

SPOTLIGHT ON ORNAC MEMBERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH ERIN ROBERTSON RN, BSCN(HONS), CPN(C).

Submitted by: Catherine Harley, RN, eMBA, ORNAC Executive Director.

Erin Robertson is a Perioperative Registered Nurse working as the Nurse Clinician in Perioperative Services (Operating Room, Elective Outpatient Surgery and Endoscopy) at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, ON. Erin completed the Perioperative Nurse course in 1999 and worked in the Surgical Suites at Kingston General Hospital for three years prior to moving to Toronto. She then spent nine years as a staff nurse in the OR and one year as the patient flow coordinator prior to taking on her current role. During her time at Mount Sinai Erin has completed her post RN BScN (with honours) and is currently taking her Masters of Nursing: Leadership in Education and Health Policy. Erin is an active member of periOperative Registered Nurses of Greater Toronto (ORNGT) and serves as the program convener. Erin lives in Toronto with her husband and two boys.



Erin Robertson RN, BScN(Hons),
CPN(C).



My graduate degree is teaching me to push the boundaries of “what we know and how we know it.”

What is your current role on the perioperative team?

I am currently employed at Mount Sinai Hospital in downtown Toronto in Perioperative Services which encompasses the Operating Rooms, Elective Outpatient Surgery, and Endoscopy. My role within the perioperative team is to support professional practice and includes facilitating the orientation of new staff and students to the environment, facilitating the development and implementation of learning plans, and addressing the educational needs of staff members. In addition to providing educational support I am actively involved in initiating, executing, and supporting various departmental and institutional quality improvement initiatives.

Who was your greatest mentor?

I have been fortunate to have had many nurses, in perioperative services and in other roles and departments, who have greatly influenced my practice. From my preceptors as a novice perioperative nurse, who taught me the importance of our role as client advocates and to always expect the unexpected, to new perioperative nurses/students who bring a new perspective and an eagerness to learn, many individuals have positively contributed to my practice. I have been fortunate to have met or worked with some great perioperative nursing leaders who have encouraged and supported my professional and educational pursuits. Some nurses I would like to mention include Anne Marie Dutka (Howlett) who introduced me to perioperative nursing, Brenda Lynn and Chris Downey

SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

AN INTERVIEW WITH ERIN ROBERTSON

who provided opportunities for me to flourish as a novice perioperative nurse, and Sharon Ball who saw my potential and enthusiasm for perioperative nursing and encouraged and supported my professional goals and educational pursuits.

Why did you pursue your Master's Degree in Leadership in Education and Health Policy?

Once I completed my post-RN BScN I realized that my formal education was now on par with all Registered Nurses currently entering practice. After working at the bedside for 12 years I wanted to be in a leadership role where I could further contribute to influencing professional practice and driving patient safety and best practice initiatives. The nurse clinician in perioperative services role was open and I knew that, to be proficient in the role, I needed additional knowledge, skills, and perspective.

How will this degree impact on your current role?

My graduate degree is teaching me to push the boundaries of "what we know and how we know it." By doing this I feel I can further contribute to perioperative nursing knowledge. My education is increasing my ability to bridge the gap between perioperative nursing knowledge and our perioperative nursing professional practice.

Tell us how you came to receive the Johnson and Johnson Research award through ORNAO.

I have been a member of ORNGT for the last eight years. The last two years I have been a volunteer on the program committee (and this past year I was the convenor) responsible for organizing the educational sessions, that are held four times a year, and collaborating with the membership to address their learning needs. Through my participation with ORNGT I met the qualifications and received an endorsement from my regional President as well as support from two colleagues on my application. It was a great feeling to be called up on the stage, in front of my peers, and be recognized at ORNAO 2014 in London.

What benefits do you see in ORNAC membership?

The main benefit of being a member of ORNAC is the ability to network and be part of a supportive perioperative community. Other benefits include being a part of, and having a voice in, the organization that sets the standards for my professional perioperative practice. Additionally,

Instrumentarium: A brand that inspires confidence

We distribute nearly 100,000 surgical instruments among the largest brands recognized for their quality.

Our company is the only one offering the Instrumentarium brand. A product of 37 years of experience, and fuelled by suggestions from reputed surgeons, Instrumentarium brand instruments are exclusive, unique, high quality and available at competitive prices.

We are even able to create instruments in response to your needs. Feel free to make requests — nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Instrumentarium : Une marque de confiance

Nous distribuons près de 100 000 instruments chirurgicaux parmi les plus grandes marques reconnues pour leur qualité.

