26th Annual
Southeastern Seaboard Emergency Nurses
Symposium

Monday, April 20 - Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Embassy Suites by Hilton Golf Resort & Conference Center, Greenville, SC

Monday, April 20, 2026: Registration & Opening Reception with Exhibitors: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026: Day 1 Conference: 8:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Dinner & Dance 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Party Theme: Get Your **GLOW** On! (*ENA Foundation Fundraiser Event)*

Wednesday, April 22, 2026: Day 2 Conference: 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

26th Annual SESS Agenda

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

7:00 - 7:45 a.m.	**Registration & Coffee/Tea**	
Time	**Topic**	**Speaker**
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	**Welcome/Announcements**	**Julie Jones,** BSN, BS, RN, President, SESS, Inc.
8:15 - 9:15 a.m.	**Opening Session: Glow with the Flow: Staying Energized when the going gets tough** *Objectives: Discuss strategies to manage the stress of emergency nursing. Understanding the impact of the little things we do. Explore ideas to support our colleagues.*	**AnnMarie Papa**, DNP, RN, CEN, NE-BC, FAEN, FAAN, 2011 ENA President **Terry Foster**, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, CCRN, TCRN, FAEN 2023 ENA President
9:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Exhibits Open- Coffee Break – Door Prize Drawing - Must be Present to Win Exhibit Hall Closes at 10:45 a.m.	
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (1)	
Leadership	**Recognize, Respond and Prevent Workplace Violence Strategies** *Objectives: Identify common verbal and non-verbal cues that may indicate escalating aggression. Understand the different levels of workplace violence and how to respond appropriately; Learn how to utilize The STAMP tool to assist healthcare professionals quickly identify potential indicators of violence in patients.*	**Jeanne Venella**, DNP, MS, CEN, CPEN
Clinical	**Resurging and Emerging Infectious Diseases: Measles, Leprosy, Bubonic Plague, and Borealpox** *Objectives: Identify the clinical manifestations and presentation patterns of select infectious diseases. Recall evidence-based management priorities for these conditions to optimize patient outcomes. Modify plans of care to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.*	**Michael D. Gooch**, DNP, APRN, CCP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, ENP-C, CEN, CFRN, CTRN, TCRN, NRP, FAASTN, FAANP, FAEN
Forensics	**Unseen and Underserved: Best Practice in Male Sexual Assault Exams** *Objectives: Recognize the Unique Challenges in Male Sexual Assault Cases. Apply Trauma-Informed Techniques During Evidence Collection; Document and Preserve Forensic Evidence.*	**Angie Alexander**, DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, AFN-BC, FAEN

