



## **The Bridge Newsletter, April 2023**

**Chapter 0512**



## Creating Our Future: Introduction to Perioperative Nursing (IPN),

Submitted by Colleen A. Fiammengo RN (SNIV) MSN PHN CNOR CCM

Though I have attended EXPO for 10 consecutive years, I am still surprised by how much I learn about so many things. Some of these things include the state of our profession, current stats specific to perioperative nurses, the newest tool for surgical patient pressure injury risk determination, the exhaustive new technologies developed by business and industry partners, product and equipment evolution, and the many accomplishments of our organization over the last year. I also look forward to the “goodie” booths too. This year this included the many usuals, jewelry, socks, cloth hats, and some new ones. Get your makeup done, and your hair styled, snuggle a puppy or kitten, or do some goat yoga. Yes, you heard me correctly- goat yoga! There is usually one topic that really makes an impact and needs to be shared & this year, it’s the IPN program.

Two years ago, this program was introduced at our first virtual EXPO. It was born of collaboration between AORN and Chamberlain University to offer a foundation perioperative nursing experience back into the BSN curriculum for the first time in decades. We have long been saying the average age of the perioperative nurse is getting older with each survey, that a significant percentage has either left or will leave, and the number of vacancies grows each year. Translation: We are in big trouble! This is not news, but the IPN program is news. This program serves as a dual-viable solution. It gives the pre-licensure nursing student a significant experience in the perioperative setting, which then potentially serves to feed the funnel of employment in the OR.

The three components of the program model are an association (AORN), a school of nursing (in this case Chamberlain University), and clinical site placement (healthcare organizations). The intersection of these three resources yields a “Practice Ready” student. To explain it in terms we can all understand is simple. Apply the nursing process and think of perioperative nursing as the patient for whom we apply this tried-and-true problem-solving tool.

**Assessment:** As noted, the perioperative nurse force is aging. Students’ exposure to the perioperative setting in nursing programs across the country is not standardized, is hit and miss, and ranges from an observation day to hands-on care. Also, there is no organized database that identifies those schools that do provide and quantifies that experience.

### **Diagnosis:**

- Actual:
1. Deficit of perioperative nurses to provide care to our surgical patients
  2. Lack of standardized framework for the pre-licensure nurse to explore Perioperative nursing and provide the foundation to achieve career goals
- Potential:
1. Failure of healthcare organizations to provide adequate/timely care to patients in need of surgery

## Creating Our Future: Introduction to Perioperative Nursing (IPN),

Submitted by Colleen A. Fiammengo RN (SNIV) MSN PHN CNOR CCM

### Outcome Identification:

1. Provide a successful mechanism, by objective measures, which builds the perioperative nurse workforce
2. Disseminate a standardized program to expand opportunities for the pre-licensure nursing student who wants a career in perioperative nursing.
3. Ensure future patients receive quality care that reflects standards of practice in the perioperative clinical setting

**Plan:** In collaboration, provide the foundation components that create the IPN Program as follows:

1. From AORN- 16 module course (includes an exam) content
2. From the participating School of Nursing- integrating the IPN clinical and/or module courses into their curriculum as an elective with or without course credit (if all that can be managed is the module piece, this is considered a win)
3. From the Clinical Sites- providing the site for placement utilizing a 1:1 preceptor model for the designated 96-hour experience. This includes skills lab time, and pre, intra, and post-op clinical experience. Clinical experience can range from observational to direct patient care, pending preceptor judgment
4. Set up meetings with all 3 entities to create a plan for implementation (resources, timeline, faculty, marketing, skills lab site, etc.)

**Implementation:** 1. School of nursing integrates the IPN clinical and/or module courses in their curriculum  
2. Healthcare organization(s) integrate the 96-hour IPN clinical course via 1:1 preceptor mod

**Evaluation:** Ongoing assessment of student experience (develop tool), collect data of cohort numbers, impact on NCLEX pass rates

This is the Care Plan each of us can write and execute to help solve the workforce crisis that continues to plague our clinical practice specialty. Each of us has a school of nursing and health care system we can reach out to for IPN program integration consideration. Remember we are both the patient and the nurse in this scenario.

When I first learned of this module and the involvement of a university and the several healthcare systems supporting the course, I saw the opportunity for our hospital system and associated University. With the help of AORN and Chamberlain University followed by 18 months of collaboration with my targeted university and organization the first cohort of the IPN program will be implemented this fall at Samuel Merritt University in collaboration with Sutter Health.

This is the epitome of the “win-win” for all. The students who never knew the OR was a career path win. The schools of nursing win a competitive edge by offering a perioperative course as it is a clinical specialty long removed from BSN curriculums. The healthcare organizations win because they can assess possible employees without a financial investment and minimize onboarding costs. They can develop their staff as preceptors and build moral as they experience success of the program by hiring top performers.