Nous sommes les seuls à vous offrir la marque Instrumentarium. Créés à partir de 37 ans d'expérience et alimentés par les suggestions de chirurgiens réputés, nos instruments portant la marque Instrumentarium sont uniques, exclusifs, de grande qualité et offerts à prix compétitifs.

Nous pouvons même fabriquer un instrument selon vos exigences. Demandez-les, vous avez tout à gagner.

Contact us for all your needs in **ENDOSCOPIC INSTRUMENTS**
Contactez-nous pour tous vos besoins en **ENDOSCOPIE**

Dismantable - Démontable

Monopolar - Monopolaire
Rotatable - Rotatif
Ø 5mm or/ou 10mm
35cm or/ou 45cm



04.05100.04



04.05100.64



04.05100.55

Large choice of inserts
Grand choix d'inserts



04.02135.15
Maryland



04.02135.14
Johan



04.02335.08
Wave Grasping



04.02135.10
"Vario" Grasping



04.02535.15
Ciradur Metzenbaum



1273, St-Louis, Terrebonne, QC,
J6W 1K6, Canada
T : 450.471.1379 • 1.800.361.1502
F : 450.471.1030
instrumentarium-online.com
info@instrumentarium-online.com

SPOTLIGHT ON ORNAC MEMBERS (cont.)

AN INTERVIEW WITH ERIN ROBERTSON RN, BSCN(HONS), CPN(C).

I think that perioperative registered nurses are in for some exciting and likely challenging times ahead on a couple of fronts.

ORNAC, through the Journal and conferences, supports my continuing education needs. In my role as a Nurse Clinician it is fantastic to be able to put out an e-mail to my ORNAC perioperative nurse educator group (PNEC) and have numerous responses in a matter of minutes. It is reassuring to know we are

not alone and that we all struggle with similar issues in our efforts to collectively enhance patient care.

How do you see the future for perioperative nurses?

I think that perioperative registered nurses are in for some exciting and likely challenging times ahead on a couple of fronts.

The first is the massive amount of new and constantly changing technology that is affecting our environments. Perioperative nurses need to continuously embrace change by pro-actively acquiring the knowledge and skills that are required by perioperative registered nurses to ensure our patients receive the best possible care.

Secondly, perioperative nurses are going to see an increase in the various

“new” healthcare professionals being infused into the perioperative environment. Perioperative Registered Nurses need to be able to articulate what they contribute to the perioperative environment, why they are the best people/advocates/experts, and how they are essential to the patient and the inter-professional team.

Any words of wisdom for the next generation?

Be proactive! Learn everything you can! Take advantage of opportunities to learn new skills, network, and enhance your knowledge. Participate in committees - have a voice. Preceptor and mentor students-be a positive role model. And use the literature, and your peers’ expertise, to support best practice initiatives.

Peer-reviewed feature articles appearing in this publication have undergone a double blind peer review process. The views or opinions expressed in the editorial or articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC). Although reasonable efforts are made to ensure accuracy ORNAC, and its agents, take no responsibility whatsoever for errors, omissions or any consequences of reliance on material or the accuracy of information.

Publication does not constitute ORNAC endorsement of, or assumption of liability for, any claims made in advertisements.



ORNAC / AIISOC

This publication is copyright in its entirety. Material may not be reprinted without the written permission of ORNAC. Contact through www.ORNAC.ca.

Les articles de chroniques évalués par un comité de lecture qui apparaissent dans cette publication ont été soumis à un processus d’évaluation par les pairs en double aveugle. Les points de vue ou les opinions exprimés dans l’article de tête ou les autres articles sont ceux des auteurs et ne représentent pas nécessairement les politiques ou les points de vue de l’Association des infirmières et infirmiers de salles d’opération du Canada (AIISOC). Bien que tous les efforts aient été mis en œuvre pour assurer l’exactitude des articles, l’AIISOC et ses représentants ne sont en aucun cas responsables des erreurs, des omissions ou de toutes conséquences pouvant découler de l’utilisation du matériel ou de la justesse de l’information. En cas de doute quant à la traduction des articles, la version originale anglaise prévaudra.

La publication des annonces publicitaires ne signifie en aucun cas que l’AIISOC n’approuve ou n’assume la responsabilité de toute revendication faite par ces dernières.

L’intégralité de cette publication est protégée par la loi sur le droit d’auteur. Les documents ne peuvent être réimprimés sans l’autorisation écrite de l’AIISOC. Communiquez avec www.AIISOC.ca.