Periop CONNECT

powered by OR TODAY

AORN Connecticut 0701

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PRESHOW PLANNER

OCTOBER 11-12, 2025 | NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT



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Earn over 6.5 CEUs!

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AORN Connecticut 0701

WHO WE ARE

Periop ConneCT, a premier event for Perioperative RNs, Surgical Technologists, and SPD professionals in the CT and Northeast region, is proud to have the support of OR Today magazine and AORN CT Chapter 0701 in planning its annual conference. We invite you to join us for CE-accredited education, exhibits with leading vendors, and great networking events.

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

7 AM Registration Opens

7-8 AM Continental Breakfast

8-11:45 AM Education

12-1:30 PM Lunch & Learn

SPONSORED BY: elequil® aromatabs® aromatherapy designed for the clinical setting

Enjoy a complimentary lunch while learning about the latest perioperative topics. Join us for our 'Lunch & Learn' event, where sponsors will present engaging presentations on different tools available to the perioperative field. This interactive session offers a unique opportunity to expand your knowledge and connect with industry experts in a relaxed setting.

2-3 PM Education

3-6 PM Exhibit Hall Grand Opening

SPONSORED BY: elequil® aromatabs® aromatherapy designed for the clinical setting

Join us for the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening to network with vendors with an open bar and hors d'oeuvres!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:45 AM Registration Opens

6:45 AM Continental Breakfast

7:45-8:45 AM Education

9-10 AM Closing Keynote

10 AM-12 PM Exhibit Hall

Mingle with vendors over breakfast bites, sip on refreshing mimosas and Bloody Mary's, and make valuable connections – all in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

12:30 PM Closing Remarks

For the most up to date schedule, visit **periopconnect.com/schedule.**

EDUCATION

SATURDAY

8:30-9:30 AM

Opening Keynote: The Art of Speaking Up – Supporting a Culture of Safety in the OR





M. Imelda Wright, PhD, RN, CNOR, Assistant Professor, University of Louisville School of Nursing and Karrie Kernen, MSN, CNOR, CCRC, CHPE, Education Coordinator for Surgical Services at Baptist Health Louisville

This session will empower perioperative team members to become bold advocates for patient safety by speaking up when it matters most. Through inspiring strategies and practical tools, participants will learn how to navigate the challenges of team dynamics and foster a culture of trust, respect, and psychological safety. Together, we'll explore how every voice can make a difference—and how empowered teams create safer, stronger outcomes.

10:00-10:45 AM

AAMI Sterile Processing Standards Update: What the OR Needs to Know



Amanda Benedict, MA, SES-CSP, SES Fellow, VP, Sterilization, AAMI

During this session, attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of what standards are, how they're developed, and their importance for practice and professionals. An overview of AAMI standards and technical documents for health care sterile processing and key information for the OR will be provided. Lastly, we'll take a look ahead to currently developing new/revised standards and technical documents for sterile processing to help the OR prepare for what's coming soon and the potential impact on practice.

Influencers of Perioperative Nurse Turnover



Carole "Gert" Mayes, PhD, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR, Manager of Nursing Excellence, Rutland Regional Medical Center

This presentation provides the background on perioperative nurse turnover and provides a confirmed theory that explains the turnover. Based on this confirmed theory, perioperative nurses and leaders can implement interventions to reduce perioperative nurse turnover.

11:00-11:45 AM

From Classroom to Circulator: Systemizing Perioperative Readiness





Cassandra Eilers, MS, BSN, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR, Nursing Professional Development Specialist, Hartford Hospital and Brianna Swaim, BSN, RN, CNOR, Nursing Professional Development Practitioner, Midstate Medical Center-Hartford Healthcare

This presentation explores the development and implementation of a systemized Transition to Practice program grounded in AORN's Periop 101 curriculum. Through aligning clinical education with core perioperative standards, we aim to create a consistent, competency-driven pathway for new nurses entering the OR across our seven acute-care hospitals. The program emphasizes collaboration among educators, preceptors, and leadership to strengthen support and ensure successful onboarding. We'll share our journey so far, including successes, struggles, and lessons learned. We'll share ideas, process insights, and provide a realistic look at what it takes to build and refine this program in progress.

Building a Fellowship Pipeline for Surgical Technologists: From Classroom to the OR



Kristen Parker, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN, TCRN, Manager, Nursing Professional Development & Practice Excellence, Perioperative Services, Hartford Hospital

This presentation will explore the creation and implementation of a Surgical Technology Fellowship Program designed to seamlessly transition senior students into the perioperative workforce. By bridging academic preparation with practical, facility-specific onboarding, this model reduces hiring delays, minimizes orientation confusion, and fosters confident, well-integrated surgical technologists. Attendees will gain insight into how such a fellowship cultivates a broader understanding of the entire perioperative ecosystem — aligning surgical, sterile processing, anesthesia, and nursing efforts toward the shared goal of exceptional patient care.

