

# Research Committee Report

By Loretta Thomas-Aasen

During the January 28, 1994 weekend the Research Committee conducted its first annual meeting as a group at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C. The warm British Columbia weather was wonderful, even the flowers were blooming.

Two B.C. members, Gloria Stephens and Marnie Simon, showed us the beautiful sites and superb eating establishments of Vancouver and Burnaby. Even though we took some time to appreciate the sites and sounds of Vancouver and area, we still managed to complete our weekend goals and objectives. Indeed, we had a very productive meeting. Thanks to my Committee Members for a great meeting! Meeting highlights include:

- ORNAC to fund a Registered Nurse in Graduate studies (can be non-nursing) to attend the International Research 94-95 Conference.
- Development of Anaesthesia Skills List for Registered Nurses. This information will be submitted to the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Task Force on Anaesthesia Assistants.
- Discussion and revisions to our display posters and promotional materials.
- Revisions and acceptance of our 1994-95 Research Committee budget.
- Discussion on the availability of funding for perioperative nursing practice research.
- To communicate to O.R. provincial newsletters thereby encouraging members to perform perioperative nursing practice research.
- Research Committee to purchase a display board to be utilized at upcoming provincial and national conferences.
- Shirley Thorn developed the following documents: The Research process includes the Role of Research and Stages in the Research Process and Questionnaires includes: collecting information, types and design. This information will be reviewed and ready for distribution in April, 1994.
- Development of the Certification Survey Questionnaire, completed by Shirley Thorn with presentation to Anna Kristoff (Certification Chairperson).
- Revisions to the Committee Terms of Reference. Revisions to the following definitions: Perioperative Nursing Practice, Anaesthesia and Surgery.
- Development of our Scope of Practice for perioperative nursing for presentation to the Board of Directors.

- Research Committee Members to attend the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Annual Meeting, June 17-21, '94 in Edmonton, Alberta.
- L. Thomas-Aasen and Shirley Thorn are scheduled to present a session on research to delegates attending the ORNAC Conference in Ottawa this April.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for April, 1994 in Ottawa, Ontario, during the ORNAC Conference.

Committee Members include: Loretta Thomas-Aasen, Chairperson, (SK), Gloria Stephens (BC), Marnie Simon (BC), Judi Tyndall (ON), Shirley Thorn (MB), Jack Kress (MB), Donna Prokopczak (AB).

## Canadian Anaesthetists' Society (CAS) Meeting Highlights: - January 8th '94

Committee members include: Jackie Waisman (ORNAC President), L. Thomas-Aasen (ORNAC Research Committee), Susan Dunnington and David Gillett (Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists, Dr. John Atkinson (Chair), Dr. Peter Duncan (CAS) Dr. Serge Lenis (CAS), Ann Andrews (Staff, CAS) and Dr. Ian White (CAS, invited guest)

This Committee is planning to complete the following prior to the June, 1994 Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Annual meeting in Edmonton, Alberta:

- Development of a task analysis of the perceived position of the anaesthesia assistant, both in and out of the O.R. environment.

- Preparation of a job description showing skills required in the function.
- Identification of the professional relationship that might exist between the assistant and the physician.
- The development of a training curriculum.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19, '94 in Montreal.

We will continue to keep you posted with regards to our progress. However, if you have any concerns or questions please contact me at: (306) 842-6991 (Telephone) or FAX (306) 842-4453.

## Author

Loretta Thomas-Aasen, R.N., B.S.N., is President-Elect of ORNAC and Chairperson of the ORNAC Research Committee.

# 2nd National Survey Report Expanded Role of the Operating Room Nurse

By Gloria Stephens

## Background

The second National Survey was conducted to take advantage of the large attendance of staff nurses at the National OR Conference held in Quebec City 1993. The survey questions were the same as the first survey of November, 1992. The survey was not conducted for the purpose of a comparison, but to gather more data in order to determine the 'scope of nursing practice' in the operating room.

Results were printed in the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal*, September/October, 1993.

## Research Question:

1. What is the current practice, throughout Canada, of operating room nurses?
2. What might the future be for operating room nurses if the role is not expanded?

## Methodology

The questionnaires were divided between the Provinces which corresponded to the percentage of responses for the national survey conducted in November, 1992:

- for ease of identification the questionnaires were coloured for each specific Province.
- as the delegates picked up their registration package they also picked up a survey according to their Province colour, until the required number of questionnaires were gone. Only staff nurses participated.
- the delegates were requested to complete and return the survey before leaving the conference site.

## 1. Key Points in the Data Analysis

Approximately 89% of the O.R. staff nurses are ORNAC members and appear to be mostly situated in the mid-sized hospitals. 70% of the respondents were

staff nurses with an average of 17 years experience in ORs. Nurses over 45 years of age made up 30% of the respondents. Of these 21% had taken a post basic O.R. program of six months duration. The highest level of education of the respondents broke down to: 81% diploma, 16% BScN, 1% non-nursing, 1% masters.

## 2. Findings - Current Practice

Twenty six questions were asked with regard to the O.R. nurse's general, preoperative, induction, interoperative, and immediate postoperative responsibilities in both the circulating and scrub nurse roles.

### General Responsibilities:

- promoting and maintaining standards of practice 83%
- complying with legal requirements 82%
- identifying and rectifying unethical practices 62%
- exemplifying role model characteristics 76%

49% of respondents indicated that the circulating nurse is and should be responsible for patient assessments, nursing care plans, patient teaching and family teaching.

The circulating nurse provides comfort measures in relation to vital functions 91% and is with the patient 82% at induction. The OR nurse (84%) receives, identifies and admits the patient to the operating room.

Combinations of many OR staff members were found to be responsible for the anaesthetic equipment. For recording activities and drugs during a cardiac

## Author

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