

# Nursing Research Conference celebrates 25 years of knowledge sharing

By Gary Buffet

**T**he Kingston Nursing Research Conference (NRC) will be celebrating 25 years of knowledge sharing at its March 2022 virtual conference.

"We are honoured to celebrate 25 years of this forum for knowledge-sharing, networking, professional development and learning more about research activities that are taking place right here in the Greater Kingston Area," said Barb Patterson, Co-chair of the 2022 conference. "With two great keynote presenters and 17 abstracts submitted for presentations or poster displays, things are shaping up to be the best value we have ever offered for participants."

As a nurse data scientist at the Centre for Health Innovation, keynote presenter Alex Hamilton is responsible for developing machine learning applications to support research and quality

improvement initiatives within the Faculty of Health Sciences and Kingston Health Sciences Centre. Alex will share his knowledge in his presentation Nursing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

Keynote presenter Dr. Joan Almost, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at Queen's University, and Scholar in Residence with the Canadian Nurses Association will share her research on adapting mental health resources to support frontline workers working with homeless and street-involved communities affected by COVID-19.

Offering an excellent forum for exchanging nursing research on a wide variety of topics, other presentations scheduled for the day include: Nurses' Experiences with Activating Rapid Response Teams; Comparison of efficacy of microRNA 155 (miR 155) as a novel

biomarker in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) vs. systemic lupus erythematosus; Environmental Contaminants and the Disproportionate Prevalence of Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus among Indigenous Cree Women in James Bay; Glucocorticoid administration and hyperglycemia in adults with hematological malignancies; the Emotional Burden Living with Cardiovascular Disease-A Loss of Control; Understanding the COVID-19-Ontario Infection Prevention and Control [IPAC] Swat Team Experience in Long Term Care Homes through Poetry and Art.; and Using integrated knowledge translation to prepare gynecological cancer survivors and their caregivers for life after primary cancer treatment.

"Sharing and using research findings is vital to nurses' professional practice and our capacity to use the best evidence to address the many healthcare

challenges we face today," says Dr. Joan Tranmer, Professor and Sally Smith Chair at Queen's University's School of Nursing. "Our annual research conference provides a valuable forum for highlighting how nurses are improving health care outcomes, both for patients, and for healthcare providers. The extraordinary challenges and pressures of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic make this knowledge-sharing even more important. Our first virtual conference was sold out, and although we continue to be restricted to virtual meetings, we anticipate our 2022 event will be equally successful."

The Kingston NRC is jointly hosted by KGH Research Institute, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, Providence Care, Queen's University, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (Kingston chapter) and St. Lawrence College. ■