

# **Dr. Sandra Hirst**

**Director at Brenda Strafford Centre for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing**

Calgary, AB, CA

A career spent building capacity in the field of gerontological nursing and improving benchmarks in support of professional nursing practice

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## **Biography**

Dr. Sandra Hirst RN, PhD, GNC(C) is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary, and Director of the Brenda Strafford Centre for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing. She has held a number of leadership positions in gerontology including: president of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association; president of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, and president of the Alberta Association of Gerontology. She recently completed a three-year prime ministerial appointment on the National Seniors Council. Her areas of research and related scholarship focus on abuse and neglect of older adults and the experiences of older adults who reside in long-term care facilities. She has also received an Honourary Member award from the Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association and, in 2009, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

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## **Availability**

Keynote, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Corporate Training

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## **Industry Expertise**

Health and Wellness, Elder Care, Public Policy, Health Care - Services, Health Care - Providers, Health Care - Facilities

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Gerontology, Seniors and Healthcare, Gerontological Nursing

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## **Event Appearances**

**Volunteering among seniors and positive and active aging**  
National Seniors Council Roundtable

**Orchestrating Healing: A Grounded Theory of Registered Nurses Caring for Patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers**  
Nursing Research Conference 2011

**Panel Moderator: Health promotion and well-being throughout life**  
IFA 11th Global Conference on Ageing

## **Long term care facilities: Are they equipped to respond to disasters?**

IFA 11th Global Conference on Ageing

## **Panel Moderator: Connecting services and providers ? e-health, telehealth, telepresence and flips**

IFA 11th Global Conference on Ageing

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### **Accomplishments**

#### **Director - International Federation on Ageing**

The International Federation on Ageing is an international non-governmental organization with a membership base of NGOs, the corporate sector, academia, government, and individuals. WE BELIEVE in 'generating positive change for older people throughout the world by stimulating, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on rights, policies, and practices that improve the quality of life of people as they age.'

#### **Board of Directors - National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly**

National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly is an international network of researchers, practitioners, students and seniors dedicated to improving the care of older adults, both in Canada and abroad. Our members represent a broad spectrum of disciplines and professions, including geriatric medicine, gerontological nursing, gerontological social work, gerontology, rehabilitation science, sociology, psychology, policy and law.

#### **Recipient - Lifetime Achievement Award**

In 2009, Dr. Hirst received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta. The award is for an RN who has made an outstanding contribution to the nursing profession throughout their nursing career.

#### **Honourary Member - Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association**

In 2011, Dr. Hirst was made an Honourary Member of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association. The award is in recognition of members who demonstrate excellence and further the organization's mission and values.

#### **President - Alberta Association of Gerontology**

Dr. Hirst served as President of the Alberta Association of Gerontology (AAG), which is a province-wide interdisciplinary organization seeking to enhance the lives of the aging population through support of persons involved in and concerned with gerontology. AAG seeks to provide a vehicle for networking among individuals and organizations interested in gerontology, and to stimulate the development of opportunities that enhance the knowledge and practice of people interested in gerontology.

**President - Canadian Association on Gerontology**

Dr. Hirst served as President of the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG), which is a national, multidisciplinary scientific and educational association established to provide leadership in matters related to the aging population. The Canadian Association on Gerontology seeks to improve the lives of older Canadians through the creation and dissemination of knowledge in gerontological policy, practice, research and education.

**President - Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association**

Dr. Hirst served as President of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association (CGNA), which is an organization that represents gerontological nurses and promotes gerontological nursing across Canada. The vision of CGNA is to promote excellence in gerontological nursing through leadership, knowledge, and scholarship. The CGNA's mission is to address the health concerns of older Canadians and the nurses who participate with them in health care.

**Recipient ? Jeanne Mance Award**

In 2012, Dr. Hirst received the Jeanne Mance Award from the Canadian Nurses Association. The award is named after one of Canada's most inspirational nurses, Jeanne Mance. The nurses nominated for this prestigious award are individuals who have made significant and innovative contributions to the health of Canadians. They have worked to increase the public recognition and awareness of the nursing profession and have positively influenced nursing practice in Canada and abroad.

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