

SPOTLIGHT ON ORNAC MEMBERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH JANE RADEY RN, RNFA, CPN(C).

Submitted by: Heather Dow, ORNAC Executive Director.

Jane is employed full time as a Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) at Muskoka Algonquin Health Care – Huntsville Hospital in Ontario. She graduated from Canadore College School of Nursing in 1989 and, after working for a year on a medical ward, she took her OR and PACU courses and has worked in Surgical Services at her hospital ever since. She became an RNFA in 1999, after graduating from BCIT with the credential, and started working full-time in this position in 2012. Jane has volunteered extensively including for her regional perioperative group, ORNASCO, as President and as Secretary; in the Ontario provincial perioperative group, ORNAO, as a Board Member and as Secretary; in the Ontario RNFA group as Secretary and Chair; and in the national RNFA group, RNFANC, as Newsletter Editor. She also served at the Secretary of ORNAC, from 2015-2017, and enjoyed being a part of the team that works on the issues facing perioperative nurses across Canada. Jane is married to her best friend, has 2 (plus one) kids who all make her proud, and has 2 crazy dogs and one old cat.



Jane Radey RN, RNFA, CPN(C).



How long have you worked in the OR and what is your current role?

I have worked in the OR for 26 years and I am currently the RNFA for our hospital.

How has your role in the OR changed over the years?

Initially I worked as a Perioperative RN in our Surgical Services Department which encompasses the OR, PACU, Day Surgery, Endoscopy and Surgeons' Clinics. Since June 2012 I have been the RNFA for our Surgical Services. I assist during surgical cases in the OR, help to teach medical students about sterile technique and gowning and gloving. I run the Surgeons' Clinics, create and update Surgical Services Policies and Procedures, was involved in implementing electronic charting in the Perioperative Department as a super user, and am also currently the Lead Nurse in a two-year Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) Study along with a surgeon and anaesthetist at our hospital.

What was it about perioperative nursing that attracted you?

To be honest, I was not really enjoying ward nursing. I didn't like doing shift work and I was feeling like I wasn't making enough of a difference. I had enjoyed visiting the OR for a day, as a student, and when I walked into the OR one day, to see if they were hiring, I was immediately offered a job. I have never looked back, or regretted my decision, since that day.

What value do RNs bring to the leadership of OR teams?

RNs bring a huge amount of leadership to surgical teams. Many perioperative

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nurses don't think that they have any leadership abilities but I believe they are wrong. They don't realize that they are being leaders, at work, every day. They are vital partners in the smooth running of every OR in Canada. Decisions are made by Perioperative RNs, every minute of every day, that affect patient care. Every RN who works in an OR makes sure that each and every patient who enters their OR is cared for in a kind, safe, and ethical manner. All Perioperative Nurses are empowered to be leaders, whether or not they are in traditional leadership roles in their OR, Surgical Services Department, or hospital. No OR can run smoothly and efficiently without the Perioperative RNs who work there, and lead, every day.

What continuing education has supported your journey?

I believe in lifelong learning and as such I have never stopped learning. I am forever looking for new courses to take, either in person or on-line, and I attend as many conferences as I am able. I primarily enjoy continuing education opportunities that allow me to learn new things but I am always interested in a good review of a subject that I have learned before. I find all learning to be something that I can apply in my every day practice. I enjoy, and have attended many, ORNAC National Conferences for the large variety of subjects that are offered during the educational sessions and for the wealth of knowledge available in the vendor exhibitor area.

Who do you consider a key mentor and how did s/he influence you as a leader?

I have very fond memories of one RN, Karla Rodgers, who I worked with early on in my perioperative career. She had a very calm and assured personality and nothing seemed to throw her off balance. She was easily able to handle any

situation that we encountered at work. I admired her work ethic but also her calming personality that had such a great influence on her patients and all others in the OR. I think that I have tried to emulate her in all my roles in my job over the years. I am thankful to Karla for having been such a great mentor!

Tell us about your involvement with ORNAC, (past/present/future goals).

I first became involved with ORNAC, in 2013 and 2014, as a Standards Reviewer and then, in 2015, I became the ORNAC Secretary and have very much enjoyed my time on the Executive. I was interested in learning more about how the national organization was run and I also wanted to be on the forefront of change in perioperative nursing. I have learned so much in such a short time and look forward to working with the Executive and Board to help keep our ORNAC members up to date on what is happening in perioperative nursing in Canada. It is important that we, as an organization, encourage perioperative nurses to be involved at not only their local level but also to be aware of what is happening on a provincial, national and international level as well. It is important that the members understand what ORNAC is doing to help further the perioperative RNs position in ORs, help to ensure patient safety everywhere, develop Standards that are validated and user friendly, and keep others accountable for making sure that every procedure, in all ORs in Canada, is done to the highest standards and quality possible.

What future do you see for Perioperative RNs interested in developing leadership skills?

All Perioperative RNs who are interested in developing leadership skills need to become more involved. It doesn't have to

be anything big. They can become involved on a committee in their Surgical Services department or at their hospital. They can attend regional perioperative nursing meetings or become involved on their Provincial Executive. Attending conferences or taking advantage of other learning opportunities is also a great way to develop leadership skills. With each step the Perioperative RN develops more confidence and knowledge which, over time, produces a better Perioperative Nurse who is a leader in their area.

Any last words of wisdom?

The future is bright! I am an optimist! I believe that there are many challenges that Perioperative RNs face in the future across Canada. The largest challenge may be continuing to be recognized, relevant, and respected as vital participants in the safe care of our patients in this fiscally restrained healthcare system. I believe that every Perioperative RN needs to be vocal about how they see their role in the delivery of safe care for EVERY PATIENT who enters an OR in Canada.

Registered nurses are a vital and necessary piece of an intricate puzzle that is crucial for every patient and we need to develop strategies to describe what our role really looks like and to promote its importance. Every Perioperative RN needs to step up and show what their leadership in all ORs means, and how they are a necessary team member, along with LPN/RPNs, surgeons, anaesthesiologists, RTs, etc. Each member of the team has a defined role and we need to be able to clearly state what the role of the Perioperative RN is on this team.

I see only good things in the future of Perioperative RNs, but we all have to work together to make sure that our future is bright and to ensure that future Perioperative RNs will benefit from our collective hard work.