

Imelda Wright, PhD, RN, CNOR(E)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS (THREE TO BE ELECTED)

Imelda Wright, PhD, RN, CNOR(E), is an assistant professor at the University of Louisville School of Nursing, Kentucky. She earned a diploma in nursing from The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing, Cork, Ireland; a BSN and an MS in nursing education from McKendree College, Louisville, Kentucky; and a PhD in nursing from the University of Louisville, Kentucky.

Wright has been a perioperative nurse for 23 years and a member of AORN for 22 years. She is a member of

- AORN Kentuckiana Chapter (2016-present)
- the Kentucky State Council (2016-present)
- the Clinical Nurse Educator Specialty Assembly (2016-present)
- the Nurse Scientist Specialty Assembly (2021 to present)

Wright has attended AORN Global Surgical Conference & Expo seven times in the past 10 years, five times as a delegate.

Wright has received

- a University of Louisville BSN Program Outstanding Faculty Award (2019; 2021)

- University of Louisville Student Champion recognition (2021; 2022; 2023)
- an *AORN Journal* Writers Contest Award for “Normalization of Deviance Is Contrary to the Principles of High Reliability” (2023)

Highlights of Wright’s service to AORN include that she is

- the *AORN Journal* column coordinator and author for “Speaking Up: Voices From the OR” (2025-present)
- a member of the AORN Kentuckiana Chapter Board of Directors (2019-present)
- a member of the AORN Kentuckiana Chapter Education Committee (2019-present)
- a member of the AORN Kentuckiana Chapter Symposia Planning Committee (2019-present)

She has been

- chair of the Nurse Scientist Specialty Assembly (2023-2024)
- president of AORN Kentuckiana Chapter (2024-2025)
- chair of the Kentucky State Council (2023-2024)

In other leadership roles, Wright is

- the Safety Column coordinator and author for the *Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing* (2024-present)
- an inaugural member of the CCI Research Consortium (2025-present)
- primary investigator for funded research project, “Testing the Effects of an Evidence-Based Onboarding Process on High Reliability, Engagement and Retention, and Perceived Value of Certification of Perioperative RNs” (2022-present)

She has been

- primary investigator for funded research project, “Examining Relationships of the Perioperative Nurses’ Work Environment With a Culture of Safety and High Reliability” (2022)

- primary investigator for funded research project, “Factors Within the Perioperative Nurses’ Work Environment That Predict Their Work Engagement” (2021)

In her community, Wright has been

- a volunteer for the American Heart Association Walk (2023)
- a volunteer for Eastern Kentucky flood relief efforts (2022)
- a volunteer for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines (2021)

ELECTION STATEMENT

I am honored to announce my candidacy for the 2026 AORN National Board of Directors.

I have been a loyal member of AORN since 2002, and I am passionate about its role in providing evidence-based recommendations to deliver safe perioperative patient care.

The recognition that the OR is a complex, multifaceted, fast-paced environment that can increase the risk for adverse outcomes for surgical patients is the tenet of my scholarly work. As airline passengers have the utmost confidence in their flight teams to maintain safety, surgical patients place explicit trust in perioperative teams. Therefore, perioperative personnel hold a prodigious responsibility to uphold the trust of their patients, who are among the most vulnerable in health care.

Having practiced as an RN in three different countries, I hold an international perspective on health care. Furthermore, I am armed with passion, knowledge, and scholarly expertise in perioperative safety culture, I have a strategic vision to empower perioperative nurses, educators, and leaders to fortify safety culture. This would include the implementation of education, seminars, and workshops that provide strategies to maintain healthy team dynamics, high-reliability practices, and normalizing psychologically safe work environments.

I am grateful for your support, and I commit to working diligently to advocate for perioperative nurses and the patients within their care. I humbly ask for your vote to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. I look forward to the opportunity to work for my perioperative colleagues all over the US and internationally where AORN exerts influence.