



Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

www.pnaq.net.au

President's Report

Dr Brigid Gillespie

Dear Colleagues,

In the February edition of this newsletter, I reported some of the points of discussion that arose from the state presidents' meeting with the ACORN board, in Adelaide in February. As part of the responsibility I have to ensure corporate transparency, I would like to expand some of the discussion around the ACORN Strategic Plan.

The Strategic plan is based around the following key concerns: communication processes between LA and ACORN; corporate governance and transparency, and the relevance of ACORN to LA and their membership; national unity (not nationalization!); ACORN branding; and, best practice development. Communication processes between ACORN and the LA focusing on the ways these processes can be enhanced. Suggestions included the ACORN president presence at LA conferences, selling ACORN merchandise such as Standards at education seminars; and improving website links between ACORN and LA.

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Overall LA presidents suggested that there is a need for greater transparency in communication of ACORN activities as members (and presidents alike) have limited awareness. In order to improve communication and make the activities of ACORN more visible, it was decided that the Board would consider strategies such as promulgating the achievement and outcomes of its members at the national level in forums such as the ACORN Journal, and on the ACORN website.

The board is currently exploring several options around increasing the accessibility of the Standards (such as an electronic version) while being mindful that they are an important source of revenue for ACORN. Additionally, the number of Standards to be revised and created will be capped. The Chair of the Standards Committee, Ruth Melville has proposed that a Research Assistant be employed for a period of time to assist team leaders with

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President's Report Continued

Dr Brigid Gillespie

performing the literature review around the standards being reviewed. This proposal has been supported by the ACORN Board, and represents a leap forward in improving processes around Standards development. Employing a person who has some research training will also build rigor around this important endeavour.

The debate about nationalization and what this means for the LA has, for now at least, been put on the back-burner. While different models had been identified at the Board level, there was a strong acknowledgement of the fundamental differences in ACORN and AORN. In Australia's case, the formation of LA have preceded the formation of ACORN, which followed and was principally built on LA across Australia.

This important point of difference, where the reverse is true in the US makes nationalization at this point, a distant possibility. Rather, the LA and ACORN will strive for national unity. Strategies to enable this were discussed.

The ACORN Journal remains one of the flagships of communication between the professional organization and its membership. There was much discussion about the direction of the journal. I raised the concern about accessibility and suggested that exploring alternative

publishers may increase the profile of the Journal. The perennial issue about the lack of submissions was also raised. I encourage you to consider writing for the journal.

On a different note, I recently attended the OTA NSW conference March 3-5, which was held in Rosehill, Sydney. As well as representing PNAQ, I co-presented a paper around the work that I am doing with Dr Lois Hamlin around Perioperative competence which was well received. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates and represented a great opportunity for delegates to network and meet new acquaintances. A full report of the conference proceedings is published in this edition of the newsletter.

Finally, I encourage you to consider attending the 37th PNAQ Annual State Conference which is being held at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast on 30th September – 1st October. This conference promises to be professionally stimulating and invigorating.

As ever,

Brigid Gillespie
PNAQ President



PNAQ State Conference Report

March 2011

The Annual NSW OTA State conference held in the Grand Pavilion at Rosehill Gardens March 3-5th was a huge success. The conference theme, Taking the Reins, was aptly named given the venue was a racecourse! Conference proceedings were ably coordinated by Allannah Hazelgrove and Michelle Berniduci. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates, and provided the opportunity to renew old friendships, and make new acquaintances.

This conference program provided many occasions to recognise those nurses who have taken the reins in the pursuit of Perioperative excellence. I would like to mention that Dr Lois Hamlin received the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a member of NSW OTA, life membership. Congratulations to Lois, she truly deserves this great honour. There were many conference highlights, some of which I would like to share with PNAQ members.

The plenary sessions offered something of interest for all delegates. On Thursday, invited speaker, Amanda Gore spoke about changing culture using the principles of emotional intelligence. Amanda described many strategies that can be used in the workplace to change the culture for the better. On Friday morning, percussion group, In Rhythm instilled in delegates, a sense of fun and enthusiasm as they led us through a series of percussion exercises using bongo drums.

Delegates were given the opportunity to connect with their 'musical side' and showcase their ability to beat the bongo in time to the rhythm! Phyllis Davis spoke about the importance of clinical governance and how it impacts on all areas of Perioperative practice. Finally, Life Coach Jaqui Lane, gave an inspiring account of how she fought back to regain her life after a devastating near fatal car crash. After 16 surgeries, Jaqui described the wonderful work of an exceptional group of people: the surgical teams of surgeons, nurses, and medics who gave her a "second chance at life". The concurrent presentations were of a high standard, and first-time speakers presented papers around their topics of interest. Several sub-themes underpinned the

concurrent sessions such as staffing, education, future perioperative roles, patient safety, waste disposal initiatives, and perioperative competence to name but a few. In particular, the concurrent session featuring Perioperative Research projects was extremely well attended, with standing-room only! I am encouraged by the increasing interest perioperative nurses are taking in research – this truly represents a shift in thinking and suggests that the specialty recognises the importance of research in informing clinical practice.

