

2022 Michigan Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (MICNS) Candidates for Officers and Directors-At-Large

Vice President



Renee Havey, DNP, RN, CCRN, ACNS-BC, CEN
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Emergency Services, Michigan Medicine

Background/Qualifications: I have worked as a CNS since May 2012 and recently completed my doctorate degree. I am looking to continue to grow professionally and being a part of a professional organization feels like the next natural step. In undergraduate school, I was very involved in our Student Nurses' Association and Nursing Council. I really enjoyed my time representing my peers and advocating for the profession of nursing and have missed being involved in that type of work.

Vision: Over the last few years it seems that MI-CNS has grown quite a bit, with more outreach with social media and email. It also seems that there have been more opportunities for education and development. I would love to see this growth continue and for MI-CNS to engage CNSs across the state and provide networking opportunities. We need to stick together to keep our role relevant. We need to recruit more nurses to become CNSs.

Major Challenges for CNSs: I think one of the major challenges is related to recruitment of nurses to the role. It is hard to compete with the other advanced practice nursing roles and with educational counterparts. It is also hard to recruit when programs are dwindling in the local area. I hope that we can help to promote the role and recruit nurses to graduate programs and roles within health systems in our state.

Secretary



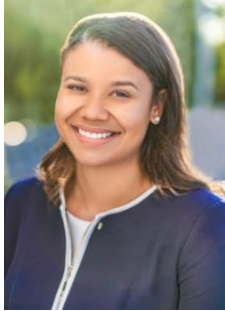
Valerie Pfander, DNP, APRN, ACCNS-AG, CPAN, FASPAN
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Perioperative Services, Munson Medical Center, Traverse City

Background/Qualifications: I have been a CNS for almost 9 years, CNS faculty for 7 years, & an RN for over 20 years. In my current CNS role, I act as a leader in our service line. I feel that I am well-respected by my colleagues and other CNS peers. Both in my hospital role and faculty role I enjoy mentoring new CNSs into the role. In my CNS role at the hospital, I am part of many committees, as chair, facilitator, and member. I participate in NACNS and ASPAN professional organizations when I am able.

Vision: It would be great to increase the members and participants in the MI-CNS. I would like to share with the CNSs in MI why being a member of this organization would be beneficial for networking, educational opportunities, and sharing of information.

Major Challenges for CNSs: Major challenges include getting others to understand the role and value the CNS brings, why is it so hard to articulate what we do? I also think it's a challenge getting CNSs to be able to function to the capacity of their education and licensure...CNSs should be credentialed and privileged at all hospitals and should be recognized by insurance companies and be able to function as an APRN.

Legislative Liaison



Angela Floyd, MSN, RN, AGCNS, CCRN
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Henry Ford Health System

Background/Qualifications: I have been a CNS since 2019, focuses on critical care areas for Henry Ford Health System. During my time as a CNS, I have been actively advocating for CNSs to practice to the full extent of their licensure and coordinating with other CNSs and leaders across Michigan to develop plans to obtain full scope of practice. As the Legislative liaison, I would be able to continue advocating for this through the political system as well as communicating legislative issues impacting CNS practice to members of MICNS.

Vision: My vision for MICNS is to be a robust organization that provides CNSs across Michigan a platform to voice their professional concerns/feedback and the opportunity to improve the role.

Major Challenges for CNSs: Full practice authority and recognition as an APRN is our major challenge. Addressing these challenges include public education about the role and advocating through political and public venues to support full practice authority.

Student Liaison (vote for 1)



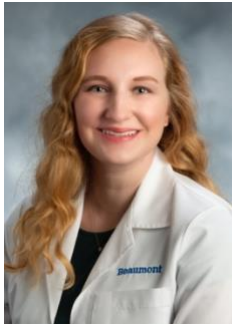
Lesley Nido, BSN, RN (first year clinicals)
Emergency Room Nurse, Beaumont Health, Troy

Background/Qualifications: I am a driven and passionate nurse with 5 years of experience within the Emergency setting. I graduated from Michigan State University with honors and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2016. I am currently working full-time as an emergency nurse and a part-time CNS student at Michigan State University. I believe I am a qualified candidate as I am an active member of the nurse residency advisory board for Beaumont Health and Michigan State University's Student Advisory Council. I was also recently inducted into Sigma Theta Tau.

Vision: As a future CNS, I envision MI-CNS as one of the main drivers for facilitating change and implementing new innovative roles that would be permissible in a CNS's scope of practice within the state of Michigan. My hope is to be actively involved and take part in these

processes and changes. If given this opportunity, I would be able to contribute my ideas and a different perspective as a student CNS.

Major Challenges for CNSs: I believe the major challenges facing CNSs are title recognition and empowerment within the healthcare system. At times, I feel that the CNS's role often shares similar responsibilities and characteristics like that of a nursing educator. If we are to differentiate ourselves in these circumstances, then we must be active advocates who look to implement new policies, tasks, and procedures that further delineate us, but also enables the complete utility of the CNS's scope of practice.



Mackenzie Rauch, BSN, RN (graduates this spring)
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurse, Beaumont Health, Dearborn

Background/Qualifications: I am a third year Doctor of Nursing Practice student at Michigan State University for the Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AGCNS) program. My expected program completion is May 2022. In addition to being in graduate school, I also work as a Wound, Ostomy, and Continence (WOC) nurse at Beaumont Dearborn. I have been certified as a WOC nurse for four years and truly love the work that I do. I

believe that the CNS role is a perfect complement to my role as a WOC nurse, which is heavily focused on quality indicators, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement. My goal is to expand my role as a CNS to practice to my full scope. Therefore, I am currently working on a business case presentation with my coworker to become the first two credentialed and privileged CNSs in our health system. With these changes, we hope to bill for our services as WOC nurses in the inpatient setting. After that, we hope to open an outpatient ostomy clinic to better serve our patients after discharge from the hospital.

