
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathleen Ferguson RN, BScN, RNFA, CPN(C), ORNAC incoming President is the Manager of OR/Perioperative Services at St. Martha's Regional Hospital in Antigonish NS and also works as an RN First Assistant. She is a past member of the ORNAC Standards Committee and past Chair of the Nominations Committee.

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ORNAC is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of excellence in the provision of safe perioperative care for patients. As perioperative nurses we need to ensure our practice is performed at a high standard and that patients benefit from our safe effective care.

One of the priorities in ORNAC's strategic plan is to demonstrate effective leadership in patient safety. The goal is to collaborate with affiliate groups, patients, government and others to support a safe perioperative environment. At the recent ORNAC AGM, in PEI, we had the pleasure of attending a presentation by Jennifer Rodgers, Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) Patient Safety Improvement Lead, and our own Bonnie McLeod, Chair of the ORNAC Advocacy Pillar, entitled "Surgical Care Safety: Think National, Act Local." Jennifer and Bonnie provided us with an exciting update on the collaborative work, being done at a national level, between ORNAC and CPSI and with other partners. ORNAC has approached CPSI to do an education session at the 2017 ORNAC National Conference in Niagara Falls.

I had the great opportunity to attend the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN) meetings that were held, in conjunction with the Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN) Conference, in Tasmania, Australia, in May of this year. It was exciting to see that perioperative nurses from around the world all have patient safety at the centre of their organizations and the centre of their practice. I was proud of ORNAC, and of all our Canadian perioperative

nurses, for the great work they have done and continue to do to ensure we are able to provide safe high quality patient care.

At the ACORN Conference I gave a presentation on the ORNAC Standards. I am so thrilled that we have begun our research validation project for the Standards in collaboration with Dr. Kevin Woo, PhD, RN, FAPWCA, and his research team from Queen's University in Kingston, ON. The ORNAC Standards Committee and Co-Chairs will be sharing this journey with the members through a series of articles with the first article on page 45 of this Journal. The Standards committee will also do an in-depth presentation at the 2017 National Conference. Any ORNAC members who are interested in becoming a reviewer for the Standards or a member of the Standards Committee can visit www.ORNAC.ca and click on Standards for more information.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the CNA biennial convention in Saint John, NB, where I was a voting delegate as a member of the CNA specialty network representing ORNAC. It was an amazing convention where I met a lot of impressive Canadian nurses. One of the presentations was on safe staffing models. CNA has developed a tool-kit that demonstrates how to make a case for evidence-based safe nurse staffing in our workplaces. Safe nurse staffing is critical to better patient care and to the well-being, health, and safety of perioperative nurses and other members of the surgical team. I encourage you all to visit the CNA website and review this information.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.

- Aristotle

Promoting evidence-based safe staffing for the perioperative surgical team is a key strategy that will lead to improved patient outcomes. The ORNAC Executive and Board of Directors, along with invited guests including a CNA representative, have dedicated Friday November 4th to a roundtable meeting, in Ottawa, to discuss perioperative staffing models across the country.

This year's theme for Perioperative Nurses week (November 7 to 11) is "Safety in our hands: Our patients, Ourselves". This theme couldn't be more timely in the context of these developments and discussions around safe nurse staffing.

ORNAC is on the right track promoting safety for both our patients and our nurses. Patient safety starts with each individual perioperative nurse. We encourage you to take the lead in your workplaces and ensure a safer environment for all! 🌟

Cathleen Ferguson