

REPORT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE & RESEARCH PILLAR

Submitted by: Chris Downey RN, BScN, CPN(C), MSc, RNFA, Chair, ORNAC Professional Practice and Research Pillar.

Greetings from the Chair of ORNAC's Professional Practice & Research Pillar. This pillar oversees several committees for the ORNAC Executive and Board: Standards, Educational Programs, Research, and Awards.

My goal is to showcase, in this and three other reports in future journals, the committees that I oversee and what they are working on for ORNAC members. I shall begin with the Awards Committee.

The **Awards Committee** has just been re-established and I am pleased to announce that the committee Chair, Lisa Bolton, ORNAC Director (Saskatchewan), and committee members Mary Knight, Past President of ORNAC (Manitoba); Margaret Farley, Past President of ORNAC (Saskatchewan), Barbara Mushayandebvu, Past President of ORNAC (Alberta), Cathleen Ferguson, ORNAC President, are already working on your behalf. They will be reviewing, revising and informing members about the wonderful awards that are available. The ORNAC awards recognize perioperative nurses whose practices support ORNAC's mission statements:

1. Promotion and advancement of excellence in the provision of safe perioperative care for patients;

2. Professional growth, competence, and personal enhancement of the ORNAC membership; and
3. Progression of perioperative practice at a regional, provincial, national, and international level.

Awards, in the order in which they were established, are:

The *ORNAC/J&J Medical Products Drake-Thompson Writing Award* was the first award ever presented by ORNAC in 1983 (originally the Surgikos Canada Award). This award recognizes an original article submitted to the journal that helps increase the knowledge or professional development of other perioperative nurses.

The *ORNAC/J&J Medical Products Nursing Bursary*, also originally created with Surgikos, is a bursary for practicing perioperative nurses to further their education. Originally a semi-annual award ORNAC chose, in 1995, to match funding and allow the bursary to be awarded annually.

The *Isabelle Adams Award* for Perioperative Excellence was established by the Operating Room Nurses of Quebec and was first presented in 1987. It recognizes an outstanding Canadian perioperative nurse who, through major

commitment, has made a significant contribution to perioperative nursing in Canada.

The *Lorne Flower Memorial Award* recognizes a past or present ORNAC Board Member for their contribution to Canadian perioperative nursing. It was established by Lorne Flower's son in memory of his father who was a medical industry representative and strong supporter of ORNAC.

ORNAC awards to support positive practice changes related to patient care risk factors are the 3M Canadian Infection Prevention Champion Award and the RMAC Patient Safety Award. Both recognize the contributions of perioperative nurses toward improving patient outcomes.

The two most recently created awards were established by, and named for, two of Canada's most highly regarded and influential perioperative nurses: the Muriel Shewchuk Leadership Award and the Gloria Stephens Award for Excellence as an Educator of Perioperative Nursing.

Award details and application/nomination information can be found under the Awards tab at www.ORNAC.ca. Check out these awards for yourself and make the most of these opportunities! 🌸