We can't expect someone else to find the “cure” for our ailment. AORN has given us the framework and the evidence- based foundation to implement this program. It is up to us to identify the other two players and bring them together in partnership. We are our best advocates as we know what we need and we have the tools to solve the problem. Be the one and get it done.



# AORN's March 2023 Educational Event at Wence's in Pleasant Hill

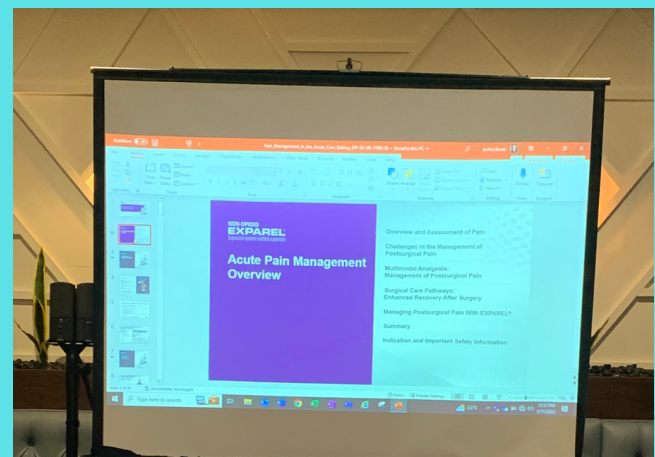
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**Title of Event:** Pain Mgmt. in an Acute Care Setting Seminar & Brunch  
**Sponsor:** Pacira Biosciences, Inc.



This event was an in-person educational event ;  
26 people attended. It  
included a delicious brunch





# AORN's March 2023 Educational Event at Wence's in Pleasant Hill

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**Dr. Kyung Mi Kim, Ph.D., RN, CNOR**

**UCSF Health, Clinical Nurse, 9 years**

**Stanford Health Care, Nurse Scientist, 1 year**



**OR nurse as a new grad in Samsung Medical Center, Seoul, South Korea, for 2.5 years as a circulator & scrub nurse**

**Specialty Areas:**  
**Orthopedics and Cardiothoracic Surgery**

**Employment in U.S.:**  
**St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC) and UCSF Health (15 yrs), & Stanford Health Care**

**I chose a nursing career because it allows me to help the sick & contribute to the community**





# **Dr. Kyung Mi Kim, Ph.D., RN, CNOR**

## **Chapter Member since 2014**



**My favorite Italian food is cacio e pepe, and I enjoy various vegetable Korean dishes.**

### **Hobbies:**

**Watching sports, i.e. baseball, basketball, ice hockey, & soccer  
I love traveling and spending time with family, all of who are in Korea, especially my new nephew**

**I chose the O.R. because I can serve a wide range of patients, newborns to seniors & for the implementation of new innovations**

**I appreciate the opportunity to help treat critically ill patients with life-threatening conditions**





**Reminder: Vote in our chapter election.  
The deadline is midnight on  
Sunday, April 23rd**



**Candidates for 2023/2024 Chapter Officers and  
Board of Director**

**Candidate for the office of President (1):**

Colleen Fiammengo, MSN, RN, PHN, CNOR, CCM

**Candidate for the office of Vice President (1):**

Margina Villatoro, BSN, RN, CNOR

**Candidate for the office of Recording Secretary (1):**

Katelyn Adkins, BSN, RN

**Candidates for Board Members (3):**

Joy Chau, BS, RN, PHN, CNOR

Christine Jose, BSN, RN, RNFA, CNOR

Laurel Ng, MSN, RN, CNOR



# UPcoming Chapter Events

**April 22**

## **Earth Day Wildflower Group Hike**

Coyote Hills Regional Park  
8000 Patterson Ranch Road  
Fremont, CA 94555

**April 29**

## **Suture 101**

Webinar/Online from 0900-1000

This event offers 2.0 contact hours to attendees.

