



2025 CACNS ANNUAL CONFERENCE **SYNERGY IN COLLABORATION: BRIDGING IDEAS AND IMPACT**



Saturday, September 20, 2025
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center
1250 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404

Conference Objectives

- Discuss the role of the CNS in translating clinical and operational ideas into sustainable practice improvements.
- Identify nurse leadership strategies for expanding the CNS workforce in evolving healthcare environments.
- Describe methods for evaluating safety and quality outcomes associated with CNS-led technology-driven solutions.
- Explain how CNSs integrate advanced pharmacologic knowledge and innovative interventions in managing cardiac arrhythmias.
- Define the role of CNS as agents of change, advocates for safety, and leaders in clinical and systems-level transformation.

Conference Agenda

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration, Breakfast, Exhibitors, and Poster Presentations
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome from the CACNS President <i>Mary Lawanson-Nichols, MSN, RN, CNS, NP, CCRN, FCNS</i>
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	The CNS-Masters of Turning Ideas in Action-It's More than Collaboration <i>Keynote Speaker: Elizabeth Bridges, PhD, RN, CCNS, FCCM, FAAN</i>
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Break, Exhibitors, and Poster Presentations
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Addressing Challenges in Growing the Clinical Nurse Specialist Workforce: The Nurse Leaders Approach <i>Leah Korkis, MSN, RN, AGCNS, NP-D-BC; Lianna Ansryan, DNP, RN-GERO, PHN, AGCNS-BC, FCNS; Hanna Lakew; Linnea Tolbert, MSN, RN; Mary Lawanson-Nichols, MSN, RN, CNS, NP, CCRN, FCNS</i>
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Safety in the OR: A CNS-Led Initiative to Automatic Formalin Dispensing <i>Jennice Singh, MSN, RN, CNS, CNOR</i>
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	CACNS Business Meeting
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Lunch, Exhibitors, and Poster Presentations
1:15 PM - 1:45 PM	CNS Driven Cardiac Arrhythmia Management: Integrating Pharmacology and Cutting-Edge Therapies <i>Olena Svetlov, DNP, RN, AGNP/CNS, CCRN, PHN, FCNS; Mary Lawanson-Nichols, MSN, RN, CNS, NP, CCRN, FCNS</i>
1:45 PM - 2:30 PM	Break, Exhibitors, and Poster Presentations
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Enhancing the Impact of the CNS Role Through Innovation and Collaboration <i>NACNS President: Rick Bassett, MSN, RN, APRN, ACNS-BC, CCRN, FCNS</i>
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks and Evaluations

Approved for 3.5 contact hours by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 16976. Earn additional contact hours by completing poster evaluations.

Post-Conference Social
Sponsored by NxStage



**1025 Wilshire Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90401
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Speaker Biographies

Elizabeth Bridges has over 40 years of experience in critical care, and she is an emeritus professor at the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle. In January 2024 she retired from her position as clinical nurse researcher at University of Washington Medical Center. Of note, UWMC was the first hospital to receive Magnet designation seven times. Dr. Bridges is also a retired colonel of the United States Air Force Nurse Corps. Her research focuses on the care of patients during long-distance military aeromedical evacuation and austere operational settings and the integration of hemodynamics into the care of critically ill patients. She is the editor of the TriService Nursing Research Program Battlefield and Disaster Nursing Pocket Guide, which is a primary resource for all military nurses preparing for deployment and has recently been translated into Ukrainian. She led one of the largest programs of operational nursing research in the DoD. Dr. Bridges served as the President of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses in 2020-2021 (during the pandemic). She was also a volunteer for over 10 years for the AACN Certification Corporation, assisting with the development of the CCRN exam, and she was on the team that created the critical care clinical nurse specialist (CCNS) certification exam. Dr. Bridges is well known for her presentations on the integration of evidence into practice.



**Elizabeth Bridges, PhD, RN,
CCNS, FCCM, FAAN**



**Rick Bassett, MSN, RN, APRN,
ACNS-BC, CCRN, FCNS**

Rick Bassett is an Adult Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist for St. Luke's Health System (SLHS). He obtained his MSN from Idaho State University in 2009 and is certified as a Critical Care Nurse (CCRN) through the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), board certified as an Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist through the American Nurses Credentialing Center, licensed as an Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in Idaho and was recently inducted into the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) CNSI Fellowship. Rick has led cohorts of Critical Care teams across the nation in practice and quality improvement programs with respect to ICU Delirium Recognition and Management, ICU Palliative Care/End of Life and Early ICU Mobility. He trained in clinical ethics at the University of Washington, is a Clinical Ethics Consultant for SLHS and member of the SLHS Ethics Committee for 30 years. Rick currently serves as the NACNS President. He is Chair of the SLHS Institutional Review Board, an Idaho Health Continuum of Care Alliance (IHCCA) Board member, Chair the IHCCA Legislative and Policy Committee, Idaho representative on the National POLST Plenary Council and National POLST Technology Committee member working with industry, State and National leaders to improve POLST processes. Mr. Bassett lectures nationally and has published on topics related to ethics, palliative care and critical care.