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.	**Lunch and Learn Session** **Legal Bootcamp** *Objectives: Describe the concept of professional tenacity as it applies to ED nursing practice. Identify appropriate actions that you must take when served with a subpoena. Recognize clinical and documentation gaps in ED case scenarios. How to protect your nursing license.*	**Randy Loveless**, MBA, BSM, BSN, RN, NE-BC, LSS-GB, LNC
1:25 - 2:25 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (2)	
Leadership	**The Secret Sauce: Workplace Violence Prevention Tactics that Work** *Objectives: Discuss and review workplace violence data collection and how data analysis drives program focus, content and goal setting. Provide an overview of the home-grown de-escalation program. Share specific case studies, debriefs and lessons learned, highlighting personal safety rules and multicomponent interventions.*	**Marcela McGeorge**, MSN, RN, CEN **Spencer LeFlem**, MSN, RN, CEN
Clinical	**Beyond The Fussiness: Recognizing Neonatal Emergencies** *Objectives: Rapidly assess and stabilize a critically ill newborn. Verbalize the principles of neonatal, resuscitation, including the use of appropriate medications and equipment. Identify assessment findings and needed interventions for selected neonatal emergencies.*	**Penny Blake**, MSN Ed, RN, Alumnus CCRN, CEN
Forensics	**Unbound But Informed: Harm Reduction Education in Consensual Kink Practices.** *Objectives: Describe the prevalence, motivations, and potential risks associated with kink practices such as consensual strangulation, anal penetration, and domination. Identify strategies forensic nurses can use to provide nonjudgmental, evidence- based harm reduction education. Explain how culturally sensitive, trauma-informed approaches can reduce stigma and improve both mental and physical health outcomes for patients engaged in kink practices.*	**Erin Stanley**, DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A **Nicole Ferguson**, DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, CCLS
2:35 - 3:35 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (3)	
Leadership	**The Dark Side of the Call Light: MicroTraumas in Emergency Nursing** *Objectives: Define "microtraumas" and differentiate them from acute critical incidents. Identify early warning signs of cumulative stress injury in ED nurse. Apply evidence-based interventions to reduce the long-term impact of microtraumas on mental health and retention.*	**Gina Slobogin**, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, NHDP-BC, NEA-BC, PGMT-BC, BC-ADM, CEN, TCRN, CPEN, CTRN, CFRN, PHRN
Clinical	**From Trends to Treatment: Staying Ahead of Emerging Psychoactive Substances** *Objectives: Describe the pharmacology and clinical effects of commonly encountered novel psychoactive substances. Identify current trends in NPS use and local and national resources for surveillance. Discuss approaches to the acute management of intoxication and withdrawal.*	**Nancy Denke**, DNP, ACNP, FNP, FAEN, CEN, CCRN
Forensics	**The Emergency Nurse as Forensic Preservationist and Patient Advocate! (Part 1)** *Objectives: Define what constitutes evidence collection and chain of custody. List several examples of forensic evidence in the ED. Identify indices of suspicion and subsequent reporting, what and to whom.*	**Laura Gallagher**, PhDc, MSN, APRN, CNS-BS, CEN **Rae Wooten**, BSN, RN, F-ABMDI

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (4)	
Leadership	**Your ED is Being Redesigned and the Hospital is Looking to You for key input-15 Design Ideas to Consider to Make Your Future ED Safe and Successful for Your Staff and Patients.** *Objectives: Describe design concepts that make the patient entry and public area a safer environment. Identify architectural planning solutions that make the clinical care area more efficient and safe. Explain how communication, technology, and architecture can all be combined to make safer ED mental health care areas.*	**John Huddy**, AIA, NCARB, M. ARCH, BA Design
Clinical	**Your Trauma Patient is in Shock: Are You sure it is Hypovolemic?** *Objectives: Discuss types of shock and the associated signs and symptoms. Explain shock states can coexist and their risk factors. Apply specific clinical shock presentations to different patient populations.*	**Deb Jeffries**, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN, NPD-BC, FAEN
Forensics	**The Emergency Nurse as Forensic Preservationist and Patient Advocate! (Part 2)** *Objectives: This interactive session will include situational awareness, raising an index of suspicion based on evidential findings, forensic tools, reservation of evidence in the ED. Forensic challenges include pediatric patient, the elderly and death by misadventure. Identify forensic findings in a gaming format: Are you Smarter than Dr. Bones?*	**Laura Gallagher**, PhDc, MSN, APRN, CNS-BS, CEN **Rae Wooten**, BSN, RN, F-ABMDI
4:55 - 5:55 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (5)	
Leadership	**Triage Truths and Traps: What We Miss in the first 60 Seconds** *Objectives: Recognize common pitfalls in emergency triage that lead to delayed or missed diagnoses. Differentiate between deceptively stable presentations and high-risk "red flag" conditions; Implement practical strategies to improve triage accuracy and patient safety.*	**Melissa Cagle**, BSN, RN
Clinical	**Decoding Urgency: The 3+ Phrases of Angor Amine (Sense of Impending Death)** *Objectives: Differentiate thunderclap headache from more benign headache syndromes and outline evidence-based management strategies. Analyze the clinical implications of the patient's declaration "I'm going to die! Evaluate the ethical, legal, and clinical considerations of responding to in-flight medical emergencies.*	**Nyssa Hattaway**, RN, BSN, CEN, CPEN, CFRN
Forensics	**Technology-Facilitated Sexual Crimes: What Clinicians need to know about Sextortion** *Objectives: Define sextortion and its impact on patient health. Identify clinical indicators and screening strategies for sextortion. Apply trauma-informed principles to support victims and connect them to resources.*	**Shannon Scott**, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.	**26th Dinner/Dance** **Party Theme: Get Your GLOW On** **ENA Foundation Fundraiser event included. Adults only.**	