2:00-3:00 PM

Body Mechanics to Reduce Physical Stress





Leah Goldberg, MSN, RN, CNOR, Staff Nurse, The Bone and Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital and Alex Papanastassiou, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Clinic Director and Glen Foreman PT, DPT, LAT, ATC, CLT, CES, Clinic Director, Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy

As healthcare workers, we put significant physical strain on our bodies as we carry out our jobs to care for patients. We will discuss common workplace injuries and the importance of maintaining a strong and aligned core. We will demonstrate small changes that can be made to promote proper body mechanics during common tasks, like moving a patient from the OR table to the hospital bed/stretcher, to help reduce physical strain and prevent future injury.

The Implications of GLP-1 Agonists and Marijuana in Perioperative Care



Dr. Alice A. DiFrancesco, MD, Integrated Anesthesia Associates

The rising use of GLP-1 agonists for both diabetes management and weight loss has significant implications for perioperative care due to their impact on gastric emptying and potential anesthetic complications. As a relatively new drug class, early perioperative guidelines were limited, but evolving recommendations now offer more clarity, though they may differ across institutions. Similarly, the legalization of recreational marijuana in Connecticut has made it increasingly important for providers to assess patients' usage patterns, including frequency and form. Marijuana use can affect all phases of surgical care—preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative—and understanding these effects allows for more tailored and safer anesthesia management. Additionally, the perioperative period presents a valuable opportunity to educate patients on the importance of abstaining from marijuana use to reduce surgical risks.

SUNDAY

7:45-8:45 AM

Lower Back Pain: Surgical Interventions When all Else Fails



Jason DaCruz, Physician Assistant, Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital

This presentation will explore common causes of lower back pain and outline surgical interventions, including the discussion of new techniques, technology, and implants to improve patient outcomes.

Enhancing OR Efficiency with AI and Huddle Board Management



Karen Edwards, MBA, BSN, RN, CSSM, CNOR, Nursing Director Main 3 & Dunn 6 Perioperative Services, Houston Methodist Hospital

This presentation explores the latest clinical innovations shaping the perioperative field, focusing on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital huddle board management to improve operating room efficiency. Attendees will learn how emerging technologies transform surgical practices, enhance communication, and streamline workflows. Through real-world examples and practical strategies, participants will discover how to effectively integrate AI tools and digital communication platforms into their workflows. The session also addresses challenges and future trends, empowering teams to adapt seamlessly to ongoing technological advancements.



CLOSING KEYNOTE

Sunday, October 12 | 9-10 AM

Know Your Why

Kenneth Campbell, BS, CRCST, CER, CIS, CHL, FCS, CLSSBB, Author, Director of Implementation and Clinical Services, Turbett Surgical, Inc.

This presentation explores the power of purpose in both personal and professional life. It emphasizes how understanding your core motivation can drive resilience, focus, and fulfillment. Through real-life stories and practical frameworks, attendees will learn how to identify their 'why' and align it with their daily actions. Whether you're seeking clarity, direction, or renewed energy, this talk will offer tools to reconnect with what truly matters.

Group Rate: $220/night
Hotel Phone: 203-772-6664
Reservations: 800-THE-OMNI
Deadline: September 10, 2025
Direct Booking Link:
periopconnect.com/location

(Group block may sellout prior to deadline)

Parking: Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale (Chapel Square Garage)
155 Temple Street
$12/day



LOCATION

OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL AT YALE
155 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06510

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

If you are interested in sharing your research or EBP/QI projects with Periop ConneCT attendees, you can do so with a poster presentation.

To submit a poster, simply scan this QR code!

Providing an opportunity to earn additional contact hours for RNs!

REGISTER EARLY and SAVE!

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

EARLY BIRD - $75

(valid until 8/31/25)

- Includes full registration and admission to all events, education and exhibits for the duration of the conference.
- Includes access to on-demand online education after the conference.

STUDENT - $30

- Must register with a university-issued email address.
- Includes full registration and admission to all events, education and exhibits for the duration of the conference.
- Includes access to on-demand online education after the conference.

REGISTRATION FEE - $100

after (8/31/25)

ONSITE REGISTRATION FEE - $125

If you find yourself in financial hardship and unable to cover the cost of registration please complete the application on our website to be considered for a scholarship. **Visit periopconnect.com/scholarships to apply.**

CE CREDITS

OR Today has been approved and is licensed to be a Continuing Education Provider with the State of California Board of Registered Nursing; License No. CEP 16623.

The 2025 Periop Connect conference has been approved for **6.5 CE** (approval code: OR Today 251106) by the Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA).

The 2025 Periop Connect conference, being held on October 11 has been approved for **7.75 Contact Hours** (approval code: 00609MMCORPW25) and October 12 has been approved for **2 Contact Hours** (approval code: 00610MMCORPW25) by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD).

Periop Connect is approved for **6.5 CE credits** by the Association of Surgical Technologists, Inc. for continuing education for the Certified Surgical Technologist, Certified Surgical First Assistant, and Associate members of AST. This recognition does not imply that AST approves or endorses any product or products that are included in presentations.

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