

2024–2025 Activity Highlights Committees and Task Forces

Award for Excellence Selection Panel

The Award for Excellence Selection Panel streamlined the application which included a link for the sponsor letter to be included in the application process. Promotions to encourage nominations for the Award for Excellence award were conducted throughout the open nomination timeframe through the same channels as the Individual Achievement Awards. The Chair of the Award for Excellence Committee worked with the Award for Excellence Selection Panel to review the nominations for the Award for Excellence and develop an “Are you ready” tool to assist future Award for Excellence applicants. The Award for Excellence and individual award recipients will be recognized at the 2025 AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo.

A survey was sent out to all applicants and the committee will use the feedback to make improvements for 2025-2026.

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee reviewed and created verbiage for a new Nurse Executive Award and continued to refine the online application process for the individual awards. Promotions to encourage individual achievement awards were conducted throughout the open nomination timeframe through social media, the Chapter Leader Bulletin, Periop Today and the AORN website. The committee members reviewed and scored all individual applications based on award categories.

Clinical Nursing Practice Committee

The Clinical Nursing Practice Committee is charged with reviewing new and existing clinical nursing practice issues and developing strategies to assist perioperative nurses in implementing successful practices. This year the committee created a toolkit with resources and education, including an RCA pocket card, to use during Root Cause Analysis (RCA) processes. The committee also prepared a poster and podium presentation for the Leadership Summit on the RCA toolkit for Expo 2025.

Continuing Education Approval Committee

1. Collaborated with 15 committee members, >50% were new to the committee and onboarded to the application approval process.
2. The committee collaborated and provided feedback on the design and development of the new Open Water application system that went live on January 1, 2025.
3. The CEAC team has reviewed ~ 75 applications during their committee year meeting review timelines and applicant expectations.

Fellowship Selection Committee

The Fellowship Selection Committee developed a guide for FAORN sponsors of future candidates entitled Navigating AORN’s Fellowship Sponsor Process. The Fellowship Selection Committee updated the fellows page on AORN’s website to include the 2024 Expo FAORN Virtual Session, an article: How to Become a Fellow and past FAORN webinars. Interest in the fellowship continues to increase and six FAORN’s were selected for 2025.

Global Relations Committee

1. The committee selected the education content for the AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo 2025. To ensure quality presentations, a diverse inclusion of topics and speakers

were suggested from a variety of resources, including abstracts submitted via the online proposal process, global speakers referred by committee members, and professional networks. Presentations were identified that met the needs of the attendees based on a need's assessment supported by the Expo 2024 evaluation data.

2. Sessions will explore topics speaking to global practice representing countries including Nigeria, Sweden, Australia, and Portugal to name a few.
3. Expo 2025 will see Johnson and Johnson host a Chinese nursing delegation to attend Expo including 2 podium presentations.
4. Additionally, there will be a contingent of nurses from Japan attending Expo supported by Nursing Practice and the committee.
5. The committee will be supporting the Global Relations lounge at Expo 25.

Global Surgical Conference Education Committee

The purpose of the Global Surgical Conference Education Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the AORN staff when planning education programs for the AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo for 2025. A needs assessment was performed to identify key categories of desired/requested content from peers at the local level.

1. The committee expanded the anonymous and review process to include all anonymous reviews followed by open discussion of the committee. This decreased the committee time required to review which was a committee satisfier.
2. The team reviewed 265 abstracts with a ~34% acceptance rate.
3. The committee continued to collaborate with Education, Leadership, ASC, Leadership Specialty Assembly, Nursing Research and Legal/Advocacy to review and select topics based on the Expo 24 evaluation feedback.
4. The committee collaborated with marketing to develop a plan to encourage members to submit Research, Concept, Innovation, Clinical Improvement poster abstracts for the 2025 Expo. The committee reviewed 313 poster topics and accepted 312 posters.
5. The number of poster winners will be reviewed for expansion options in Expo 2026.