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	Registration	
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions (6)	
Leadership	**Power Of Your Reach** *Objectives: Recognize the importance of personal and professional influence in driving positive outcomes for teams, patients, and organization. Explore key principles of effective leadership in healthcare and how they can be applied in dynamic, high-stakes environments. Inspire a proactive leadership mindset that embraces trust-building, innovation, and collaboration as tools for meaningful change.*	**Jeanne Venella**, DNP, MS, CEN, CPEN **Debra Delaney**, DNP, MHA, RN, CEN
Clinical	**Rhabdomyolysis: It's Not Just for Athletes!** *Objectives: Describe the pathology of rhabdomyolysis. Identify four clinical manifestations of rhabdomyolysis. Explore three nontraditional causes of rhabdomyolysis.*	**Mary Alice Vanhoy**, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, NR-Paramedic, FAEN
Forensic	**Behind Closed Doors: What Every ED Nurse Should Know About Forensic Preparedness** *Objectives: Identify essential steps for preserving forensic evidence during emergency care encounters. Describe trauma-informed approaches that support patients impacted by violence and reduce re-traumatization. Discuss the role of ED nurses in collaborating with SANE programs, law enforcement, and multidisciplinary teams to improve patient and legal outcomes.*	**Melissa Cagle**, BSN, RN
9:10 - 10:10 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions (7)	
Leadership	**Clear the Airway: Removing Communication Barriers In Nurse Leadership** *Objectives: Define what communication is and is no.; Master the use of nonverbal communication.; Become a vocal pro.*	**Randy Loveless**, MBA, BSM, BSN, RN, NE-BC, LSS-GB, LNC
Clinical	**Mastering Sedation Agents: Enhancing Safety** *Objectives: Recall pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of sedation and analgesic agents. Describe indications and contraindications for sedation and analgesic agents. Modify plans of care to incorporate alternative sedation agents.*	**Michael D. Gooch**, DNP, APRN, CCP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, ENP-C, CEN, CFR FAANP, FAEN
Forensics	**When Alcohol isn't Ethanol: Life-Threatening Intoxications** *Objectives: Identify toxic alcohols beyond ethanol, including methanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, and isopropanol. Recognize clinical scenarios where toxic alcohols may be overlooked. Describe the risks and complications of propylene glycol exposure in hospitalized patients. Apply strategies for timely recognition and management of rare toxic alcohols to prevent serious outcomes.*	**Nancy Denke,** DNP, ACNP, FNP, FAEN, CEN, CCRN
10:20 - 11:20 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions (8)	
Leadership	**Whisper Leadership: How Quiet Influence Shapes ED Culture** Objectives*: Define "whisper leadership" and its role in shaping ED team dynamics. Identify opportunities to exert positive influence without formal authority. Develop personal strategies to strengthen ED culture through subtle leadership techniques.*	**Gina Slobogin**, DNP, APRN,FNP-BC, NHDP-BC NEA-BC, PGMT-BC, BC-ADM, TCRN, CEN, CPEN, CFRN, CTRN, PHRN
Clinical	**Critically Ill Child in the Adult Setting** *Objectives: Discuss steps in the assessment of the child in the critical care setting, including identification of the differences in adult and pediatric assessment. Learn how to recognize the critically ill child and act promptly in establishing priorities of care; Apply these concepts to selected pediatric case studies.*	**Penny Blake**, MSN Ed, RN, Alumnus CCRN, CEN

