Editor's Message

As the weather turns colder, get somewhere warm with, perhaps, a favourite hot beverage, but watch the marshmallows, if your fingers are sticky, you might mess up your computer or device of choice as you scroll through the pages of this issue. We have three original peer reviewed articles for you, covering different aspects of perioperative nursing.

In our first article, Jennifer Dunn uses a feminist lens to look at the gender and power bias at the basis of what is acknowledged as legitimate knowledge in the operating room and how social and professional standing impacts who can have or share that knowledge. Dunn claims, 'ethical presence, vigilance, advocacy, and clinical judgment,' gained through experience and pattern recognition, are at the heart of perioperative nurses' expertise. This relational knowledge is often undervalued as 'intuition' instead of credited as the clinical reasoning it is. The author sees relational knowledge as a way to challenge the hierarchy that can inhibit sharing critical knowledge and improving patient care. This thought-provoking article makes a fascinating read.

Our second article, by Eunice Assem-Erhaze, looks at the many non-technical skills involved in the role of the circulating nurse. Such social and cognitive skills are necessary for safe practice, but are not part of perioperative nursing curricula. Eight specific skills are discussed and Assem-Erhaze suggests establishing non-technical skills as part of perioperative nursing education and research, and that these skills be regularly assessed and supported as they are integral to circulating nurses' safe practice. A good read for anyone on the perioperative team.

How long do you think you would retain your skills and knowledge if you got few chances to use them and when needed, care products, processes, and staff resources were limited? In our third article, Eunice Assem-Erhaze looks at the difficulties of maintaining perioperative competence in rural and low-volume surgical settings. Declining technical or cognitive skills due to infrequent practice impacts team effectiveness and ultimately patient care. According to Assem-Erhaze, there are ways to maintain perioperative nursing competence in low-volume settings. Have you considered inter-facility rotation?

If you have ever been turned down when wanting to attend a professional conference, you will want to read our guest editorial, *Request Denied*, by Chris Downey. She offers great tips on how to "strategize your ask" that may help you get that YES you want. The ORNAC Conference is coming up, April 21–24, 2027, in Halifax.

On a personal note, this spring I had a total knee arthroplasty and my patient experience was excellent. Thank all of you for your specialized knowledge and skills. You probably don't see your patients much after they leave the OR, but please know that your work is very important and appreciated. I will be celebrating you during Perioperative Nurses Week and look forward to seeing you at our conference in Halifax.



Your editor,
Linda M. Verde
Editor-in-Chief

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