

## Quelles sont les conséquences du transfert des droits d'auteur?

Les auteurs doivent prendre note que les manuscrits seront considérés pour publication à la condition qu'ils ne soient soumis qu'au *Journal de l'ACITN*. Sur acceptation du matériel soumis, les auteurs transfèrent leur droit d'auteur à l'ACITN. Les déclarations et opinions émises par les auteurs dans leurs articles, textes ou manuscrits demeurent leur responsabilité. Les auteurs conservent le droit d'insérer leurs travaux publiés respectifs dans une thèse ou un mémoire, pour autant que ces derniers ne soient pas publiés à des fins commerciales. Bien qu'aucune permission ne soit requise en pareil cas, il est attendu que les auteurs indiquent en référence le *Journal de l'ACITN* comme source originale. Tous les autres documents ne peuvent être reproduits sans l'autorisation écrite de l'ACITN.

## Aide-mémoire à l'intention des auteurs

- ✓ Lettre de présentation
- ✓ Article
  - Page titre incluant les renseignements suivants :
    - Titre de l'article
    - Nom de chaque auteur (incluant prénoms au complet)
    - Titres de compétences
    - Titre du poste actuel
    - Nom et adresse de l'employeur
    - Nom de l'auteur à qui la correspondance doit être envoyée (incluant adresse, numéros de téléphone et de télécopieur et adresse courriel)
    - Texte de l'article avec résumé, s'il y a lieu à **double interligne et pages numérotées**
  - Références (sur une feuille distincte)
  - Tableaux (un par page)
  - Figures (une par page)
  - Lettre d'autorisation pour tout matériel ayant déjà fait l'objet d'une publication