Accreditation Info: California Board of Registered Nursing CEP #14944

Speaker: Allison Burnett, BSN, RN

Register by Thursday, April 27th@

[aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com](http://aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com)

**\*\*\*See following flyer\*\*\***

**May 6**

## **Hike for Hope**

Del Valle Regional Park Main Gate  
7000 Del Valle Road  
Livermore, CA 94550

Registration remains open through the event day

**\*\*\*See following flyer\*\*\***

**May 21**

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

Special Olympics Competition @

Cupertino High School

TwoTime Slots Available:

0800-1200 or 1200-1700

**\*\*\*Please See [aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com](http://aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com)  
for UPCOMING flyer**

**\*\*\*Visit [aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com](http://aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com) for  
other webinar/online opportunities  
for the months of April & May**



# Upcoming Chapter Events

## Suture 101

**CE Seminar Speaker:** Allison Burnett, BSN, RN  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023  
**Time:** 9am PST  
**Length:** 1 hour

### WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

Wound healing is a natural and spontaneous occurrence, but when tissue disruption is significant, it may not heal naturally. Multiple techniques can be used for wound closure and it is imperative to assess the wound and determine how best to treat it. Surgeons and nurses who close wounds should understand the options for wound closure to promote healing and mitigate infection based on the patient's circumstance. No suture is ideal for every wound, and in most cases, several types of sutures are required to close the wound adequately.

### DESCRIPTION

This continuing education activity is intended for a perioperative nurse or other healthcare professional who wants to learn more or needs to gain knowledge and skills in underlying principles of wound healing, suture material biomechanics, and choosing the best wound closure materials for patients.

### HIGHLIGHTS

After completing this continuing education activity, the participant should be able to:

1. Identify factors contributing to or delaying wound healing.
2. Define the basic principles of wound closure.
3. Identify the general properties of all suture materials and their characteristics.
4. Identify different suture materials and needles.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the different methods of wound closure and appropriate use for each.

### ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

**California Board of Registered Nursing**

Pfiedler Education is a provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP14944, for **2.0 contact hours**.

Free seminar will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.

**Register by Thursday, April 27, 2023 at [aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com](https://aornsfbayarea.nursingnetwork.com)**

Continuing Nursing and  
Allied Health Education Provider



Funds Provided By

**Medtronic**



# Upcoming Chapter Events

## HIKE *for* HOPE

Saturday, May 6 8:30am

Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore



### Join our AORN of The San Francisco Bay Area team!

Join us in supporting Hope Hospice, a non-profit organization that relies on funding for patient care, and offers grief support services, dementia education, and family caregiver resources to the community at no charge.

#### Hike

Hike with our team or at your own pace, choosing between an easy out-and-back route along the lake of about 2.6 miles (or shortened to your preference); and a 4.4-mile option that tacks on a moderate incline loop with a payoff view from the top.

#### Registration Fees

\$35 adult, participants age 18 and up

\$15 youth, participants ages 13–17

Free for kids age 12 and under (registration is still required to get a shirt)

\$80 FAMILY PACKAGE includes registration for two adults and two youth

Registration includes: parking permit, event t-shirt (*must register by March 31st*), and a post-hike barbecue lunch, sponsored by MCE Corp.

Leashed dogs are welcome on hike.



Register today!

[TheHikeforHope.com](http://TheHikeforHope.com)

*Join our team and/or donate!*



# Clinical Corner

A Nurse asked:

"One of the orthopedists does not use padding under the tourniquet even though our policy states to use Webril. What does AORN say?"

Answer:

The 2023 AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice recommends using a "low-linting, soft padding around the limb under the tourniquet cuff according to the manufacturer's Instructions for Use", IFU. (Guideline for Pneumatic Tourniquet Safety, Pg. 683-4) However, AORN recognizes there is conflicting research surrounding the effectiveness of using padding. Most studies cited showed that padding significantly lowered skin complications. However, they did include a 2014 review of 97 procedures where no padding was used. The results showed no significant increase in skin complications.

If the tourniquet manufacturer recommends padding and there is a policy for padding use at your hospital, this surgeon would be wise to follow the policy. If there were to be an injury, he could be held accountable.

Submitted by  
Alice Erskine, MSN, RN, CNOR





# Quote Corner

"Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation, as any painter's or sculptor's work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God's spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said the finest of Fine Arts.

Florence Nightingale





# ***Before We Go...***

- If you know of a registered nurse or Periop 101 student to be featured in our newsletter, please submit their name & contact information to either:  
Joy Chau at [jbchaurn@gmail.com](mailto:jbchaurn@gmail.com) or  
Wanda Harkless-Johnson at [wtheblessed@aol.com](mailto:wtheblessed@aol.com)
- If you know of any AORN members who are not enjoying the benefits of their membership, encourage them to become active. Also, encourage non-members to become members
- Please consider joining our monthly group hikes. They are great ways to reduce stress while networking with other healthcare professionals. Our monthly hikes are planned by our AORN President, Joy Chau.
- If you have a new or favorite hiking trail you would like to explore, or have suggestions for a fun group activity to share, forward your suggestions to:  
Joy Chau at [jbchaurn@gmail.com](mailto:jbchaurn@gmail.com) or  
Wanda Harkless-Johnson at [wtheblessed@aol.com](mailto:wtheblessed@aol.com)