



# Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

## February 2016

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Did You Know????

## International Nurse's Day

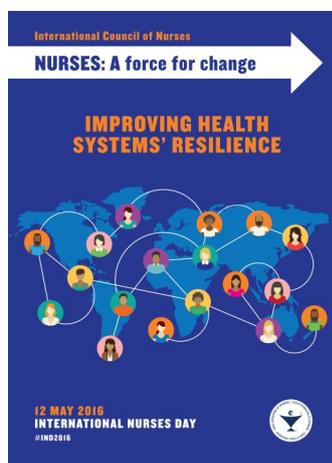
is on

**Thursday, 12th May 2016**

The theme this year is:

**NURSES: A FORCE FOR CHANGE: IMPROVING HEALTH SYSTEMS' RESILIENCE**

Commemorated by the International Council of Nurses



Get more info by following this link:

<http://www.icn.ch/publications/2016-nurses-a-force-for-change-improving-health-systems-resilience/>

# Who's Who in the PNAQ

## Meet the 2016 Committee Members

Each Newsletter edition for this year will feature a brief bio of the Committee Members. This way, you can put a face to the name, and learn a little about what motivates each member to commit time and energy to advancing the Perioperative nurse profession in Queensland, and Australia!

### **Emma Babao - President**

Emma is our current serving President, and is the Nurse Unit Manager of the Operating Theatres at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. As a previous cardiac scrub/scout and recovery nurse, Emma is passionate about her team knowing she cares about their welfare; with the firm belief that great patient care will follow. A desire to become involved in the professional side of perioperative nursing, and an interest in the development of standards and governance by ACORN led Emma to join the PNAQ.



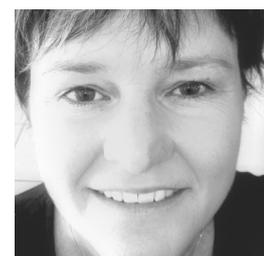
### **Joy Jensen - ACORN Director**

Joy is currently undertaking a second term as Queensland ACORN Director and ACORN Honorary Treasurer (2014-2016). The expertise gained in the previous four years on the ACORN Board, (initially as ACORN Qld Representative 2010-2012 and ACORN Director/Honorary Treasurer 2012-2014) will continue to be an asset to the Board: focusing on improving financial governance, recognising risk management strategies; and promoting investing of funds for future growth. In 2014, Joy became an ACORN Fellow and was also the 2013 PNAQ recipient of the annual Excellence in Perioperative Nursing award. Joy is currently the Nurse Unit Manager, Operating Suite, Redcliffe Hospital (Metro North) Queensland.



### **Simone Ohlin - Education Chair**

Simone has always been interested in learning and education. She has just finished her Masters of Education (MEd) and has post graduate qualifications in Perioperative Nursing. Simone has worked most of her career in small private and public hospitals (NSW,NT and QLD) and the occasional tertiary institution. Simone enjoys educating thirsty minds and is hoping that the within the PNAQ we will build an education community that will inspire and engage all the members to develop and exhibit their skills and knowledge with excellence and make the concerns of the patient at the centre of our care.



## Around the mayo stand....

PNAQ Educator **Simone Ohlin** is keen to hear from all members with regard to suggestions for education topics for our education days. Please feel free to email Simone with any ideas at the following address:

[education@pnaq.net.au](mailto:education@pnaq.net.au)

(Hold the Ctrl button down and hover the mouse pointer over the email address for the quick link)

Simone will also be at the ACORN National Conference in Hobart, and would love to meet and chat with members about any educational topics, or even anything in general about Perioperative Nursing

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 20 Feb, 2016 **PNAQ Education Morning**  
Gold Coast University Hospital, Southport [Read More](#)
- 04 Mar, 2016 **NSW OTA Annual Conference**  
Rosehill Racecourse, Sydney, NSW [Read More](#)
- 02 Apr, 2016 **AORN Surgical Conference & Expo**  
Anaheim, California, USA [Read More](#)
- 16 Apr, 2016 **PNAQ Education Morning**  
Toowoomba Base Hospital, Toowoomba [Read More](#)
- 25 May, 2016 **ACORN NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, TAS [Read More](#)



*Happy Valentine's Day  
To all our magnificent  
Perioperative Nurses*

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS...

### Invitation to submit to your newsletter

**You're invited** to submit an article, photo or anything you think may be relevant to the field of Perioperative Nursing. This is your newsletter and we would love to hear from you!

Some ideas to get you thinking:

- \* Tell us where you work and a bit about your workplace
- \* Any experiences you have had that made an impact on your practice
- \* If you have been in theatres for a long time, what changes have you seen?
- \* Have you ever worked in theatres overseas? Done any voluntary work?

Please send your submissions to the following email:

[newsletter@pnaq.net.au](mailto:newsletter@pnaq.net.au)

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Mel Grey

Newsletter Editor

## Editorial

By Melissa Grey

# What on earth is an ODP?

Following a recent education morning at the Sunshine Coast branch, I was enlightened further as to the role of the ODP (Operating Department Practitioner) in the UK and the training involved to take on this role. Having had first hand experience of the important role this team member plays during my overseas stint working in London, I'm pleased to see ODP's being employed in theatres locally. When I was first introduced to this role, I had no idea of the training or regulation involved. All I knew was that they were not a Registered Nurse, yet had a wealth of knowledge gleaned from somewhere!

Further research has revealed that ODP's are "an important part of the operating department team working with surgeons, anaesthetists and theatre nurses to ensure surgery is as safe and effective as possible" (Health Careers, 2015). ODP's are trained at university level and are required to be registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) prior to practise in the UK (HCPC, 2016). They are also regulated by the HCPC, so are similar to the RN and the NMBA here in Australia.

Training providers for the ODP are also regulated by the HCPC, and the 2 year diploma or 3 year degree course focuses solely on the perioperative and critical care settings. Trainees are educated in scrub/scout roles, anaesthetic assistant and recovery, although, to date, I believe they are only permitted to practice as the anaesthetic assistant in Australia. In the UK, their role is expanding outside the operating theatre to include: transplant teams, intensive care units, obstetric units, orthopaedic clinics, pre-assessment clinics, patient transfer, day surgery units and resuscitation teams (University of Surrey, 2016).

# What on earth is an ODP?

At my workplace, there are a few ODP's employed as Anaesthetic Technicians, and they are a wonderful source of knowledge and experience. Whenever I get a small leak during my pre-list machine checks, or some bizarre alarm starts clanging, my go-to person is one of the ODP's. I am humbled by their knowledge and skill, and always bugging them for more information on all sorts of things anaesthetic! I feel lucky to have such experienced personnel to learn from!

## References

HCPC, (2016). *Health and Care Professions Council*. Retrieved 31 January 2016, from <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/>

Health Careers, (2015). Operating department practice. Retrieved 31 January 2016, from <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/operating-department-practice>

University of Surrey, (2016). *Diploma of Health Operating Department Practitioner*. Retrieved 31 January 2016, from <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/undergraduate/operating-department-practice>

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in this article are those of the author only. They do not necessarily represent the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the PNAQ, it's committee or members.