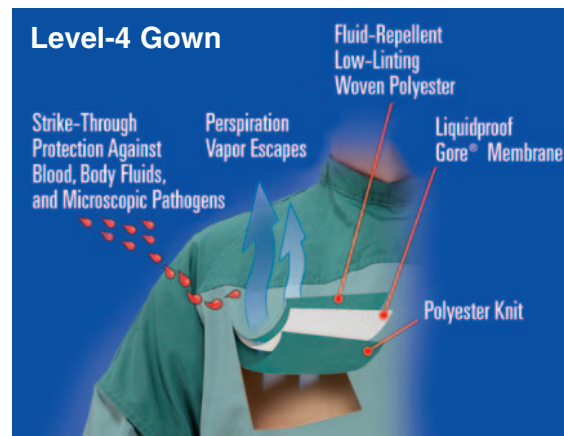




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President's Message

In a previous President's Message I discussed the subject of patient safety and the fact that creating a culture of safety is every health care provider's responsibility. ORNAC continues to be actively involved in several patient safety initiatives of which the most recent and far-reaching is the World Health Organization's (WHO) *Safe Surgery Saves Lives Challenge*.

As the volume of surgery continues to experience worldwide growth at unprecedented rates, and because surgery is an integral part of health care, the WHO launched a campaign to specifically address patient safety in surgical care. By taking the step to recognize surgery as a major public health issue and by defining a core set of minimum standards that can be universally applied regardless of borders and settings, we can create an environment of safety that will help improve both the access and the level of care available to surgical patients.

In February of 2008, a Surgical Safety Checklist was proposed by WHO. It has been designed to be easy to understand and widely applicable in order to help reinforce established safety practices. While many of these practices are already common in Canada, they are not always so in many other parts of the world.

The goal of the *Safe Surgery Saves Lives Challenge* is to create safety norms and to ensure they are positioned in the forefront of every surgical provider's mind. There has been an immense global endorsement of the campaign and the checklist – ORNAC has collaborated with several other Canadian organizations in a joint endorsement of both. The ORNAC vision has always focused on enhancing patient perioperative experiences by promoting best practices. To successfully achieve our vision we must put patients at the very heart of our care and build a culture of safety within operating rooms and surgical facilities across Canada.

Since the official launch of the WHO campaign and the Surgical Safety Checklist, the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) has organized a working group of representatives from several disciplines and organizations across Canada.

This working group is further defining the checklist and adapting it to the Canadian environment while identifying other issues related to safe surgery. ORNAC is honoured to be involved. By the time this issue of CORNJ is published you may already be hearing about some of the work this group has accomplished!



In order to meet the demands of an ever-changing healthcare environment, ORNAC will continue to be proactive in working for change in the future. It will continue to stand by its mandate of focusing on the promotion and advancement of excellence in the provision of safe patient care in the perioperative environment and on the professional growth of perioperative nurses. Creating a culture of safety in healthcare should be everyone's mission. Our patients deserve it!

On another note, don't forget to register for the upcoming ORNAC National Conference to be held in St. John's, NL, in June 2009. It promises to be an event not to be missed! More information can be obtained at our website www.ornac.ca – hope to see you there! 🍁

Wishing you and your family a happy and peaceful holiday season....

Linda Socha

Linda M. Socha, RN, BSN, RNFA, CPN(C), CEBT, CTBS, is President of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. She is Clinical Nurse Educator for the OR at Saskatoon City Hospital and Casual Tissue Donor Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Transplant Program. She is also the past Chair of the ORNAC Editorial Committee.