
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Mushayandebvu RN, CPN(C), is a staff nurse at the Peter Lougheed Centre in Calgary. She has experience in all surgical specialties and has been a Clinical Leader and Clinical Nurse Educator. Her past volunteer roles include ORNAA President, ORNAC Journal Editorial Chair, and Co-Chair of the 2015 ORNAC National Conference. president@ornac.ca



I do hope everyone celebrated each other and our achievements for Perioperative Nurses Week in November. The theme, Perioperative Nurses – The Voice of Our Patients, speaks to what we do, on a daily basis, and often take for granted. It is through our role as patient advocates that we become the voice of our patients. This advocacy role is exemplified when we uphold and practice according to the ORNAC Standards, Guidelines and Position Statements for Perioperative Registered Nurses. ORNAC's Mission, Vision and Core Values support patient advocacy through the promotion and advancement of excellence in the provision of safe perioperative care for patients and guiding perioperative nurses on a path to be leaders in this area.

How can we inform the public we serve about the advocacy we speak of? Be proud of what you do. Get certified, through CNA, by taking the certification exam (visit www.cna-aiic.ca for more details). This tells your employer and others that you have specialized knowledge that brings many benefits to your patients and your healthcare organizations. It demonstrates that you are recognized nationally for your practice excellence and commitment to lifelong learning. And it gives you enhanced professional credibility. Perioperative nursing was one of the first specialties to write the certification exam and in 2016 our specialty had the 4th highest number of certified nurses in Canada.

Advocacy: To act on behalf of another person, speaking for persons who cannot speak for themselves, or intervening to ensure views are heard.

- Ecker, M. & Bouchal, S.

Show your pride and passion by maintaining your membership in ORNAC and encouraging others to join. Now is the time to renew your membership at www.ORNAC.ca.

As a member of ORNAC you get access to education to keep current in your specialty practice, inform and shape the standards and guidelines for perioperative practice, belong to a group of like-minded professionals who are passionate about patient safety and about being the best that they can be. Conferences, webinars, and education days are a fun and interactive way to connect with your colleagues across Canada, and beyond, and keep up to date on what is happening in your profession.

The next ORNAC conference is April 26 – 30, 2019, in Halifax, NS and the theme is Tides of Change, Oceans of Perioperative Excellence. Save the date and plan to attend! Several webinars are in the members section of the ORNAC website and Education Days/Meetings are held frequently at local and regional levels (see the website for a full listing of upcoming events).

As we advocate for our patients we need to remember to advocate for ourselves. Talk to your local, provincial, and national government representatives about what you do. In addition to being influential on policy these individuals are also the people that we serve when they are in our care in the operating room. It is important that they understand our role in their care. We are the unseen face behind the mask who stands up for them and speaks for them when they have no voice.

I hope as 2017 ends and we begin a new year you take time to invest in yourself by joining ORNAC and getting certified.

Wishing you and yours love, joy, and peace as you celebrate this holiday season. 🍁

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Mushayandebvu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.