



SNOOZE NEWS

TAPAN UPPER GULF COAST REGION NEWSLETTER



TAPAN UGCR CELEBRATES PERIANESTHESIA NURSES DURING PANAW 2025

Hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Upper Gulf Coast Region celebrated Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week, highlighting the vital role of perianesthesia nurses in patient care.

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TAPAN UGCR HOLIDAY MIXER 2024: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

TAPAN UGCR members rang in the holidays with great enthusiasm on December 10, 2024, at Del Frisco Steakhouse located in the Galleria.

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2nd Vice President



Alma Pope
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Recording Secretary

TAPAN UGCR EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024-2025

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Santos**
Immediate Past
President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



EMBRACING INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION

Candace Miller, MSN-Ed, RN, CPAN, CAPA
TAPAN UGCR Board President 2024-2026

Greetings!!

As I reflect on the first 3 months of this new year, I cannot help but marvel at the way our TAPAN UGCR chapter has rallied behind our PANAW theme for 2025: Innovation and Inspiration! We have shown innovation in our approaches to inform you about all the happenings in your professional organization. This includes a robust website that has consistent and timely information about the goings on in our city. This also considers our first Zoom TAPAN UGCR Interest Meeting that connected you with our board and provided information about how to learn more about what we do and how you can help!

The dedication of all the volunteers and board planners for our Spring Seminar was beyond inspiring as we executed the vision of spotlighting ways you should practice safely. Our seminar theme was "Protecting your Practice: Safety Starts with You!" Our choices to grow ourselves mindfully, psychologically, and cognitively impact how we give care and how our patients and peers receive that care! We learned that we must be intentional in everything we do, which is not a gimmick but truly a reflection of how the leaders of this organization feel about our specialty.

I am excited and proud of the work our TAPAN UGCR Board is doing and of how you, as members, respond and participate. We will remain committed to providing information and education in various formats to meet your needs for professional growth and networking within our larger Houston communities.

So now we are gearing up to partner with our parent organization, ASPAN, for the National Conference in April. I hope you all will consider attending, as it is in Dallas, Texas, very close to home. Houston will be well represented with speakers, poster presentations, and general attendees. If you have never attended a national conference, it is an experience! The call is out this year to be "Innovative and Inspiring" in your practice! As your Board President, I urge you to lean in and take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way! Let TAPAN UGCR be one of the many ways you accomplish this! Be fearless!



Participants of the Holiday Mixer pose for the camera.



Dr. Ankara Khosla, MD, MBA, MS delivering his lecture on QUTENZA (capsaicin).



TAPAN UGCR members enjoying their time at the Holiday Mixer.

TAPAN UGCR HOLIDAY MIXER 2024: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Shelby Peterson, BSN, RN

On December 10th, we had our TAPAN UGCR holiday dinner at Del Frisco Steakhouse in the Galleria. Qutenza sponsored this event, and let me tell you, they did not disappoint with this four-course meal. The evening started with a meet-and-greet with the Qutenza team and our fellow TAPAN UGCR members in a private wine room upstairs at the restaurant.

This event aimed to educate us on using QUTENZA (capsaicin) for Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy of the feet. The team went into great detail about the medication's uses and benefits and the good it does for their patients. They discussed their clinical trials and the results they obtained. We could ask questions about this medication, and they answered all of them.

CERTIFICATION CORNER



**Exam Registration Window—
online: January 1–April 30, 2025**

**Examination Administration
Window: March 15– May 15, 2025**



REGISTER NOW

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Giving Tree



Gift Cards collected at the December Mixer



Candace Miller at the Ronald McDonald House

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE RECEIVES TAPAN-UGCR'S GIVING TREE

Geraldine delos Santos, MSN, RN, CPAN

TAPAN UGCR Members donated \$250 worth of gift cards to the residents at the Ronald McDonald House in Houston. The giving tree was handed to the RMH staff on December 16, 2024, by Candace Miller and Geraldine delos Santos.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a haven to support families of children battling illnesses and needing extended healthcare services.

Thank you TAPAN UGCR! Your generous contributions touch many lives!



Candace Miller and a Snowman Themed Tree!