Other conference activities included writing workshop, facilitated by Dr Lois Hamlin and Pauline Walker, the current Editor of the ACORN Journal. This workshop offered budding authors some useful tips for getting started on writing a short paper. Again, I was encouraged to see delegates interested in writing for the journal.

The trade exhibition was impressive with over 60 stands on display. Trade partners such as Covidien, Johnson & Johnson, Synthes, 3M, Astra-Tech, Karl Carefusion, Storz, Multigate Medical, and N. Stenning & Co to name but a few! Without the generosity and ongoing support of the trade partners, hosting these state conferences would not be possible. Moving around and speaking with trade representatives was informative, and provided delegates with new and interesting ideas in relation to a myriad of medical devices available.

Congratulations to the conference conveners for staging a fabulous 2011 state conference. I would like to thank the outgoing NSW OTA President, Kerry Rogers and her Executive for inviting me to attend this event as PNAQ President. I'm sure that the 2012 NSW OTA conference will be just as exciting.

As ever,

Brigid Gillespie
PNAQ President



News from Mackay Branch

Jenny Ashton - Past President & Country Liaison Officer

Many thanks to the Mackay Branch for the invitation to visit and attend their Education Forum - Heads & Shoulders, Knees & Toes - on Saturday 5 March 2011. The Branch Executive, President Karen Bedford, Secretary Beth Keogh and Treasurer Wendy Dempster welcomed one and all to the education session held at Mater Hospital.



Wendy Dempster, Karen Bedford & Beth Keogh

A group of 45 nurses attended the forum drawing on members and staff from the Mackay Day Surgery, Mackay Base and Mater Hospitals. Three experienced Surgeons presented and were very surprised at the large numbers in attendance. I am sure that they will see evidence of the increased knowledge by the nurses in attendance when they next undertake operative cases at these facilities.



Betchy Cain, Lynne Mulder, Jenny Zimmerman & Michelle Karst

The first speaker was Nils Wagner, Director General Surgery, Mackay Base who discussed management of head injury in a provincial facility. His wide experience in remote areas of Australia and overseas was evident in his presentation which provided a detailed over view of planning and treating head injury patients prior to coming to an operating room, undertaking burr holes in line with College of Surgeons guidelines at a facility without a Neurosurgeon and transfer of patients to other centres for more specialised neurosurgical care.

The second speaker was Herwig Drobetz, Director Trauma, A/Director Orthopaedics and Associate Professor James Cook University speaking on Shoulders. His presentation was one of the best I have seen and clearly drew on this extensive knowledge and experience. It included detailed review of anatomy and physiology, clinical conditions, patient presentations, open and endoscopic operative procedures and patient outcomes. Pre, intra and post operative care including equipment and supplies were also featured.

The extensive presentation included videos on many of the procedures which nurses don't often get to see as incisions are small and visual access difficult enough in this area for the assisting team and almost non-existent for the circulating nurse. Herwig held our attention for well over an hour with his educative and entertaining presentation.

Michael Cheeseman, Orthopaedic Surgeon Public and Private Sectors in Mackay then provided two presentations on knees and toes. These presentations were also very informative and included detailed information on patient conditions, operative procedures and outcomes. Again the use of video footage within the presentation supported learning.

News from Mackay Branch Continued

Jenny Ashton - Past President & Country Liaison Officer

Many of the Generation Y nurses in attendance will surely think twice about wearing stiletto heeled shoes when the obvious damage done to feet – similar to foot binding injuries – was seen. Ouch and ugly!!!

Information was provided on APHRA around Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as the use of terms such as points or hours continues to confuse. A major nursing organisation in Australia uses a points system for allocation of CPD but APHRA discusses hours. Importantly, it is more than about getting points or hours. APHRA outlines the individual nurse needs a learning plan, along with progress and activities undertaken towards improving and maintaining competence as a nurse. Full details are available on the APHRA website.

It is not the employing facilities responsibility to provide nurses with professional development. Rather, it is the individual nurse who is accountable as they hold themselves up to be a registered health professional and if employed as an Enrolled or Registered Nurse are then employed in a facility based on their ongoing registration.

PNAQ offers members a tool to use at each education session to record their learning and reflections. The tool was prepared and developed by Anne Maree Allanson, Northside Consortium Perioperative Introductory Coordinator and was trailed at the 2010 PNAQ Conference. Please remember to keep the completed tools as evidence in the event an audit is required by APHRA. (I store mine in with financial records at home for ease of locating).

The Mackay Branch is hosting the 2011 Northern PNAQ Conference on 23 July 2011. The Northern Conference is shared between three (3) Branches on a rotational basis - Far Northern, Northern and Mackay. Beth Keogh is doing an outstanding job with the conference organisation and is being well supported by Branch members at Mackay and Mater Hospitals. Thank you Beth for all your hard work.

