

Imelda Wright  
Candidate: Board of Directors

What emerging trends or anticipated changes in perioperative nursing do you believe will have the greatest impact on our profession, and how would you, as an elected leader, help prepare AORN to meet these challenges?

Emerging trends in perioperative nursing include the rapid adoption of new technology, including the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR) that will affect all aspects of the perioperative environment. Although the adoption of new technologies can have many benefits, e.g. increased efficiencies and improvement of clinical decision making, there may be challenges for the perioperative nurse community.

As an elected leader, I acknowledge that evolving technology creates increased demands on nurses and may present challenges. Therefore, I will advocate for supporting leaders, educators, and direct-care personnel for accessible training in AI, VR, and robotics, ensuring nurses can adapt to new workflows, and remain engaged without burnout. Finally, I support the advancement of guidelines and standards that meet the needs of an evolving technological perioperative environment with a specific focus on the reinforcement of patient and workplace safety.

Collaboration is essential to effective leadership. Can you share a specific example of a time when you successfully fostered teamwork across diverse individuals or groups?

Because of my research interest in patient safety, my primary position in academia gave me the opportunity to collaborate with leaders at a local large community hospital to affect changes in perioperative onboarding processes with a specific focus on increasing culture of safety and high reliability practices. I assessed the needs of the facility, and I presented evidence-based approaches to clinical leaders, including directors, managers and educators on several key areas outlining ways that positive change could be affected. With collaborative discussion, I facilitated changes to the onboarding processes for perioperative personnel, and I helped implement changes in how education on perioperative safety practices were delivered to include role playing and simulation.

What inspired you to run for this elected position, and how does serving in this role align with your passion for advancing perioperative nursing and AORN's mission?

I was inspired to run for the elected position because of the platform it offers to advocate for perioperative nurses in alignment with AORN's mission and vision. I have had a long-standing passion and scholarly expertise in perioperative safety culture, and 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.

Serving on the national board will give me an opportunity to champion evidence-based practices and advocate for nurses to consistently provide quality and safe care. Furthermore, because of my passion for education, I aim to promote increased access to continuing education, certifications, and leadership training. Furthermore, considering AORNs stance on positive collaborations, I aim to use my position in academia to help bolster academic and clinical partnerships.