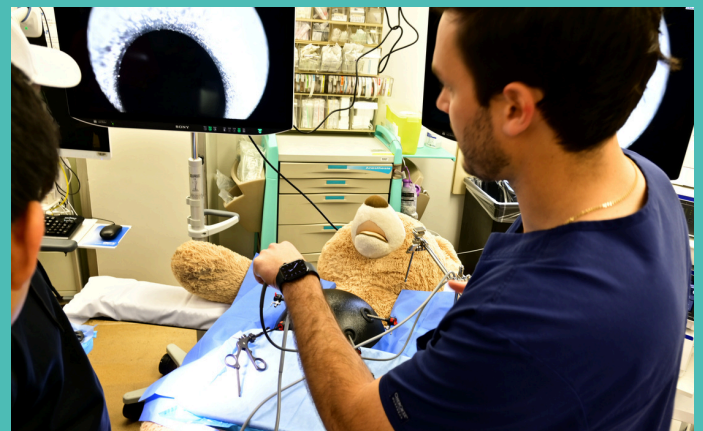


# SNIPS & SNAPS



## **University of Alberta Hospital Level 3 OR Open House: A Behind-the-Scenes Success!**

We opened our doors to friends and family for a fun-filled, educational day showcasing the incredible work we do in the OR! With enthusiastic support from management and a dedicated team of volunteers, we welcomed 508 visitors who explored hands-on displays and interactive stations across multiple specialties.



From neurosurgery there were demonstrations of burr holes and aneurysm clipping, to spine fusion systems, robotic urology with the Da Vinci, and laparoscopic tools in general surgery, there was something for everyone. Guests also got to experience plastics microsurgery, airway scopes in OHNS, orthopedic implants and saw bones, and even C-arm targeting in X-ray. The APS block room and eSim compressions added to the immersive experience.

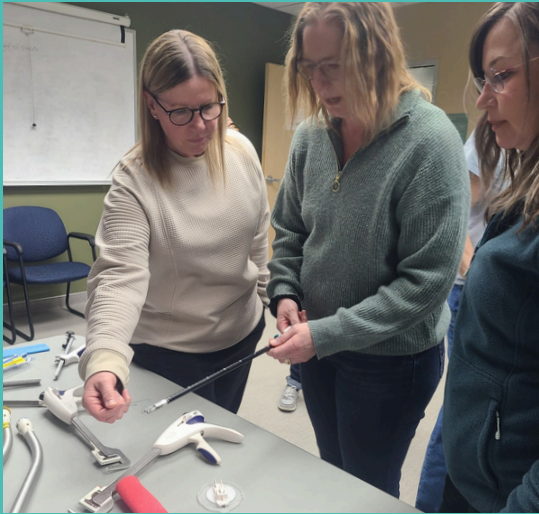
Families enjoyed 4 kg of popcorn, juice, and water, while raising \$365.50 for our Social Committee. It was a fantastic day of learning, laughter, and community spirit—truly fun for the whole family!

## CORNA's 2025 Spring Workshop



CORNA Hosted its annual Spring Workshop on April 12th. It was a wonderful day full of Great Education, Demonstrations, Networking, Food and even Puppy Cuddling for our much needed mental wellness activity. An amazing and successful event!







# 2025 LANA HERD MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERIOPERATIVE NURSING



Congratulations to Claudia Huska, the 2025 Winner of the Lana Herd Memorial Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing. Claudia was peer-nominated for this Award, which also carries a monetary prize of \$500 from Mitch Herd, Lana's Son and is proctored by CORNA.

Claudia was nominated by OR Staff from her Home Site at Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC). Claudia has been practicing as a perioperative nurse for 25 years. The majority of Claudia's Nursing career has been in the Red Deer Operating Room, but she also has worked in Calgary in the past. She carries her CPN certification and is also an active CORNA Member.

Claudia is currently the Clinical Nurse Educator at RDRHC OR – a role she does so well. Her knowledge, experience

and professionalism are outstanding, and she is such a positive role model to our Perioperative team. She provides a non-judgmental listening ear to students, new nurses, experienced nurses and even management, taking the time to listen to concerns and help troubleshoot problems. It is clear Claudia has a real passion for nursing education. She is always looking for ways to educate our staff about new policies and changes to clinical practice. She does this through providing in-services in a timely manner, offering after work sessions to capture all staff and planning simulations to address necessary learning needs. Claudia is the first person that greets our new staff and students on their first day of orientation in the OR. Just like Lana, her smile and demeanor are vibrant and welcoming, allowing them to feel safe and supported in their new endeavor in their nursing career. Her passion for perioperative nursing quickly intrigues them, and it is apparent they feel safe and supported by her even after orientation is over. She is there to provide guidance when needed but also pushes all students to be independent and grow. This is something that Lana did well. It is so important for students to get that support and foster a love and passion for perioperative nursing early on in their career.

Claudia is very deserving of this recognition and appreciation. Her talent, wisdom and commitment in her daily practice are so valuable the staff and patients she serves. Congratulations Claudia, the Winner of the 2025 Lana Herd Memorial Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing.

