



Advanced Practice Tech Summit

Artificial Intelligence, Simulation, and Technology in Clinical Practice

Where advanced practice meets clinical innovation

Open to all Advanced Practice Providers across disciplines who are shaping the future of clinical care through innovation, technology, and systems-level thinking.

Summit Agenda

- 08:30-08:40: Welcome
- 08:40 – 09:40: AI & Nursing
- 09:40 – 10:40: Simulation in Healthcare
- 10:40-10:50: Break
- 10:50 – 11:30: AI and Literature Searches
- 11:30-12:30: Technology for Cardiology
- 12:30 – 12:50: Break
- 12:50 – 13:20: Continuous Glucose Monitoring Technology
- 13:20 -14:05: AI in Publishing
- 14:05 -14:30: Technology for Well-being
- 14:30-14:45: Questions & Evaluations

April 18, 2026

0830-2:45

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Approved for 5.5 contact hours

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Commission on Accreditation

Registration Types & Fees	Registration Until April 4	Registration After April 4
Student	\$99	\$125
Member	\$115	\$139
Non-member	\$159	\$185

Register at:

<https://go.uth.edu/TXCNS> Advanced Practice Tech Summit



Summit Speakers

TxCNS reserves the right to change speakers or topics

Deep in the Heart of AI: Preserving the Human Pulse in Nursing Publication



Dr. Mayra Garcia

Dr. Mayra Garcia is a Team Leader and Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) at Children's Health over Systems Level Practice. As a CNS, she has led organizational committees, implemented QI/EBP projects, and led funded research studies. Her work has been disseminated at national and local conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. She is the current Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Pediatric Surgical Nursing and has received several awards for her contributions to nursing. She is passionate about serving patients in both hospital and community settings and is equally dedicated to mentoring nurses, fostering their growth as compassionate clinicians and future leaders in the profession.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring Technology

Veronica Brady, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, FADCES, BC-ADM, CDCES



Dr. Brady is an assistant professor in the research department at the UTHealth Cizik School of Nursing in Houston TX. Her research focuses on people with type 2 diabetes and comorbid conditions (cancer/HIV). Dr. Brady maintains a clinical practice at MD Anderson Cancer Center in the department of Endocrine Neoplasia & Hormonal Disorders. As a part of the diabetes consultative team, she participates in the care of patients with type 1, type 2, and immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced type 1 diabetes. Dr. Brady is board-certified in diabetes care and education and advanced diabetes management and serves as immediate past president for the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES).



AI & Nursing

Garry Brydges, PhD, DNP, MBA, MHA, CRNA, ACNP-BC, FAANA, FAAN
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Garry Brydges is the Director of Quality and Outcomes at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center Division of Anesthesia, Critical Care, & Pain Medicine. He integrates machine learning to predict oncologic patient outcomes and fiscal implications. An APRN and CRNA, he teaches widely, serves on national certification boards, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Summit Speakers



Technology for Cardiology

Triston Thompson, MHA, ACS, RDCS, RCS, RVT, FASE
Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center / Texas Heart Institute

Triston Thompson is an Advanced Cardiac Sonographer at Baylor St. Luke's and the Texas Heart Institute. He is active with the American Society of Echocardiography, serving as faculty and committee member. He also contributes to guideline development and credentialing exams and is pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Miami.

Simulation in Healthcare

Penni Watts, PhD, RN, CHSE-A, FNAP, ANEF, FSSH, FAAN



Dr. Penni Watts is currently the Assistant Dean for Clinical Simulation at the UAB School of Nursing and the Assistant Director for the Office of Interprofessional Curriculum. She has been instrumental in the integration of clinical simulation experiences as well as interprofessional simulation experiences across multiple programs on campus. Her background includes over 25 years in critical care nursing. Her training in simulation includes the Center for Medical Simulation Comprehensive Instructor Course and the Advanced Instructor Course. Currently she is active on committees in INACSL and Society for Simulation in Healthcare. Currently, she holds a certification as a CHSE- A (Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator-Advanced), is a fellow in the Society for Simulation in Healthcare and the American Academy of Nursing.

Technology for Well-being

Vanessa A. Abacan, DNP, APRN, ACCNS-P, RNC-MNN, EBP-C

Dr. Vanessa Abacan is a Doctor of Nursing Practice-prepared Clinical Nurse Specialist, speaker, and founder of Heartfold Healing LLC, a healthcare culture diagnostics company. She is President-Elect of the Texas Clinical Nurse Specialists NACNS Affiliate, the 2025 NANN APRN Rising Star, and a recipient of the 2023 Johns Hopkins Alumni Association Award. Dr. Abacan serves as an Associate Editor for the JBI Evidence Implementation journal, adjunct faculty at UTHealth Cizik School of Nursing, and a Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation Ambassador. A survivor of workplace bullying as a nurse leader, her clinical and research focus is on nursing culture measurement, workplace bullying, retention, and the lived experience of frontline nurses. She is the author of a book titled *Choosing Me*, an evidence-based guided reflection book for nurses navigating career disruption, identity rupture, moral injury, and trauma. She helps nurses and leaders address culture, moral injury, and workforce sustainability. She is also a nurse entrepreneur and a fervent CNS advocate, running an apparel and accessory line dedicated to spreading awareness of the Clinical Nurse Specialist role.



Summit Speakers



AI & Literature Searches
Jennifer Stockton
Liaison Librarian
Research & Instruction
The Texas Medical Center Library