



International Federation of Perioperative Nurses

IFPN - A new organization for perioperative nurses: New partnerships for ORNAC

By Vija Hay, RN, (CPN(C))

ORNAC has been participating in the development and formation, and is a member of the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN).

The IFPN is a federation of national perioperative nurses associations which are affiliated to the official nursing organization of the member country and which are in compliance with its constitution and have been formally admitted into membership.

Mission Statement

The International Federation of Perioperative Nurses will work towards improving patient care by promoting, preserving and advancing the role of perioperative nurses in member organizations. It will be actively engaged in providing educational opportunities and support to perioperative nurses in all nations. It will encourage, support and assist humanitarian perioperative nursing projects. The organization will seek to become collaborative partners with recognized international nursing and health organizations in order to achieve its mission.

Purpose

The purpose of IFPN is to represent and be the voice of perioperative nurses worldwide, and to promote quality perioperative patient care internationally.

Objectives

1. To represent perioperative nurses and perioperative nursing internationally.
2. To promote perioperative nursing codes, standards and improve the quality of nursing care.
3. To follow a policy of non-discrimination in all IFPN matters.
4. To receive and manage funds and trusts which

contribute to advancement of nursing and of the IFPN.

5. To promote and participate in perioperative nursing research.
6. To maintain a networking system for key and emerging issues in perioperative nursing.
7. To promote perioperative nursing at every opportunity by liaising with relevant national and international organizations, e.g. World Health Organization, International Council of Nurses.
8. To act as a liaison group between national perioperative nurses associations requesting humanitarian or educational / other aid and the member association(s) that can provide the assistance.

Background Information

For many years now, ORNAC has been and continues to be a member of the International Planning Committee (IPC) for World Conference of Operating Room Nurses (WCORN), since renamed the World Conference of Surgical Patient Care. Currently there are 11 active IPC members, 6 corresponding members, and 3 other contacts for information, spanning the globe. ORNAC's designated representative to IPC has been the Past President. The responsibilities of the IPC were detailed in the December, 1998 edition of the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal*, but can be summarized to consist of planning the educational component for WORNC and providing speakers and moderators.

The need for a "world council", a truly international collaboration, has long been expressed by IPC members. It has become increasingly evident that

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Vija Hay, IFPN Steering Committee Member, is the Past President of the Canadian Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada.

perioperative nursing issues and other related topics which affect all international organizations should be addressed and discussed. The format of the World Conference is limiting, and does not provide the opportunity for that type of interaction or focus.

Informal discussions to expand the role of the IPC, were initiated during the AORN Congress in Dallas, Texas in 1996 at an IPC Ad hoc meeting with then AORN President Linda Groah. The role of the IPC and the formation of an international global federation was discussed in more detail at the next IPC meeting in April, 1997, in Anaheim, California. The Working Group (representing Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK, USA) was asked to do the ground work in developing a new organization. Work has been ongoing by this committee through electronic communication and meetings.

Process

A discussion document "Proposal to Form an International Perioperative Nursing Organization" was drafted and distributed to IPC members by the IPC Working Group. Members of IPC (national associations) were requested to consider the proposal and respond to a questionnaire as to their support and interest to join. The response to the questionnaire was favorable.

The proposal for the formation of an international federation of perioperative nurses was presented to the delegates at the International Forum during the World Conference in Toronto, Ontario in September, 1997. At the Toronto IPC debriefing meeting, the Working Group was endorsed to continue the project to form an international federation and was renamed as the **Steering Committee**. The members of the committee were: Carolyn Webster (ACORN), Sue Vincent (NATN), Marion Jones (PNANZ), Vija Hay (ORNAC), Jeannie Botsford (AORN). The National Association of Theatre Nurses (NATN), UK was nominated as the administrative headquarters.

The first formal meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Orlando, Florida, March, 1998, following the IPC meeting during the AORN Congress with Judith Oulton, Executive Director of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in attendance. Judith Oulton was instrumental in providing a global perspective, and helpful in our discussions as we deliberated the development of a constitution. At this meeting the name of the organization was agreed to be International Federation of Perioperative Nurses. Pro-

posed terms of reference for the Committee were to include the development of the constitution, preparation of application forms, circulation of information to potential members, correspondence/communication, developing the process for nominations and elections.

The second meeting of the Steering Committee took place in October, 1998 in Harrogate, UK immediately following the NATN Annual Congress. At this meeting the first draft of the constitution was reviewed in depth. The constitution is based on the International Council of Nurses Constitution. The IFPN logo was selected. During the NATN Congress, the Steering Committee met with Judith Oulton, and spent time to promote the IFPN to international delegates and exhibitors.

