

Editorial

The International Rural Nursing Conference is Coming to You in 2021

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It is that time again, for the Rural Nurse Organization (RNO) International Rural Nursing Conference. As many of you may know, the conference was originally planned for Greeley, CO in 2020; however, the conference was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. This year, the conference will be held virtually. There are several reasons for this decision. As nurses, the conference planning committee and RNO Board of Directors realize that it is critical to keep new cases of COVID as low as possible; thus, we are following guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to limit unnecessary travel. Furthermore, many of our presenters and those attending the conference have links to academia, where budgets have been stretched. Many schools are still not paying travel costs to conferences, which becomes a burden on nurses who want to be part of the International Rural Nursing Conference. Although the conference will be different from previous years the planning committee has some exciting events planned and we hope you will attend the conference.

The International Rural Nursing Conference will begin with a live, synchronous event on Friday, August 6, 2021. This portion of the conference will be a ½ day and our International Keynote address will be given by Dr. Olola Oneko. The live event will be followed with several asynchronous concurrent podium sessions and poster sessions, which will be available for a period of time. Costs have been lowered this year to encourage as many of you to join us as possible. Costs for RNO members will be \$100, students may attend for \$75, and \$160 for non-members. If you are not currently a member please join (<https://www.rno.org/membership/>). Registration is

not yet open, but will be coming soon. Check for developing details on the RNO website (<https://www.rno.org/>). I look forward to seeing you at this year's International Rural Conference.