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Forensics	***Bridging the Gap: Improving Follow-Up Attendance for Sexual Assault Patients Through Telehealth*** *Objectives: Evaluate Barriers to Follow-Up Care for Sexual Assault Survivors in the Emergency Department. Assess the Impact of Virtual Follow-Up Visits on Patient Engagement and Continuity of Care. Integrate Evidence-Based Telehealth Practices into Post-Assault Care Protocols.*	**Angie Alexander**, DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, AFN-BC, FAEN
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	**Lunch and Learn Session** **Tubed, Vented, And Boarded: Now What?** **Understanding the Basics Of Mechanical Ventilation And ABG Interpretation** *Objectives: Discuss metabolic consideration in the management of the patient receiving mechanical ventilation. Explain the difference between volume controlled and pressure controlled mechanical ventilation. Anticipate ventilator setting changes based on blood gas analysis. Discuss nursing management related to ventilator associated complications.*	**Deb Jeffries**, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN, NPD-BC, FAEN **Joseph Stocking**, DNP, RN, RCP, NREMT, CHEP, NEMAA, NHDP-BC, LSSMBB
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (9)	
Leadership	**Clinical Lesson Learned: How to Last 52 Years at the Bedside** *Objectives: Recognize career paths in Nursing are not linear. Formulate a plan for becoming competent in your chosen Specialty … better yet how do you become an EXPERT. Discuss how we create our own burnout.*	**Arlene Watrobski**, RN, BS Retired CCRN, CEN
Clinical	**When The Hoofbeats Really Are Zebras: Rare Diseases That Aren't So Rare Anymore.** *Objectives: Participants will identify emerging "zebra" conditions (such as mast cell activation syndrome, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and alpha-gal allergy). Participants will differentiate atypical presentations of uncommon diseases from more common "horse" diagnoses. Participants will apply clinical reasoning frameworks to develop appropriate interventions for patients presenting with rare or newly prevalent conditions.*	**Nyssa Hattaway**, RN, BSN, CEN, CPEN, CFRN
Forensic	**Forensic Nursing In The Age Of AI Exploitation** *Objectives: Define how AI is being used in sextortion and revenge porn; Identify the psychological and forensic impact on survivors, and the challenges of evidence collection and documentation; Discuss the role of nurses, SANEs, and interprofessional teams in supporting survivors and advocating for policy change.*	**Erin Stanley,** DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A **Nicole Ferguson**, DNP, RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, CCLS
1:55 - 2:55 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (10)	
Leadership	**Unfreeze the Moment: Empowering ED Nurses for the Unexpected** *Objectives: Recognize the impact of Zero Warning Events on nurse performance and safety in the Emergency Department. Identify common barriers such as hesitation, stress, and lack of confidence.*	**Spencer LeFlem**, MSN, RN, CEN **Marcela McGeorge**, MSN, RN, CEN
Clinical	**Flesh Eating Bacteria: It Can Be Found Anywhere!** *Objectives: Identify three sources of necrotizing fasciitis.; Discuss the clinical presentation of the acute, fulminate and sub-acute. Discuss the therapeutic management of the infected patient.*	**Mary Alice Vanhoy**, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, NR-Paramedic, FAEN

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Forensics	**Invisible Impact: The Overlooked Link Between Domestic Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury** *Objectives: Understand the association between intimate partner violence and traumatic brain injuries. Understand the importance of recognizing TBI in IPV victims. Recognize the long-term adverse effects of TBI and CTE.*	**Shannon Scott**, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P
2:55 - 3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Break	
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Closing Plenary	**Shift Happens: The Mindset Reset Every Nurse Needs** *Objectives: Define what a fixed mindset is and how it impacts your personal and professional life. Understand how failures can act as a springboard toward success. Create new habits that lead to progress and a new growth mindset.* **Closing remarks/video and door prizes (you must be present to win)**	**Randy Loveless**, MBA, BSM, BSN, RN, NE-BC, LSS-GB, LNC

