Dear Colleagues,

As a committee, we are entrusted to represent the association and to provide corporate governance and transparency to those for whom we serve – our members. As you are aware, positions on the management committee are enacted on a voluntary basis. Each committee member has to manage other commitments – to our families and friends, and to our employers. Yet in spite of competing priorities, committee members strive to accommodate the additional commitment to PNAQ. Certainly there are moments in everybody’s lives where this juggling act seems impossible to balance, however the ongoing support other committee members provide is often a source of inspiration.

Engagement with our association calls for a professional commitment that extends beyond attending educationally enhancing activities such as education seminars and conferences: Committee members are driven by the conviction that their contributions do – in a tangible way, influence the destiny of the perioperative specialty. Why did you join the PNAQ? Was it to provide you with greater opportunities to broaden your horizons and network with other like-minded perioperative nurses?

Undoubtedly, solidarity and social affiliation can be derived from membership to a commitment to a professional association.

Through the dedication of perioperative nurses – past and present – the PNAQ:

- Works closely with ACORN to identify and drive the ongoing development of practice standards;
- Is proactive in determining the future direction of perioperative roles and models of care through representation on committees where strategic health care policy and practice is decided and enacted;
- Celebrates the achievement of perioperative nurses in their pursuit of further education, and thus dispelling the myth that perioperative nurses are merely “doers” and not “thinkers”;
- Collaborates with other specialty organisations to maximise professional representation of PNAQ membership; and,
- Is proactive in fostering strong collaborations with partners in government, industry and the academic sector to raise the profile of the specialty in relation to the differences that perioperative nurses make to patient care.
However, this is not the time to rest on our laurels. We must consider succession planning strategies that enable a smooth transition of incoming committee members into the respective offices.

Without perioperative nurses who are willing to make a difference through their contribution to the association – there would be no association. Colleagues, I urge you to consider nominating yourself or someone whom you believe is able to make a professional contribution to our specialty association, and continue to build on the work being done to advance perioperative nursing. Please do not let the tyranny of distance prevent you from nominating – technology traverses distance and enables communication between committee members.

Therefore, perioperative nurses from all regional branches are eligible to nominate. I invite nurses from all regional areas to nominate for these important roles.

Nominations for the following vacancies will be tabled at the next AGM (held at the PNAQ Conference September 30th):

- **PRESIDENT ELECT/COUNTRY LIAISON COORDINATOR** (one year term + two year term as President + one year term as Past President)
- **HONORARY SECRETARY** (two year term)
- **CONFERENCE CONVENER** (one year term - due to resignation of current Convener)
- **ACORN REPRESENTATIVE** (two year term + two year term as ACORN director)
- **EDUCATION OFFICER** (one year term)
- Assistant **EDUCATION OFFICER** (one year term)
- **RESEARCH OFFICER** (one year term)
- **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** (one year term)
- **WEB PAGE COORDINATOR** (one year term)
- Assistant **WEB PAGE** (one year term)
- **ARCHIVING OFFICER** (one year term)
- Assistant **ARCHIVING OFFICER** (one year term)

Information about the duties undertaken in each role is located in the Resource Manual which is available on the PNAQ website. Additionally, I am happy to provide additional clarification for those members who are considering submitting nominations for these committee positions.

I will be attending and presenting at the Mackay Conference, held on 22 and 23 July. This conference presents the perfect opportunity to schedule a Strategic Meeting (scheduled for Sunday from 0900 to 1100 at Mackay Base hospital – thank you to Beth Keogh for organising access to this venue). I must emphasise that this meeting is not just for those of us on various committees – this strategic meeting is open to all members. If you are considering attending the conference, please consider coming to this meeting on Sunday before travelling back to your respective destinations. Your attendance at this meeting will provide you and/or your branch representatives with the opportunity to have input into the future direction of PNAQ – your professional association.

Finally, planning for the 2011 State conference is well underway and the preliminary program is shaping up nicely. Our subcommittee, in concert with conference managers, arinex, is working hard to make this a conference not to be missed. I encourage you to consider submitting an abstract or poster, and attending the 37th PNAQ Annual State Conference which is being held at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast on 29th September – 1st October.

As ever,

Brigid
Research Corner

Sonya Osborne highlights some useful papers from around the world for perioperative nurses wanting to become involved in nurse-initiated research or enhance their capacity to be evidence-based practitioners but are not sure how or where to start.

This first article, from Canada, is for nurses with limited research background but want a simple framework to be evidence-based practitioners who can make a difference.


Abstract: Are you translating existing research into your perioperative practice or finding that you have unanswered questions related to perioperative patient care? Chulay's framework offers a detailed and understandable method for perioperative nurses without a research background to become involved in questioning, and thereby influencing, perioperative patient care.

The next article, from the United Kingdom, outlines an easy step by step guide to gaining ethical approval for your research study. Although it ends up directing you to the actual online submission process in the UK, the principles of ethics presented are transferable across countries. Just replace the UK on line submission form with the one used in Queensland, the National Ethics Application Form or NEAF, https://www.ethicsform.org/au/SignIn.aspx.


Abstract: Research ethics relate to three groups of perioperative nurses: those who undertake research within the clinical area, those clinically responsible for patients taking part in research studies or trials, and finally the students and qualified staff who critique research articles and want to ensure that the standard of ethical rigour is acceptable. This article contains guidelines based on essential research ethical principles for each of these three groups and outlines the application process for gaining ethical approval.

Next, is a paper from the United States, on how involving students in perioperative nursing research can encourage them to continue to engage in evidence-based practice and improve patient care after they graduate.


