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Sterillium Rub is manufactured by Bode-Chemie, a firm that shares skincare technology with its parent company, Beiersdorf — the producer of renowned moisturizers such as NIVEA® and Eucerin®. Sterillium's balanced emollient blend leaves hands feeling soft and smooth, never greasy or sticky. It dries quickly and leaves behind no buildup, allowing quicker, easier gloving — and we like to think that comfort drives compliance.

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**President's Message**

Two things have recently inspired me to reflect on the way perioperative nursing is perceived within the entire spectrum of nursing practice.

The first occurred while I was attending the Canadian Student Nurses Association annual conference, in Winnipeg. ORNAC was, for the first time, involved as a sponsor of this dynamic organization. I came fully prepared with brochures, banners, copies of CORNJ, and a copy of our Standards. I wanted to show off ORNAC and motivate and encourage these future leaders to consider perioperative nursing as a career option. What I didn't expect was the confusion and frustration resulting from the varied entry requirements for perioperative practice in different parts of the country. Some provinces have very strict requirements while others offer innovative opportunities for students and new graduates to enter the perioperative world. One province requires new graduates to have 2000 hours as an RN in general practice before they can apply for a perioperative program. Other provinces are working with educational institutions to hire nurses into the operating room straight out of school or are increasing the numbers of senior practicum seats in the operating room as a means of enticing students to consider the operating room as a career option.

A common theme heard at this conference was the age old issue of not providing enough opportunities for students to experience nursing in the operating room during their schooling. Many students expressed their disappointment that they did not receive enough of a 'snapshot' of the perioperative environment to allow them to give it serious consideration, much less choose it as a career. It is no wonder that we are not one of the top choices for students - the minimal exposure received by students to the OR and the varied rules controlling entry to practice are keeping our next generation of nurses out!

The second incident that gave me cause for concern took place, oddly enough, over an enjoyable lunch with some co-workers. A group of educators had brought along a nursing student who was finishing up his senior rotation. Given my recent experience I was curious to hear this student's perception of the

OR and if he was considering it as a potential career option. I was not prepared for his answer...fortunately there was no food in my mouth or I'm sure I would have aspirated! His response was "No, or at least not for a long while, as I want to work for several years on a med-surg ward or in critical care. I don't want to lose the nursing skills that I've just spent four years learning." Those of us from the OR who were at this lunch immediately went on the defensive about why his perception of perioperative nursing, and the skills required, were erroneous and just plain wrong.

In retrospect I realize that while the lack of exposure during nursing school may play a part in this clouded opinion, I have to wonder how much influence I have had in substantiating or disproving this view when talking with students or with fellow nurses. It's clear that we, as a profession, need to do a better job of promoting perioperative nursing practice! It is our responsibility if we want to attract future leaders into the OR! 🍁

*Linda M. Socha*

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