

Linda Groah, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, FAAN

Linda K. Groah, RN, MSN, CNOR, CNAA, FAAN, has been the CEO/executive director of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) since March 2007.

A veteran perioperative nursing executive, Linda has devoted her career to perioperative nursing practice, education, and executive management. Her previous professional positions include international healthcare consultation, chief operating officer of Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Francisco, Calif, nurse executive for Kaiser Foundation Hospital-San Francisco and Kaiser Foundation Hospital-South San Francisco, Calif; director of nursing OR-PACU-Surgery Center at the University of California San Francisco Hospitals and Clinics; and OR director at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon, Ga.

Throughout her career, Linda has focused on improving patient safety. At Kaiser Permanente-San Francisco, she introduced and piloted several patient safety initiatives including walking rounds for administration and the implementation of the “Just Culture” concept, an environment where actions are analyzed to ensure that individual accountability is established and appropriate actions are taken. Just Culture is now a national health care standard.

Linda authored the first textbook in the US that included perioperative nursing roles and functions; the innovative nursing roles of nurses in the operating room were piloted and tested at the University of California-San Francisco and have been replicated in clinical ladders concepts across the country. She has authored numerous articles for trade journals and text books on subjects ranging from clinical perioperative nursing, to administrative issues in management and leadership in health care and nursing.

Awarded AORN's Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing in 1989, Linda was inducted in 2000 as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. In 2005, she received Nursing Spectrum magazine's California and US Nursing Excellence Award for Leadership. In 2006, she was named one of San Francisco's 100 most influential women in business.

Most recently Linda served as the treasurer for the Nursing Organization Alliance, and as Chair of the Bylaws Committee for the American Academy of Nursing. Currently she is on the Board of Directors of the Nursing Alliance for Quality Care, a member of the editorial board of Nursing Spectrum and a member of the Board of Directors for the Anesthesia Foundation for Patient Safety.