Poster Presentations

P1: A Case Study of Implementation of Clinical Decision Support Tools in the Expansion of Use of Bispecific T-Cell Engager Therapies in a Community Hospital System

Angela Yencer, MSN, APRN, CCNS, ACNS-BC

P2: Every Second Counts: Nurses Leading the Way to Bleeding Control

Aracely Orozco, MSN, RN, AGCNS-BC, PHN, CEN, TCRN, MICN

P3: High-Risk, Low Frequency Procedures: A Unit-Based, Multimodal Program to Increasing Knowledge, Confidence, and Competency Retention

Colleen Haines, RN, BSN, CCRN

P4: A Mandate for Transformation: Clinical Nurse Specialist Collaboration in Redefining Ambulatory Nursing Practice

Colleen Vega, MS, DNP, CNS, ACHPN

P5: "No Butts About It": Utilizing an Innovative Wound Care Product and Inter-disciplinary Collaboration for Treatment and Reduction of Severe Diaper Dermatitis in the NICU

Diana Cormier, DNP, MPH, APRN-C

P6: Etomidate Versus Ketamine for Rapid Sequence Intubation - Summary of Findings from Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

Doanh Ly, DNP, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN, SCRn, CPAHA-Telestroke

P7: Enhancing Knowledge and Confidence in Palliative Care Among In-patient Nurses

Emily Graupp, MSN, RN, CNS

P8: Revitalizing NICU Shared Reading Programs: Using a Read-A-Thon to Catalyze a Quality Improvement Initiative

Jennifer Brunn, BSN, RNC-NIC, C-ELBW, C-NNIC

P9: Strength in Unity: Team-Building to Ease Nursing Student Stress

Jillianne Fernando

P10: Improving Care of the Dying Patient Using Respiratory Distress Observation Scale in the ICU

Christa Perryman, MS, APRN-CNS, AGCNS-BC

P11: An Unlikely Pairing: CNSs in Labor and Delivery and Neuroscience Partner for Optimal Patient Outcomes

Kathryn Snow, DNP, RN, CNS, CNRN, SCRn





Poster Presentations

P12: Nurse Driven Protocol to Maintain Zero Infection Rate for External Ventricular Drains in Neuro ICU

Kathryn Snow, DNP, RN, CNS, CNRN, SCRNP

P13: Advancing Oncology Nursing Education Through Online Learning: Impact on Knowledge and Practice in Kenya

Kimberly Sickler, MS, RN, CNS, PMHNP-BC, ACHPN

P14: (Re) Brilliancy and Creating an Authentic Connection

Krystal Pombo, MSN, RN, CNS, AGCNS-BC

P15: Innovative Approaches: Balancing Advancements with Aspiration Pneumonia Risk Management

Mary Lawanson-Nichols, RN, MSN, CNS, NP, CCRN, FCNS

P16: Recognize, Respond, Prevent: Managing Central Line Bleeding Risks

Mary Lawanson-Nichols, RN, MSN, CNS, NP, CCRN, FCNS

P17: Harnessing Synergy: Applying Adult Learning Theory to Improve Onboarding for Ambulatory Clinic Staff

Mary C. Sullivan, RN, MS, CNS, CPHQ

P18: Strategies for Timely Diagnosis and Treatment of Patients with Ovarian Cancer

Petrina Harrison, DNP, AGCNS-BC, CIC

P19: IVIG Auto-Calculation (Rate Titration): A Quality Improvement Project

Philbert Dela Pena, RN, BSN, MS, PCCN

P20: From Screening to Action: Advancing Delirium Recognition and Management Through CAM Training, Peer Coaching, and Collaborative Practice in a Community Hospital

Philip Garcia, MS, RN, AGCNS-BC, PCCN

P21: Opioid-Sparing Strategies in Critical Care: Is There a Role for Ketamine?

Ruben Lopez, MSN, RN, ACCNS-AG, NPD-BC, CCRN, SCRNP

P22: Flu Fighters: Advocating for Flu Vaccinations

Stacy Tran

P23: The Impact of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Research: A Direct Patient Care Telehealth Self-Management Intervention

Suzanne P. Graf, MSN, RN, AGCNS-BC, OCN



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