SESS 2026 Registration Fees

Early Bird Registration: Register prior to February 14, 2026	ENA Member	Non-ENA Member
Student (Undergraduate only) or Retired Nurses ENA member	$ 325.00	$ 350.00
2-day SESS (Mon-Wed include party)	$ 375.00	$ 399.00
No group discount	X	X
Regular Registration: February 15, 2026 - March 31, 2026	ENA Member	Non-ENA Member
Student (undergraduate) or Retired RN Fee- 2-day SESS	$ 325.00	$ 350.00
2-day SESS (Mon-Wed includes party)	$ 399.00	$ 430.00
Mon/Tues SESS only with party	$ 285.00	$ 320.00
Tuesday Only SESS includes dinner party	$ 250.00	$ 275.00
Wednesday Only w/luncheon	$ 225.00	$ 260.00
Group Discount 2-day SESS for 3 or more attendees registering together on one form of payment. Price is for each attendee **(complete separate registration form for each person)**	$ 380.00	$ 425.00
Registration: April 1, 2026 - April 17, 2026	ENA Member	Non-ENA Member
Student (undergraduate)/Retired RN Fee- 2-day SESS	$ 325.00	$ 350.00
2-day SESS (Mon-Wed includes party)	$ 430.00	$ 460.00
Mon/Tues Only SESS w/party	$ 325.00	$ 355.00
Wednesday Only w/luncheon	$ 270.00	$ 305.00
Group Discount 2-day SESS for 3 or more attendees registering together on one form of payment. Price is for each attendee **(complete separate registration form for each person)**	$ 410.00	$ 445.00
Registration: After April 18, 2026 and On-Site	ENA Member	Non-ENA Member
2-day SESS (Mon-Wed includes party)	$ 455.00	$ 485.00
Tuesday only w/party	$ 340.00	$ 370.00
Wednesday Only w/luncheon	$ 290.00	$ 325.00
Companion (Non-RN) - $100/day	X	X
Party Only - $85	X	X

26th Annual SESS Registration Form April 20, 2026 - April 22, 2026

Registration questions, please contact Registration Chair:
Joseph Stocking (843) 860-5967

Register online at: http://sess.nursingnetwork.com

Please Print or Type

Name: _____ Current ENA Member # (if applicable): _____

☐ Full-time Undergraduate Student: Include ID with registration

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Email: _____

Home Phone:_____Work Phone:_____

Employer: _____

Employer City: _____ Employer State: _____

Special Needs/Food Allergies: _____

☐ Please do NOT share my work information with colleagues or exhibitors

Please check which of the following you will be attending:

☐ 2-day SESS (including opening reception with exhibitors, party ticket, and sit-down luncheon)
☐ Group Rate: 2-day SESS (including opening reception with exhibitors, party ticket, and sit-down luncheon)
☐ Monday and Tuesday only (04/20-21/2026)
☐ Tuesday only (04/21/2026)
☐ Wednesday only (04/22/2026)

Guest Information: A guest is a non-RN participant. Not eligible for CNE contact hours and tote bag.

☐ I will bring a Guest who will attend the conference ($100.00 per day)
Conference Guest Name: _____
☐ Guest party ticket only $85.00

Please make check payable to "SESS" mail check with your completed registration to:
Valere Bilichka
607 Stately Pines
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 514-3601 (cell # for payment questions)

SESS office Use: Date Received: _____ Paid by: ____ Individual ____ Employer

2026 Hotel Information Reservation Information for Attendees

26th Annual SESS April 20, 2026 – April 22, 2026

Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center
670 Verdae Blvd; Greenville, SC 29607
864-676-9090

Reservations can be made by clicking on the following booking link:

https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/26th-sess-southeastern-seaboard-symposium-2026/

Or by calling 1-800-EMBASSY and referring to 26th SESS with the code 901

Reservations for the group rate must be made by ***April 3, 2026***.

Rooms & Rate:

One King Bed or Two Double Beds are $155.00/night plus subject to tax and daily destination fee.

Hotel Services:

- Check-in time is 4:00 pm
- Check-out time is 12:00 pm
- Complimentary self-parking
- Internet in guest rooms
- One complimentary Breakfast for each registered hotel guest
  Monday through Friday 6:30am-9:30am
  Saturday and Sunday 7am-10am
- Evening Reception is available from 6:00pm-7:30pm daily
  Two complimentary beverages will be offered to each registered adult
- No outside food or beverage can be brought in or consumed on the first floor