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## The trusted source of knowledge for Australian perioperative nurses

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Associate Professor Jed Duff  
PhD, RN  
Journal Editor

## ACORN

The Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN) is a registered Australian company and health promotion charity. It exists to serve its members, the perioperative profession, the patient and the community to promote the prevention and control of disease.

ACORN's vision is for Australian patients to receive the safest and highest quality evidence-based perioperative care in the world.

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# JPN: The trusted source of knowledge for Australian perioperative nurses

I am delighted to have the opportunity to take on the role of editor of this prestigious journal. I thank the ACORN board for entrusting it to me. I am reminded that in state and national member surveys the journal is consistently rated as the most valued member benefit so I do not take this responsibility lightly. For over 30 years it has been a trusted source of knowledge for Australian perioperative nurses and I intend to work hard to maintain that trust. During my tenure, I also aim to make this journal the most highly regarded perioperative nursing journal internationally.

Many of you may recognise my name from my time on the ACORN board as NSW OTA representative and director (2011–2014) and then as president (2015–2016). It is lovely to come home to my ACORN family. This is truly one of the most exciting and dynamic professional communities I have been a part of or associated with, and that all comes down to the passion and engagement of the members. My passion, as many of you may know, is evidence-based practice and the use of research to improve the health system and patient outcomes. I look forward to engaging with members to see the perioperative nursing research and scholarship published in this journal translated into routine clinical practice.

I join an esteemed line of ACORN Journal Editors: John Stuart, Narelle Hines, Lynne Redknapp, Pauline Walker, Rebecca Fox, Lois Hamlin, Marilyn Richardson-Tench, Mary Polzella, Sarah Bird and Nicholas Ralph. This quality publication is the legacy of their hard work and dedication. I would particularly like to recognise Associate Professor Nick Ralph who led the journal through one of the greatest periods of change it has ever seen. Some of

these changes have been obvious to all, such as the change in name from *ACORN Journal: The Journal of Perioperative Nursing in Australia* to *Journal of Perioperative Nursing (JPN)*, but many changes have been achieved behind the scenes and went mostly unrecognised. As a result of his hard work and innovation the journal's international ranking has continued to climb rapidly. So much so, that I am confident we will soon meet our goal of being the leading perioperative nursing journal internationally.

One of the innovative changes introduced was the launch of the online repository for articles published in the journal. I encourage you to bookmark this website ([www.journal.acorn.org.au](http://www.journal.acorn.org.au)) and visit it regularly to find our editorials, peer reviewed papers and feature articles. My hope is that members will apply the knowledge they find there in their workplace for the betterment of Australian perioperative nursing.

Producing a world class journal such as this one is a team effort and I look forward to working with all the hardworking ACORN directors, Journal Committee volunteers and staff. Together, we will continue to deliver

the quality product that you have come to expect. We will also continue to innovate to try to better meet your needs. As part of this process I will be reaching out to members to identify what they want from the journal and what improvements we can make. If you already have an idea, comment or suggestion then please feel free to email me with your feedback.

We would like the journal to be an active community space for our specialty so I encourage you to get involved however you can. One of the most obvious ways is to write for the journal. Our journal is an attractive place to publish in for a number of reasons:

- the journal is sent to over 5000 Australian perioperative nurses so it is the perfect way to share your work with peers
- the time from submission to publication is approximately three months which is about half that of other nursing journals

- your paper is published in our online repository which is indexed in leading databases such as Scopus, Proquest, CrossRef and others
- the repository is open access so more people can read and cite your work.

I understand that the idea of publishing a paper can seem a little scary if you haven't done it before so I am willing to work with members who are novice authors to develop their paper. I am also happy for people to start out small. Your first paper doesn't need to be a 5000-word research report. I'm very happy for people to submit short reports, evidence summaries, quality improvement reports, discussion papers or opinion pieces. In this edition, we have launched our emerging scholars section as a safe space for novice authors to publish. If you have written a report for work or submitted an assessment at university that you are particularly proud of then please feel free to contact me to see if it might be right to publish here.

Another way to participate in the journal is to become a reviewer. Again, I say don't worry if you don't have a lot of experience as I will always pair novice reviewers with one of our experts. Reviewing papers and getting the opportunity to see the feedback of an expert reviewer is a great way to improve your skills in research and evidence-based practice. If you would like to volunteer to be a reviewer please register your interest by email at [administrator@acorn.org.au](mailto:administrator@acorn.org.au).

With all the challenges facing health care today this is clearly a tumultuous time to be a perioperative nurse but it is also a time that is full of great opportunity. As Journal Editor, I will do my best to ensure the journal documents these challenges while emphasising the opportunities for our specialty. I will use my editorials to highlight issues of importance to perioperative nursing. I hope they will stimulate conversation and debate and I welcome your responses.