## 2024 MURIEL SHEWCHUK EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP IN PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

Congratulations to Ruth Morrison, the 2024 Winner of the Muriel Shewchuk Excellence in Perioperative Nursing. Ruth was presented with her plaque by Marcia Shewchuk on May 24, 2025 during the ORNAC Convention. When asked the present this award to Ruth, Marcia responded "I am so happy it is Ruth receiving Mom's award because we have worked together for many years at Foothills."

Below is Ruth's Nomination Letter from her colleague and previous Muriel Shewchuk Award recipient Lucia Pfeuti.

It is my pleasure to nominate Ruth Morrison, for the Muriel Shewchuk Excellence in Leadership Award. For the past 18 years, Ruth has been one of the Clinical Nurse Educators (CNE) in the Operating Room at the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) in Calgary, Alberta. During this time, she has dedicated herself to her patients, her students,

her fellow colleagues, and her profession. She has consistently promoted excellence in the perioperative setting by upholding the ORNAC Standards and empowers others to do the same.

Early on in her role as CNE, Ruth was an Instructor with the Calgary Health Region (CHR) - Perioperative Program, which was developed by Muriel Shewchuk. Since 2010, Ruth has been an instrumental co-lead of the AHS - FMC Post-Graduate Perioperative Program, an ORNAC Accredited Program, whereby she has been involved in the ongoing developing, planning, teaching and evaluating of the program. Early on in the program students are presented with the importance of the nursing process and how each patient's care should be individualized to the information gleaned through their pre-operative assessment. Ruth empowers the OR staff to continue to use this process to ensure that all patients receive individualized care to meet their specific intra-operative needs.

In a large facility such as FMC, promoting a positive culture can be challenging. Ruth works hard to encourage open dialogue amongst all staff members and makes herself readily available to listen to concerns from staff. She seeks to resolve issues and will not hesitate to bring concerns forward to find resolution. In regards to the students in the Perioperative Program, Ruth takes on a protective nature ensuring they are provided with a learning environment that is respectful, caring and supportive. She also encourages professional growth opportunities for senior staff by involving them in various unit based activities (e.g., development and use of resource nurses within surgical specialties, use of staff nurses in medical school teaching, volunteers for stations during the FMC OR Open House).



Ruth herself leads by example. Students and staff see her as someone who upholds the standards by promoting, practicing and teaching them. She describes herself as someone who is “firm but fair”. Her decision making is one that always takes on a patient centered approach, making her a strong patient advocate and someone who does not shy away from speaking up for patient safety, even to the toughest of surgeons. Her expectation of others is that they too will uphold the standards and practice with respect and integrity. Ruth’s passion for perioperative nursing has translated into a career of life-long learning. Recognizing the value of being certified in perioperative nursing, Ruth obtained her CPN(C) designation from the Canadian Nurses Association in 2011. She has maintained her designation through recertification and continues to promote others to seek out their certification. In addition to her certification, Ruth has demonstrated a commitment to continuing education and nursing research by participating as a member of the CNA Perioperative Nurse’s Exam Validation Committee and being a reviewer of the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> editions of the ORNAC Standards (2020, 2022). She is also the current Education Director for the South Central Operating Room Nurses Association (SCORNA) and has been a longstanding member of SCORNA (and thus ORNAA & ORNAC).

Ruth’s influence on changing the health care delivery in the OR is far reaching. Over the years, she has participated in various provincial policy committees, most notably as Co-chair of the Provincial Surgical Count Record Template Design and Educational Implementation Committee, and Co-chair of the Surgical Count Provincial Policy Working Committee, both of which functioned within the former AHS Surgery Strategic Clinical Network. Because of her work and dedication to all matters related to surgical counts, she is affectionately known within our site as the “count guru”. She has often been consulted for practice questions from those around the province and has also shared her expertise related to counts at the 27<sup>th</sup> ORNAC National Conference as a co-presenter of the presentation titled Development and Implementation of a Provincial Surgical Count Record.

Ruth has been directly involved in bringing up of the next generation of perioperative Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Surgical Processors, Service Workers, and even Clinical Clerks completing surgical rotations. The latter as an Instructor for the University of Calgary Undergraduate Medical Education Program teaching Procedural Surgical Sterile Technique and Scrub Skills on an annual basis. She is constantly promoting strong and effective multidisciplinary relationships within the healthcare team, by networking with various team members and ensuring everyone is working within their role.

In addition to being a strong patient advocate, Ruth is also a huge nurse advocate. She will speak up about the importance of having a Registered Nurse in the OR and encourages all staff to work to their full scope while working collaboratively with each other.

In completing a short biography for the 2016 ORNAC Perioperative Program submission, Ruth noted that the OR would provide her with a “challenging and rewarding lifelong career.” I feel that this is Ruth’s time to truly be rewarded for all that she has provided to those who have come into the perioperative field and to those who have yet to set foot into this amazing area of nursing.

Regards,

Lucia Pfeuti, RN, BN, CPN(C)  
Clinical Nurse Educator, FMC OR