Vision: I hope to use my experience with this process of becoming credentialed and privileged to help other CNSs advocate for the expansion of their role to practice to their full scope. I believe the role of the CNS is multi-faceted and there are many ways to expand the role within different settings. Through a position on the MI-CNS board, I would help to advocate for changes within hospital systems around the state of Michigan to recognize the CNS as an Advanced Practice Provider (APP).

Major Challenges for CNSs: I think the major challenges facing the CNS surrounds delineation of our role from other nursing roles and the ability for the CNS to be recognized as an APP. There are also many barriers in place for the credentialed and privileged CNS. For example, currently there are only certain insurance companies that will allow the CNS to bill for their services independently. This is a barrier to the CNS being able to be recognized as an APP. I know there is already a coordinated effort to make changes to this within the MI-CNS and I would be happy to assist in any way I can. I believe as a WOC-CNS who will hopefully be recognized as an APP soon, I can speak to the value of the CNS role and the benefits of the CNS being recognized as an APP.

Director-At-Large (vote for 2)



Melissa Barach, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Supportive Care, Henry Ford Health System, West Bloomfield

Background/Qualifications: I previously worked as a critical care CNS for a community hospital and was very involved with all three spheres of impact. I worked on many system level projects and directly with the nursing team to provide evidence based practice to impact patients. My time as a bedside nurse was in critical care. Since February 2021, I started a new position with a pilot program and am a credentialed CNS with privileges at my hospital. I am so thrilled to be finally working directly with patients and making an impact in this way. I am also involved with NACNS with the Membership committee to gain further insight to the CNS role on a national level.

Vision: I have recently been invited to participate in some MI-CNS meetings which has been an honor. My vision for MI-CNS is to have a broad sense of the CNS role across the state of Michigan and how we can continue to elevate the role to full-practice scope. My vision for the CNS role in general is for healthcare organizations to realize the full potential of our amazing profession and provide more employment opportunities. Also, to be linked to the CNS programs at universities to provide a valuable resource to incoming CNS professionals.

Major Challenges for CNSs: One current challenge CNSs are facing is the lack of recognition as a billing provider. This is the issue we (Taylor Brazelton/Long and I) brought forward to MI-CNS this year after we discovered that our health system only recognizes 5 insurance payors compared to over 50 that recognize the NP role. With the assistance of the MI-CNS board, we have made meaningful connections with CNS leaders across the state to hopefully elevate the issue. Continued work on this will be necessary to show the value of the CNS role. We have plans to present this issue at the MONL annual conference in the early part of 2022. I also plan on meeting with executive leadership within my health system to impact the billing opportunities. Another challenge is the lack of recognition of the CNS role as an APRN in my health system and across the state of Michigan. I plan on making a small information sheet/infographic with the benefits of the CNS role and information on credentialing/privileging benefits. This will all take time and energy but will be worth it in the end for our amazing profession!

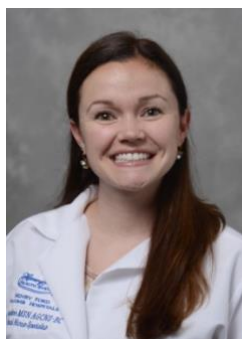


**Nadia Farhat, MSN, RN,
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Beaumont Health, Dearborn**

Background/Qualifications: I have served two terms on ANA-MI Nursing practice council and served one term on ANA bylaws committee. I have been a CNS for 4 years, and a clinical instructor for 1 year.

Vision: To empower the CNS role in Michigan by supporting CNSs in their APRN role, communicating this through promoting CNS work, and providing Michigan CNSs with resources to grow professionally.

Major Challenges for CNSs: The CNS role is utilized differently in different healthcare systems leading to role confusion and ambiguity in how to use the role. I would like to promote CNS work and distinguish this role and its value.



**Taylor Long, DNP, AGCNS-BC
Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit**

Background/Qualifications: I have 11 years of experience in nursing, with five years as a Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. I was the first credentialed and privileged CNS at Henry Ford Health System and I passionately advocate for full scope of practice for the CNS role at the state and national levels. My education and practice with the geriatric population has given me the knowledge and experience to promote quality outcomes for health care employees and the communities as our population continues to age. My specific expertise lies in fall prevention, dementia, and delirium management. I have completed my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2019, I have initiated other research, mentored other students and colleagues with research and DNP projects, and have been able to present at local and national conferences.

Vision: To continue to promote the unique role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist and the value that the role can add to institutions. I would like to see MI-CNS increase engagement of CNSs across the state and advocate to move towards working to the full extent of our education and training.

Major Challenges for CNSs: As CNSs we continue to face the confusion of who we are and what we can do. We are limited in the state of Michigan with billing due to lack of insurance providers recognizing the CNS as an independent billing provider. There continues to be gaps with practicing to our full scope. I would like to assist in engaging more CNSs around the state and to help educate nursing leaders and hospital administration on the gaps that CNSs can fill when they are credentialed and privileged as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. I would like to partner with other nursing organizations to help give a larger voice when advocating for billing in Michigan.