

ORNAC in a Nutshell

#1 Concern of OR Nurses - the increasing replacement of RNs in the OR

The Board and Executive of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) met September 5 & 6, 1997 in Toronto. There were five Executive and twenty Board members present. Following are the highlights of the two day meeting.

1. A forum at the National Conference in April, 1997 identified key areas of concern for OR nurses across the country. The number one concern is the increasing presence of other health care workers in the OR and their replacement of RN's. This and other major issues will be addressed in the President's Message.

A document was sent by the Saskatchewan ORT group to the Regina Health Board proposing an increase in ORT staffing and their replacement of perioperative RN's. Donna Farid has sent a letter to the C.E.O. of the Health Board outlining ORNAC's position with regard to this proposal, for the record.

2. ORNAC has requested that CNA review the number of employment hours required by OR nurses to write the Perioperative Certification Exam. It is hoped lowering the hours will allow casual nurses to qualify to write the exam.

3. The Standards Committee is in the final stages of preparing the 1998 Standards. They will be ready for sale in January, 1998.

Telemedicine Canada sessions for Operating Room Nurses continue to be prepared on topics of interest. The committee is attempting to prepare a study guide to assist those writing the Certification exam.

4. The Editorial Advisory Committee is hopeful the Nutshell and President's Address will be translated into French for the Journal and will participate in seeking funding. Hopefully in the future a French article will be included in each issue as well.

5. The Translation committee reports the standards are being translated into French. They will be available through the Quebec Board Member Monique Perazzelli.

6. The Public Awareness Committee presented a Business Plan to develop an ORNAC Web Page. Approval was given for this with a target date of Dec. 31, 1997. Draft three of the pamphlet "Why an RN is needed in the OR" is being reviewed.

7. A National Membership Card and numbering system is being investigated as a means of tracing membership statistics.

8. The Advanced Nursing Practice Committee is hoping for closure on the NAFTA, Nurse Anesthetist project. ORNAC has remained an observer on these meetings to be certain the message is sent that this position is not in place in Canada.

9. ORNAC continues to lobby the government (HRDC) to co-fund the development of competencies for the anesthetic assistant role. This is a joint project of ORNAC, the Canadian Anesthetic Society and the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists.

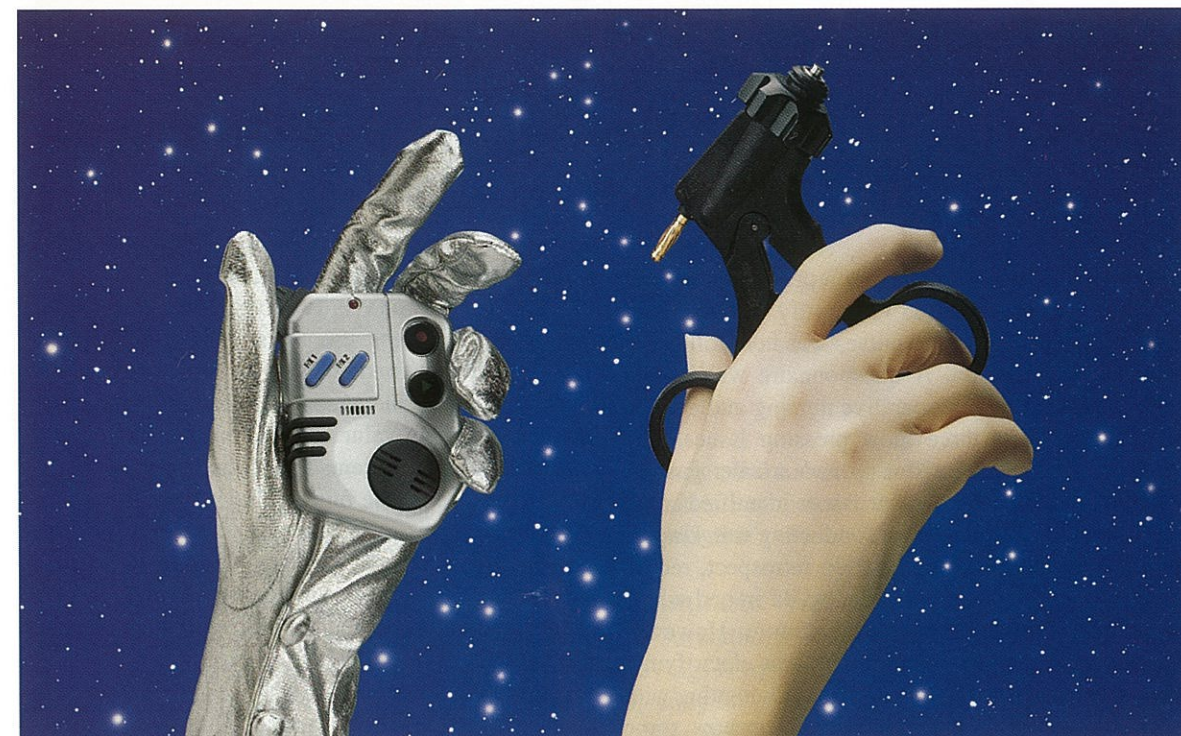
10. The Research Committee is developing a structure in order to support nurses conducting Perioperative nursing research projects. The committee will be investigating potential topics, developing an application form, asking for a research grant and exploring methods of advertising, both in English and French.

11. Plans are progressing for the National Conference 1999 in Halifax, and in 2001 in Banff. The Board accepted a Business Plan for the 2003 Conference to be held in Manitoba.

12. Twelve nurses from the Yukon have expressed an interest in joining ORNAC. They have been advised to do so through the BC group.

13. The next ORNAC Board meeting will be in May, 1998 in Toronto.

Adapted from the Minutes of September 5 & 6, 1997. Corina Balcom, Secretary of ORNAC



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