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## President's Message

By Margaret Farley, RN, CPN(C)

Recently, at the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Congress, I had the opportunity to network with the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN) Executive and members of the Canadian Council of National Representatives (CNR). It reminded me that there is a great deal of history, and energy, behind all the acronyms.

The International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN) is the result of the dreams, ideas, and hard work of forward thinking nurses around the globe. In 1997 a steering committee was formed to bring the dream to reality and in 1999 the IFPN was born.

IFPN's Constitution states its purpose "is to represent and be the voice of perioperative nurses worldwide and to promote quality patient care internationally." IFPN currently represents 12 member nations.

Many registered nurses in Canada are members of the Federation (represented by ORNAC). ORNAC is a founding member of IFPN.

The IFPN Constitution states "The IFPN is a federation of national perioperative nurses associations, or an equivalent perioperative nurses' group, which is affiliated to the official nursing organization of the member country, and which are in compliance with this Constitution and have been formally admitted into membership. IFPN functions under a policy of non-discrimination."

As a member of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) ORNAC was originally able to seek membership in IFPN, at the time of its founding, as the representative of Canadian perioperative nurses.

CNR meetings provide opportunities to network, collaborate, compare practices, exchange ideas, learn, and assist each other while performing the functions of IFPN as laid out in the constitution. My involvement has been both a pleasure and an honour — I can't begin to tell you about what I've learned and the people I have met!

IFPN also has an elected Executive Board, with members from around the world. The roles of IFPN President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Full Board Member positions are currently being handled by representatives

from New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

IFPN has worked very diligently to write educational modules/standards in order to assist any global partners, in developing world countries, that have not yet been able to create their own versions. Kate Woodhead has worked tirelessly, as President of IFPN, to find industry partners that are able to provide financial assistance with the printing of these standards. The first set of Standards was released in the spring of 2003. Those nurses attending the 18<sup>th</sup> National Conference, held Winnipeg MB in June 2003, would have seen & heard Kate's lectures on IFPN and its goals (CORNJ, Sept03, pg 14-15)!

In November 1999 IFPN applied for, and was granted, affiliate status in the International Council of Nurses (ICN). This is of benefit to both IFPN and to ORNAC, as an IFPN member. ICN grants affiliate status to only one special interest group at any given time. As a result of this new status perioperative nurses around the globe are now affiliated with ICN. This allows for the global sharing of knowledge, technology, expertise, and best practices among all nurses, not just those in the perioperative specialty. 🍁



For more information visit [www.ornac.ca](http://www.ornac.ca) and click on "links".

**Bibliography:**  
*International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN) Constitution*, Harrogate, UK: National Association of Theatre Nurses. [www.ifpn.org.uk](http://www.ifpn.org.uk)

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