

Editor's Message

Hello! Welcome to the first issue of the relaunched *ORNAC Journal*! I am delighted to be part of this step on the ORNAC journey and look forward to working with the Editorial Board, reviewers, and authors to bring you leading-edge ideas, processes, and best practices. We are living in an exciting time, full of transitions and changes that require agility and resilience. From what I see, that is what you perioperative nurses do best.

As we start out, let me give you some of my background to let you know your journal is in good hands. I attended university later in life and graduated with a combined honours BA in philosophy and women's studies. Philosophy taught me to refine language, to communicate accurately and clearly, and to ensure what is said is logically consistent. Women's studies taught me to recognize inherent bias and unconscious ideologies at play in language. Together, they make for dynamic editing skills. I love editing. It is all about making the author's words shine while helping the author express exactly what they want to get across to the reader. I bring this passion for clarity to your journal in hopes that I can help the forward progress of the perioperative field with value-based professionalism built upon integrity, equity, and inclusiveness.

My extensive editing experience spans more than three decades, a variety of academic disciplines, diverse levels of communication, and several genres of writing. That background gives me a broad perspective and expertise in many specialized terminologies, including medicine, business, education, social science, law, and more. Currently, along with my position as Editor of the *ORNAC Journal*, I am Editor-in-Chief of *Vascular Access – Journal of the Canadian Vascular Access Association*. Previously, I was Editor-in-Chief of the journal of the Australian Vascular Access Society. Also, I provide editing and proofreading services for the College of Nurses of Ontario and for Pappin Communications, which specializes in nursing journals. My editing practice started out as Managing Editor, then the Publisher and Editor, of *Ivey Business Quarterly*, the prestigious management journal published by the Ivey Business School, and has evolved in focus to peer-reviewed medical publications. In the past seven years, I have expanded my practice to include books and, to date, have edited 15 books in diverse genres. So, here I am, excited to take the helm of the *ORNAC Journal* and intent on producing the best journal possible.

This Issue

This inaugural issue of the relaunch has some great reading for you: peer-reviewed articles, columns of interest, and several notices with ways for you to engage with ORNAC. Since this is our first issue, I don't want you to miss any of our offerings

so I'd like to introduce you to the *ORNAC Journal*. Watch for these regular columns in each issue.

- *Message from the President* will bring you greetings and updates on what is going on at ORNAC by ORNAC President, Tanya Vandale.
- *Spotlight on Practice* will feature highlights from the 16th edition of the ORNAC Standards, Guidelines, and Position Statements with information and tips for perioperative registered nurses.
- *Why You Love Being a Perioperative Nurse* – in this launch issue, you'll find instructions on how to contribute to this open forum; we hope to hear from you for our next issues.
- *Tales of ...* will have true stories of a perioperative nurse about experiences they had and lessons they learned. In this launch issue, read about ORNAC Secretary Jennifer Sutton's challenges and how overcoming them enhanced her resilience.
- *Collaborative Perspectives: Advancing Perioperative Care Across Disciplines* speaks for itself. In this issue, we have a piece from Jim Gauthier, an infection control practitioner and microbiology technologist, looking at alternate possibilities for cleaning ORs.
- *Follow ORNAC on Socials* will tell you about educational webinars being offered and other ORNAC events.
- *ORNAC Awards* will carry information about nominations or winners. In this issue we encourage you to get your nominations in before the deadline. Nominations are open from December 1, 2024 to March 1, 2025.

Take some time to give your attention to a few other gems unique to this launch issue. You will find a notice about ORNAC granting George Brown College in Toronto and MacEwan University in Edmonton **Program Approval** for their perioperative nursing programs. For anyone who would find these locations convenient, their courses meet certification standards. **In Memoriam** holds a tribute to John Flower, a renowned perioperative leader, gone too soon. Finally, we are calling for manuscripts and reviewers. If you are interested in joining our peer review roster, read the information in our **Call for Reviewers**. If you are interested in submitting a manuscript, you will find our next deadline and some basic information in **Write for Us**. These reminders will be in each issue and we welcome unsolicited manuscripts, posters, and conference abstracts. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at editor@ornac.ca and I will be glad to help you.

Now to our peer-reviewed articles. We have two articles for you in this issue, including a touch of history to spark a bit of reflection. Jennifer Sutton, Secretary of ORNAC, introduces us to our first article with **Showcasing a Perioperative Pioneer**. From the ORNAC publishing archives comes a reprint of an article that appeared in the premier issue of the

Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal, the forerunner to this *ORNAC Journal*. Pointing out the differences and similarities, Sutton shows that first article still has relevance today. Following this intro, you will see the reprinted article.

Back in 1983, Muriel Shewchuk's "Goldfish in a bowl" likened operating room (OR) nursing to being in a fishbowl. Since that time, much more has changed than the technological and medical processes Sutton mentions, including acceptable language. Although such language was appropriate for the time in which it was written, referring to all nurses as female and all surgeons and anaesthetists as male is no longer acceptable nor an accurate representation of the perioperative field. I like to think we have made *some* cultural progress in the past forty-one years. As a non-clinician, I particularly appreciated the detailed view through the window, or rather glass bowl, Shewchuk gives readers as they look in on your profession. Although couched in the language of the times, do you find the concerns and experience of perioperative nurses at the time are still relevant today? What progress do you see? I hope you find it an enjoyable and valuable read.

Have you wanted to update your personal knowledge but can't find the time or energy to do so? In "Just-in-time training: A strategy to support perioperative nurses' continued professional education", Sharon Higgins, Senior Practice Leader for Operating Room Nursing in the Canadian Armed Forces, looks at the value of just-in-time training as an effectual means to continue learning in your specialized field. The many demands of your specialty, complicated by the burnout and exodus of nurses resulting from the recent pandemic, are barriers to engaging in education sessions. The resulting knowledge and skill decay can

impact patient experiences and outcomes. Higgins shows just-in-time training can be a way to overcome those barriers with technological support that improves accessibility so learning can be done whenever and wherever it is needed, including at the bedside. This is a worthwhile read for anyone looking for a way to get the knowledge you need focused so its delivery is convenient, efficient and effective.

As I close, I encourage you to remember that the *ORNAC Journal* is the voice of your Association and by extension, you. With the relaunch, we have transitioned to open access, which extends the journal's reach on a global scale. We anticipate the larger scope of readership will spark innovations and encourage collaborations that enhance best practice and standard setting in the world of perioperative care. Each issue will have at least two and as many as five original articles and we want to encourage you to write about your experiences and knowledge. Sharing your expertise as you move forward in your own practice helps with the advancement of perioperative nursing as a whole. Your observations, research, experiences, and ideas are important, so please send your manuscripts our way. If you need any help getting started or as you move along the research or writing paths, get in touch with me (editor@ornac.ca) and I will be glad to assist you in any way that I can.



**Your proud new editor,
Linda M. Verde**

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