Guidelines Advisory Board

The members of AORN's Guidelines Advisory Board (GAB) play a vital role in guiding perioperative practice by actively participating in development, review and approval of AORN's evidence-based Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. The GAB is responsible for final review and approval of each new or revised guideline. Six guidelines were reviewed and updated, and one new guideline was introduced for the 2025 print edition of the Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. These guidelines were released to e-subscribers to the Guidelines for Perioperative Practice in 2024. The new and updated Guidelines are:

New Guideline:

- Implementation of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS)

Revised Guidelines:

- Surgical Attire
- Sterile Technique
- Patient Temperature Management (formerly Prevention of Perioperative Hypothermia)
- Sterilization
- Packaging for Sterilization
- Sharps Safety

In addition, the GAB had the goal to *increase access to current AORN guidelines in under-resourced locations for the purpose of supporting evidence-based practice for the underserved*. This goal is satisfied with an AORN initiative that offers resources including eGuidelines+, CineMed® videos, and Periop 101 at a discounted rate to critical access hospitals. To qualify for the discounts, a facility must be certified as Critical Access by CMS and operate independently as a single-site facility.

National Committee on Education

The National Committee on Education (NCE) develops educational material to meet the needs of AORN members. This year, the NCE committee developed a Bullying and Incivility Tool Kit which is available to members on AORN's "Tool Kit" webpage. This tool kit provides perioperative team members with resources to combat bullying and incivility in the surgical suite. Managers and educators will find case studies, simulation scenarios, and a presentation for use in professional development activities. All team members can use the resources within the tool kit to learn how to recognize, prevent, and respond to incivility and bullying in the workplace.

National Legislative Forum

The National Legislative Forum (NLF) is open to all members and works with the AORN Government Affairs staff to advance AORN's policy agenda at the state and federal levels. Forum members serve as resources for each other and a sounding board for AORN Government Affairs staff as they review over 100 bills and regulations impacting perioperative registered nurses, including surgical smoke evacuation, surgical technologist and central supply technician certification and education requirements, funding for nursing education, safe staffing, and safe pain control after surgery. Success in 2024 includes Minnesota, Virginia and West Virginia enacting surgical smoke evacuation legislation while a dozen other states have worked on similar initiatives in 2024 and 2025.

Nursing Research Committee

The Nursing Research Committee planned and held a Virtual Research Symposium in January 2025 which included perioperative nursing research, quality improvement and evidence-based practice presentations. The committee selected Expo research and evidence-based practice poster sessions and selected an AORN/Sigma research grant winner for 2025.

Scholarship Committee

In 2024, the Scholarship Committee reviewed over 900 applications for the AORN Foundation's Expo grant, professional certification, and academic scholarship programs, supporting the Foundation's efforts in providing over 400 awards to nurses. This work continues to allow the AORN Foundation to conduct a comprehensive, external process for anonymously reviewing applications. The Committee also completed an initiative to update the application scoring criteria for all three grant and scholarship programs. Members participated in committee meetings to discuss emerging topics in grant application evaluation and volunteered at the Foundation booth at Expo.

Chapter Engagement Task Force

The purpose of this task force is to consider new models and prospects for members across the country to participate in member engagement opportunities such as networking and education. The task force has reviewed various models of other nursing specialty organizations and is now seeking information from all AORN members on how it can best support member engagement at

the local level. This task force will continue into 2025. Look for the QR code at Expo for this survey to provide your feedback to help shape its work going forward.

Health Equity Task Force.

The Health Equity Taskforce has developed educational materials to support meeting Health Equity regulatory requirements for acute and ambulatory settings and will have a toolkit that will be available for members.

Infection Prevention Task Force

The Infection Prevention Task Force is working on developing an online resource center focused on surgical site infection prevention for the perioperative setting and creating an interprofessional approach and toolkit to evaluating infection prevention and control products for the perioperative setting based on the CDC's HICPAC infection control products evaluation tool. This toolkit and resources will be launching in June of 2025.

Legacy Nurses Task Force

The inaugural Legacy Nurses Task Force was formed with the intent of helping other legacy AORN members advocate for and advance the perioperative profession. The Legacy Nurses Task Force submitted and was approved to present a poster at AORN Expo 2025. The Task Force also submitted a podium proposal for AORN Expo 2025 and was approved for a presentation at the Leadership Summit. Additionally, the group created two tool kits. The first was Perioperative Nurse Roles in Business and Industry and the second, Legal Nurse Consulting.