Further education sessions are planned for 2011 by Mackay Branch and are listed in the Calendar of Events on the website at www.pnaq.net.au



Julianna Sherman Dunne & Jenny Ashton



Margie Coburn, Kathy Watt & Alison Ashburner



Karen Bedford, Beth Keogh & Wendy Dempster



Dorothy Windson & Tina

Malignant Hyperthermia

You've only got seconds!

Malignant Hyperthermia is a rare but life threatening condition. On Saturday March 5th Michele Wyland and the Education Team at Redcliffe Hospital put on an excellent workshop on Malignant Hyperthermia. As many theatre staff have not experienced a case of Malignant Hyperthermia it would be easy to not place much importance on being prepared in case it occurs. As a relative of someone who was discovered to have malignant hyperthermia on his third operation I am glad the team caring for him that day were prepared.



The Malignant Hyperthermia education day included speakers Drs Sanjiv Sawhney and David Whybrew both consultant Anaesthetists and Belinda Healy. Together they covered the history of, presentation and treatment of Malignant Hyperthermia.

Early diagnosis of Malignant Hyperthermia is important to successful treatment. Early signs and symptoms include but are not limited to increased heart rate, end tidal CO₂. Many early signs and symptoms are suggestive of other conditions and an arterial blood gas is the most useful diagnostic

tool. A rise in temperature is a late sign of malignant hyperthermia.

After learning about malignant hyperthermia the group was divided into two and each group went through a case scenario. The scenarios helped reinforce learning with each person having a role to play. We also had an opportunity to draw up (out of date) Dantrolene which is the drug used for the condition. Many people who drew it up were surprised how difficult it was to draw up.

The session drew to a close with a discussion on team work. Many thanks to Michele Wyland, Simone Ohlin, Belinda Healy, Dr Sanjiv Sawhney, Dr David Whybrew and all the Redcliffe team for putting on this session and inviting their fellow perioperative nurses to attend.



For more information including a malignant hyperthermia kit visit:

<http://www.anaesthesia.mh.org.au/mh-resource-kit/w1/i1002692/%3E>



SAVE THE DATE & CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPEN

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.

The Organising Committee welcomes you to submit your abstract for consideration in the PNAQ Inc Conference Program in the form of oral and poster presentations. Abstracts are to be submitted via the Conference email address.

Please visit <http://www.pnaqconference.net.au/> for full abstract submission information and instructions and to view the provisional program.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast!

Address for Communication

PNAQ Inc Conference Managers

Managed by Arinex Pty Ltd

Postal Address: Level 7, 300 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000

KEY DATES

Call for abstracts:	Now Open!
Registrations open:	April 2011
Abstract submission deadline:	May 2011
Author notification:	June 2011
Early registration deadline:	August 2011

Program Enquiries:

Ph: +61 7 3226 2800

Registration Enquiries:

Ph: +61 2 9265 0700

Fax: +61 2 9267 5443

Email: qldcoastal2011@arinex.com.au

PNAQ Sunshine Coast Branch Report

The Sunshine Coast Branch of the PNAQ held its first meeting for 2011 on Wednesday, February 25 at Caloundra Private Hospital. There were about 15 members who gathered together and had the privilege of welcoming invited guest, ENT Surgeon Dr David McIntosh.

Dr McIntosh spoke about the revolutions in sinus surgery, dispelling some common myths and discussing out-dated procedures. Technology in endoscopic sinus surgery has become so advanced, that in some cases, tumours can be removed completely endoscopically in conjunction with neurosurgeons. These advancements are

nothing short of amazing. On behalf of all of the members of the Sunshine Coast PNAQ, I would like to say a very big thank you to Dr David McIntosh for taking the time to be part of our first meeting for 2011.



Ailsa Gillet, Dr David McIntosh & Christine Wells

Announcing PIP Plus+
Great News for Perioperative Education!

An addition to the Perioperative Introductory Program portfolio.

PIP+ = Accessible for all experienced Perioperative staff from Metro South (min 2 years)

PIP+ = Most suitable for 'return to work' or newly recruited experienced staff

PIP+ = Participants attend **2 DAYS only NOT 5 !!**

PIP+ = Condensed content allows more time in the clinical workplace whilst updating theoretical skills

PIP+ = Cost effective orientation to new Perioperative staff

Venue: PIP Training Facility, Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, Wynnum

When: Course runs Bi-monthly

Cost: Free to QH staff

Contact: PIP Co-ordinator
Allison Kielczewski
allison_kielczewski@health.qld.gov.au

- Mobile: 0439 738935
- Office: 38936326

Endovascular Workshop EVAR

Saturday 2nd April, 2011
8am - 12.30pm

Brian Emerson Room
Level 4
Princess Alexandra Hospital

RSVP essential
to pnaq@pnaq.net.au