



International Federation of Perioperative Nurses

IFPN Pacific Islands, PNG & Asia Ambassador Report August 2019

As IFPN Ambassador for the Pacific Islands, PNG and Asia, I would like to report on activities and achievements for 2019.

Asia

I was invited to present at the Malaysian Operating Room Nurses Conference in April this year and was joined by Sarah Bird (representing IFPN) and Phyllis Davis (Past Ambassador IFPN).

I also attended the ASIORNA board meeting whilst at the conference and had discussions with the following Asian countries, that are still considering joining IFPN: Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand, I will continue to follow up with them.

Pacific Islands

I had the pleasure of visiting Rarotonga, Cook Islands Hospital again in January 2019 to review their Operating Theatres and advise on safe patient practices within their Health Services. This is an ongoing relationship with these islands and their perioperative practices which leads to one of the most significant achievements for the Pacific Islands group, the formation of the **Pacific Islands Operating Room Nurses Association (PIORNA)**.

The group consists of the following 14 Pacific Island countries - **Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu**. If you are not sure where these are check out the map, these islands cover a lot of the Pacific Ocean!!

ACORN has been a significant part of this journey supporting fellow ACORN colleagues Menna Davies and Sally Sutherland-Fraser who have been supportive of the Pacific Islands and sponsored by Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and WHO Global Network as part of Menna and Sally's Perioperative Healthcare Consultancy. The Pacific Islands project has involved collaborating with our local perioperative colleagues to develop perioperative nursing standards and workplace audit tools. The overall aim was about sustainability to support local 'champions' in carrying out audits and mentoring them to develop these skills in their staff. This has been an enormous success that has been carried out by the local staff with much passion and enthusiasm. Then from this is where I have been involved to support this work and the formalisation of a professional organisation to unite 14 Pacific Island Countries into the PIORNA. After some initial work on a constitution, we now have achieved incorporation as an organisation within Samoa. The fees to pay for incorporation were fundraised through the local Samoan nurses! Obviously, the goal was to have a united organisation representing the Pacific Islands on the global perioperative platform -IFPN, so yes PIORNA is now a pre-registered group of IFPN. The group also has their own logo designed by Interim PIORNA President Natasha Mamea and have plan for their first conference in 2020!!

Such achievements for a group of highly motivated and passionate perioperative nurses and I have encouraged them to spread the word of their good work. Nerrie Raddie, Interim PIORNA secretary presented at QLD ACORN conference in Townsville in May this year and then the Samoan nurses including Natasha Mamea presented at the ICN conference in Singapore this year and were cheered on by their supporters.

Please welcome them to IFPN! It is also a great pleasure to host both Natasha and Nerrie on the Sunshine Coast for 4 days during the IFPN September meeting where we will teleconference for the meeting in York. Nerrie and Natasha are also taking the opportunity to have 2 days working with me looking at patient perioperative journeys and many aspects of patient, safety and quality processes, including perioperative clinical reviews.

PNG

It has been difficult to keep the communication open with PNGPNS due to the ongoing issues with the unreliable internet, sometimes there are no responses to emails for months. I have maintained as much contact as possible through other resources such as contacts that are living in Port Moresby. It was also through this communication it was identified a critical shortage of sufficient linen to process for surgery (a basic commodity) therefore with other QLD colleagues we had some green linen donated and shipped to support the Port Moresby hospital with green linen that was desperately needed to perform surgery.

As part of the RACS and the WHO Global network, I have been supported to do some work in PNG in September this year. This is a unique opportunity to facilitate further discussion with Eunice Liam and other PNGPNS members about the future growth and sustainability of the PNG PNS group.

The mission is funded through RACS and primarily is to look at not only the sustainability models for perioperative nursing within the hospital settings but also to work with the Ministry of Health looking at Perioperative programs for past graduate nurses. Therefore, about ensuring a sustainable perioperative workforce for safe surgical care of patients within PNG, working towards WHO mission of Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC).

I will be accompanied by an anesthetist and a paediatric surgeon and travelling to Port Moresby and Lae Hospital to undertake the work.

Singapore ICN Conference and CNR meeting

I had the pleasure of attending the ICN Council of Nursing Associations (CNR) meeting prior to the ICN conference in Singapore. As I have attended previous ICN CNR meetings in Sydney, Korea and Barcelona, I was able to introduce both Mona and Patrick who were representing IFPN to as many ICN contacts as possible.

On a personal note it was exciting to catch up with Elizabeth Iro the WHO chief nurse who I have known for many years through my connections with the pacific. It was also Elizabeth that introduced me to Dr Neelam Dhingra-Kumar whilst at her presentation at ICN. Dr Neelam is the WHO coordinator for Patient safety and Risk Management and asked if I could participate in some Patient safety initiatives from WHO, to which I will keep IFPN posted.

Ruth Melville IFPN Ambassador Pacific Islands, PNG & Asia,
Past President IFPN 2015-2018, ACORN 2012-2014, PNAQ 2007-2009
FACORN - Fellow Australian College of PeriOperative Nurses



Cook Island Nurses & Samoan Nurses with WHO Chief Nurse Elizabeth Iro, Mabel Toi and Ruth Melville



PIORNA Interim President Natasha Mamea, IFPN President Mona Guckian-Fisher, IFPN Treasurer Patrick Voight, Matilda Nofoaiga Samoa Nurse, IFPN Immediate Past President Ruth Melville, Mabel Toi WHO PIC.