Abstract: Actively engaging in perioperative research lays a framework for stimulating interest in future research possibilities and provides students and graduate nurses with challenges to keep them interested as their careers progress. In this article, former honors students and a faculty researcher share their perceptions of participating in perioperative research. The primary investigator must emphasize learning throughout the process, be available to the students, provide structured guidance, and clarify the goals and expectations of the research experience. The students gain a greater understanding of the research process, discover the dedication and ethical values that are required of the researcher, learn how theory becomes the underlying framework for the research, and discover how descriptive statistics can be used to help explain the study results. Involvement in applied research may encourage these students to continue to contribute to evidence-based practice when they are employed as nurses and thus improve patient care.

And, finally, a couple of exemplars, from Sweden and Turkey, on the value of research and research instruments in validating the association between perioperative care and post operative outcomes.


Abstract: The purpose of this descriptive cohort study was to identify perioperative risk factors associated with postoperative outcome up to 4 months after surgery in elderly patients with hip fracture. Data were collected prospectively through the Swedish National Hip Fracture, the local Acute and Emergency, and Anesthesia registers, and retrospectively from medical and nursing records.
The 428 patients (aged ≥ 65 years) with hip fracture were consecutively included. Multiple logistic regression analyses were used to identify factors predicting each of four outcomes.

Perioperative risk factors predicting death within four months after surgery were fasting time of 12 or more hours and blood transfusion of 1 U or more. Risk factors predicting postoperative confusion were postoperative oxygen saturation less than 90% and fasting time 12 hours or longer. Risk factors predicting in-hospital complications were transfusion of 1 or more units of blood, preoperative oxygen saturation less than 90%, and fasting time 12 hours or more. Risk factor predicting length of stay longer than 10 days was blood transfusion of 1 U or more. To minimize morbidity and mortality, providers should increase efforts to optimize the patients' oxygen saturation and hemoglobin level and reduce fasting time and waiting time for surgery.


Abstract: To test the validity and reliability of the Turkish version of Good Perioperative Nursing Care Scale for nurses and patients. The nursing care in operating departments has an important role in modern health care and therefore more research concerning perioperative care quality is needed and the development of a measurement tool is necessary. The study was designed as a cross-sectional survey. The research population was 346 patients who had surgery and 159 operating room nurses who worked at 11 hospitals. The GPNCS contains 32 items. The items on the nurses’ form were changed as little as possible to create the form for patients to be able to directly compare them. To determine the tool’s language equivalency/adaptation of the questionnaire for both nurses and patients, the tool was translated into Turkish then retranslated, and a pilot study was conducted.

The total scale’s total mean score and standard deviation for nurses was determined to be 113.23 (SD 2.13) and for patients was 128.23 (SD 1.27). To test the scale’s stability over time, a test-retest was conducted and the results showed a strong confirmatory correlation. The GPNCS was determined to be a tool that had indicators of being adequate, reliable and valid for the Turkish population.

This study highlighted the importance of comparing the quality and effectiveness of nursing care in different operating departments. It is recommended that it be used to determine the quality of perioperative nursing care in Turkey.

PNAQ Collaborative Research Grant.

Applications are now open for the PNAQ Collaborative Research Grant. This scheme funds members to undertake nurse-initiated innovative research projects. Key objectives aim to promote and support nurse-initiated perioperative research and to contribute to the advancement of the specialty and the improvement of perioperative patient outcomes. The grant, up to $5000.00 is awarded annually following a competitive review process. Closing date this year is August 30, 2011. For more information on the grant scheme contact Sonya Osborne, PNAQ Research Committee Chair at pnaq@pnaq.net.au
Neurological Education Forum

Saturday Education Forum & General Meeting

This workshop will attract 4 hours of professional development

When: Saturday 23rd July 2011
8am – 1230pm

Where: Johnson and Johnson Medical Browns Plains

RSVP: Meeting RSVPs. Apologies & agenda items to pnaq@pnaq.net.au

Education forum RSVP to bgiliepie@griffith.edu.au or Jennifer_Ashton@health.qld.gov.au

Orthopaedic Education Forum

PNAQ / 3M Medical / Carefusion

Presentations on upper limb and shoulder surgery and prevention of infection in orthopaedic surgery

When: Saturday 10th September 2011
8am – 12pm

Where: 3M Brisbane Branch Office
Unit 9 / 23 Breeene Place
(off Lytton Road)
Morningside

RSVP: Thursday 8th September
Kym Dryden - Carefusion
0438 611 404
kym.dryden@carefusion.com

Jodie Wallace – 3M
3246 1415
jswallace@mmm.com

Program

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<td>0830-1230</td>
<td>Education Forum</td>
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Program

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<td>8:00 - 8:30</td>
<td>PNAQ meeting</td>
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<td>8:30 - 9:15</td>
<td>Infection in arthroplasty</td>
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Great Perioperative Debate

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1ST OCTOBER

Gather your team of three or four “raconteurs” to contest. 
“*The Only Place for a Mask is on Your Face or in the Bin...*”
Register for Conference, get your props in order and call Alli K
0439 738935 for further details.

www.pnaqconference.net.au

The Perioperative Nurses Association Queensland Inc (PNAQ Inc) Organising Committee would like to invite you to attend the Annual Conference to be held from 29 September – 1 October 2011 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast!
Enquiring Minds Want to Know – Contribute to the Perioperative Nursing Research and Innovations Database.

PNAQ is continuing to build a database of perioperative research and innovations in Queensland to enable perioperative nurses to keep members abreast of current research studies and quality innovations and to provide a network for cross-facility collaborative research.

If you are involved in any ongoing or recently completed research or quality innovations please register your project on the PNAQ Research and Innovations Database. Enquiring minds want to know. Submission forms can be accessed on line on the PNAQ website Research Page. For more information contact, Sonya Osborne, PNAQ Research Committee Chair at pnaq@optusnet.com.au.