



Perioperative Nurses Celebrating Proud Moments Nov. 11 – 15

Denver, Colo., Oct. 31, 2013 -- Every November, [Perioperative Nurse Week](#) reminds surgical team members and hospital administrators that perioperative nurses are essential to surgical patient and health care worker safety. To further emphasize the value of more than 160,000 perioperative nurses in the profession, the [Association of periOperative Registered Nurses](#) (AORN) is promoting the theme, "Proud Moments" which prompts the nurses to appreciate themselves. This year, Perioperative Nurse Week is November 11 – 13.

For perioperative nurses, proud moments can come in many different forms. Their work is often conducted when the patient is under anesthesia or, as it was for Lisa Spruce, in recovery. Spruce, DNP, RN, ACNS, ACNP, ANP, CNOR, is the director of evidence-based practice for AORN. Her proud moment came when she comforted a patient after his open-heart surgery. She wrote on [AORN Facebook](#), "He was in recovery, on a ventilator, and he was scared. All I did was hold his hand, but I knew how much it meant to him. And it meant so much to me, too, that I was able to touch this person's life. I never saw him again, but I'll always remember him. That experience made me realize I was in the right profession, and it encouraged me to move up in my career to be an advocate for patient safety."

Victoria Steelman, PhD, RN, CNOR, FAAN, AORN president-elect, had a proud moment behind the scenes, in research. "We were working on a project to minimize the risk of urinary tract infections, and implemented some changes. A staff nurse came up to me, very excited. She had been able to explain the rationale for the change to a surgeon, who immediately complied with her request. She described how she felt empowered when this happened, and that she could tell that he respected her more for it."

Perioperative Nurse Week this year begins on November 11 and ends on November 15. During the week, perioperative nurses will be honored by their colleagues and communities to highlight the diverse ways in which perioperative nurses, who help comprise the largest health care profession, are working to improve surgical safety.

AORN represents the interests of more than 160,000 perioperative nurses by providing nursing education, standards, and practice resources—including the peer-reviewed, monthly publication [AORN Journal](#)—to enable optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. AORN's 42,000 registered nurse members manage, teach, and practice perioperative nursing, are enrolled in nursing education or are engaged in perioperative research.

www.aorn.org

###