
REPORT ON THE 27th ORNAC NATIONAL CONFERENCE: *CHARTING THE FUTURE OF PERIOPERATIVE PRACTICE*

Submitted by: Kim McLennan-Robbins, ORNAC Conference Manager.

On behalf of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC), and specifically the conference planning committee, I would like to thank all of our nursing colleagues and the vendors who attended this year's conference – our first ORNAC virtual conference. When we first began planning for the 2021 national conference we were excited about offering another awesome educational experience and welcoming everyone to Victoria, BC. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to alter all of our conference and travel plans. However, as all perioperative nurses do, each and every day, we adjusted and adapted to our new situation and planned a virtual conference instead. This was uncharted water for all of us! We faced many challenges, but our team rose to the occasion and our virtual conference was a great success. We had 626 delegates and vendors in attendance over the four days.

Education, supporting our colleagues, and coming together to network is always such a valuable piece of an ORNAC conference. Through the sessions, discussion forums, question periods, and photo streaming, we were still able to educate, support, share and connect. Albeit in a different way. Energizing music kept our breaks upbeat, interactive, and fun.

Our opening and closing ceremonies were delivered in the same style as our

face-to-face conferences. Greetings/ remarks were presented by several individuals. And one of our highlights was learning which ORNAC members had won awards, grants, and bursaries this year. Congratulations to all of the recipients!

Our opening keynote was presented by Stephanie Staples, a motivational speaker, who spoke about ways to “Revitalize your work and life.” She did an amazing job giving us some tips and tricks to look after ourselves as we forge on in these crazy times!!

We had great educational sessions from many areas of perioperative practice including sessions run by many of our own ORNAC members. They showcased specific areas of practice and patient safety. There were a couple of presentations on Covid-19, reviewing implications, and how to manage resources and deploy staff during a pandemic. The Standards Committee also noted the updates to the 2021 ORNAC Standards including a new pandemic section. Delegates had the opportunity to ask questions after each session which further shared ideas and information.

We were delighted to have Mona Guckian-Fisher, President of the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN), present a session on “Charting the future of perioperative practice one day at a time.” Her wonderful presentation

focused on how we all deal with change. Her focus was on, “change brings growth, and growth brings change!” She said, “it always begins with me!” Very good food for thought!

The delegates were given several hours to view the 31 virtual vendor booths. There was an opportunity to go through each booth's display, videos, answer a passport game question, and to contact vendors directly with specific questions. There was also time for the delegates to view this year's poster presentations.

The closing keynote presentation was by Sarah McVanel and titled “The flipside of failing.” Sarah gave a wonderful and enthusiastic address which described the principles of ‘FLIP’ and how we can flip failure. Her key message was to always “remember your greatness!!”

We heard from many delegates who attended and completed our evaluation form. Feedback has shown that a hybrid conference model, combining virtual with face-to-face, would allow many more of our members to attend these valuable educational sessions. We look forward to our 2023 conference where we hope to blend being together in person with being together virtually. Until then, stay safe and thank you for all your hard work, whether it be in the OR or deployed to other departments. 🍁