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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The theme of this year's ORNAC National Conference is "Charting the future of Perioperative Practice" and, in 2021, this theme could not be more appropriate. Since March of last year Canadian perioperative nurses have been facing many challenges, due to the impact of COVID-19, that require much strength, courage and flexibility. They have certainly risen to this challenge and charted their way into a new world. Perioperative Registered Nurses respond to complex and changing clinical needs during a crucial period of a person's surgical experience. The scope of perioperative nursing practice is continually evolving as RNs respond to societal, technological, and economic changes.

Education is an on-going and life-long process. ORNAC is committed to enabling perioperative Registered Nurses to continue this journey as they are responsible for their own continuing education. ORNAC is, as a result, dedicated to providing continuing education to our perioperative nurses across Canada. The biennial national conference provides an important venue for education, networking, professional growth, and personal enhancement for ORNAC members. It is, due to our current circumstances, no longer possible to meet in-person as we have done for so many years.

ORNAC has risen to this challenge and has made the decision to deliver its national conference virtually so as to ensure it is accessible for all. While meeting virtually may not offer the same energy and interaction of a face-to-face meeting it offers a safe alternative and some unique benefits for our members, associates, and our loyal sponsors.

A virtual conference takes only minutes to access and brings people together quickly and easily. A virtual conference doesn't require travel costs and time away from family. As a result participants who might not have been able to access an in-person conference can join our virtual event. And those who could have attended in-person will be able to join with less inconvenience and cost.

As our conference will no longer be bound by the physical limits of a venue we can accept any number of attendees and create space and opportunities for a larger number of exhibitors and sponsors. We have created a "virtual exhibit hall" which will allow our sponsors to connect with members in new and creative ways. Participants will have the ability to contact the company representatives and to access the latest literature, educational material, and product videos. Members can browse the exhibit hall at their leisure or at designated times when vendors are available for contact and interaction.

Networking opportunities abound in an online environment where delegates can connect with speakers, exhibitors, and other attendees through the click of a mouse. A virtual conference offers flexibility and convenience requiring a shorter timeline than a traditional conference. After the conference you will be able to access the presentations through recorded sessions posted in a special portal in the conference website. No more running through crowded exhibit halls only to miss the person you most wanted to see.

Better access to analytics is another benefit of holding a virtual conference. A virtual conference platform can easily track the number of attendees in each session, track leads for sponsors, and show who engaged with what content and for how long. This allows sponsors to track benefits and helps ORNAC determine the success of each offering.

Register now for the 27th ORNAC National Conference (April 30 to May 4, 2021). Get your education hours, attend the AGM, network with others from the perioperative community, meet the new ORNAC Executive & Board, and much more. All from the safety of your own location. We look forward to "meeting you" there! 🌟

*The 3 C's of life: Choices, Chances, Changes. You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change.  
- Zig Ziglar*

*Cathleen Ferguson*