Progress to Date

The second draft of the Constitution has been developed. This draft document and IPC member comments will be reviewed at the March, 1999 Steering Committee meeting in San Francisco, California. The final draft will be circulated and formally adopted at the Steering Committee meeting in Helsinki, at the World Conference for Surgical Patient Care in July, 1999.

Promotion information for potential members has been redrafted, a **Business Plan** has been drafted, and will be finalized at the next meeting.

Funding will be required from many sources to ensure that as many national perioperative nurses organizations as possible join, and sustain the operation of the Federation. These requirements have been addressed. Membership fees to cover administrative costs are currently received from each association represented on the Steering Committee. Support will be solicited from sponsors. A conference is projected for the future.

Election of Executive Officers and Transition Process have been developed. Nomination forms have been drafted. Elections for the executive will be held in Helsinki Finland in July, 1999. The management of the transition period is being finalized.

Application of Affiliation with ICN has been submitted.

An Abstract Proposal to Present at ICN Congress in June, 1999, in London, UK has been submitted.

Launch of IFPN at the World Conference of Surgical Patient Care, Helsinki, Finland, July, 1999.



Members of the IFPN Steering Committee: Front row: (L to R) Carolyn Webster, (Coordinator) Australia. Sue Vincent, United Kingdom, (Secretary-Treasurer). Standing: (L to R) Vija Hay, Canada; Marion Jones, New Zealand; and Ellen Murphy, U.S.A.

Members of the Steering Committee:

- Carolyn Webster, Australian Confederation of Operating Room Nurses Ltd. (Coordinator & Chairman of the Steering Committee).
- Sue Vincent, National Association Theatre Nurses, UK. (Secretary/Treasurer for the Steering Committee).
- Vija Hay, Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada.
- Marion Jones, Perioperative Nurses Association of New Zealand.
- Ellen Murphy, Association of Operating Room Nurses, Inc. USA.

Conclusion

We have come a long way since IPC members first voiced the need for an expanded role of the IPC. A new organization with global links and impact for perioperative nurses and nursing care is a reality. It is exciting to see the progress that has been made since the first informal discussions in 1996. It is rewarding to see partnerships at work, the true dedication, professionalism and consensus within the committee that spans the globe. It is evident that national organizations recognize the need to unite internationally in

common issues that affect and impact perioperative practice. The opportunity for learning and sharing is tremendous. The liaison with ICN is an important link.

ORNAC has supported the formation of the Federation, has paid the membership fee, and can be considered as one of the founding members by participation on the Working Group/Steering Committee. Just as nursing roles are changing and diversifying, so ORNAC must grow, diversify and respond to global issues.

It is essential to recognize future directions and trends, and the value added partnerships. Becoming a partner in the international organization is recognition and affirmation of ORNAC as a progressive association. ■

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World Conference on Surgical Patient Care

July 25 - 30, 1999

Helsinki, Finland

Registration Fees (in US dollars)

Postmarked on or before June 11, 1999:

Category	Weekly	International Fellowship Night
Participant	\$325	\$40
Guest	\$170	included

Postmarked after June 11th, 1999:

Category	Weekly	International Fellowship Night
Participant	\$350	\$75
Guest	\$195	included

International Fellowship Night is NOT included in the participant registration fee.

For registration information/forms please contact:
 AORN, Inc. Customer Service / World
 Conference Registration,
 2170 S Parker Rd, Suite 300,
 Denver, CO 80231-5711, USA

Canadian Participants

International Fellowship Night will be held Monday (July 26, 1999) at the Helsinki Fair Centre from 2000 to 2400. Please come prepared to wear "Canadian dress", which will be a red hat and red and white combination of attire of your choice. The hat will be available at the ORNAC National Conference in Halifax in June. Those not attending, may order from me. Cost \$15.00, plus shipping charges if mailed. Anyone wishing to purchase a red vest, please order from me before May 28, 1999. Cost of vest will be approximately \$16.00 to \$20. Style is similar to a warm-up jacket with V neck, no sleeves, two pockets. Sizes available: Medium and Large.

At the International Night, it is customary to exchange small mementos. Logo pins of your association and provincial government, and Canadian souvenirs are popular. Arrive before 2000 hours so we can take a group picture.

Hope to see you in Helsinki !

Vija Hay, IPC Member, Past President ORNAC

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