Geraldine delos Santos almost ate the "Donut Tree"



RMH Staff receiving TAPAN UGCR's donation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER: TAPAN UGCR'S HEARTFELT PARTNERSHIP WITH RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE"

Candace Miller, MSN-Ed, RN, CPAN, CAPA

Community Service is at the heart of what we do! Every December, TAPAN UGCR has made it our mission to partner with children at the Ronald McDonald House on Holcombe in Houston, Texas. We know how hard the holidays can be, especially when tragedy unexpectedly uproots your life.

It is our joy to partner with RMC to put a smile on a child's or family's face. This year, our members contributed almost \$300.00 in various gift cards to Target, Amazon, and Walmart so families could provide for their children at Christmas. Geraldine and I consider it our privilege to be the ones to hand-deliver the unique monetary gifts all of our members contributed. This is our second year in a row doing this, and RMC has invited us, due to our consistency, to decorate a tree to be kept in the lobby of our organization next year!!

Thank you for helping make Christmas bright for everyone!!

EDITORIAL TEAM



**Eric F. Pazziuagan, MSN,
MAN, CMSRN, NI-BC,
CPAN**



**Geraldine delos Santos,
MSN, RN, CPAN**



**Candace Miller,
MSN-Ed, RN, CPAN,
CAPA**



SUCCESSFUL TAPAN UGCR INTEREST MEETING SPARKS ENTHUSIASM AMONG NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday afternoon, January 19th, we kicked off our first Zoom TAPAN UGCR Interest Meeting. Over 30 attendees met online, coffee or tea in hand, to have an informal chat about our organization's purpose, how to use our website, upcoming activities, and, of course, a call to serve! While there were people from various Houston facilities, one organization stood out amongst others: MD Anderson.

I want to send a massive shout-out to Past TAPAN President Felicia Selman and new board member Shelby Peterson, who works in the PACU at MD Anderson! They did a marvelous job promoting and advertising this event. The result was that a large portion of MD Anderson employees volunteered to help at our Spring Seminar, and it was the largest turnout ever for MD Anderson at a TAPAN UGCR Seminar event! The goal is to have our interest meetings quarterly so that we can continue to reach new members who may not know where to begin and attendees looking for the best way to get involved and help us! More to come on this new venture!

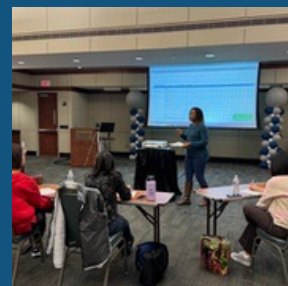
UGCR BOARD MEMBERS CONVENE TO STRATEGIZE FOR AN IMPACTFUL SPRING SEMINAR

On November 23, 2024, the UGCR board members gathered at Houston Methodist TMC to strategize for the Spring Seminar.

The meeting focused on curating an engaging agenda that highlights the latest updates in perianesthesia nursing. Board members brainstormed innovative topics, potential speakers, and interactive sessions aimed at inspiring and educating attendees. With collaboration and enthusiasm, the team is set to create a dynamic seminar that will empower nurses and enhance patient care practices.



Candace Miller, the president of TAPAN-UGCR, acted as the facilitator for the meeting.



The TAPAN-UGCR Board members listened intently to Candace as they shared their ideas to ensure the Spring seminar is a meaningful experience.

TAPAN UGCR CELEBRATES PERIANESTHESIA NURSES DURING PANAW 2025



Houston Methodist-
TMC



Houston Methodist-
TMC



Houston Methodist-
TMC



Baylor- St. Luke's Medical
Center- Preadmit



MD Anderson

From February 3-9, 2025, hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Upper Gulf Coast Region came together to celebrate Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week, honoring the vital role of perianesthesia nurses in patient care. These dedicated professionals, who specialize in caring for patients undergoing anesthesia, were recognized through various events, including luncheons, pizza parties, educational talks, and even a fashion show.

Facilities organized fun and engaging activities to show their appreciation, with many setting up photo booths for staff to take memorable pictures and hosting lunch gatherings to foster camaraderie. Educational talks were held to raise awareness of the significant contributions of perianesthesia nurses in improving patient outcomes and safety. Some healthcare institutions even went the extra mile, hosting a fashion show and a dance video contest where nurses showcased their creativity and exceptional talents.

The week served as a celebration of the nurses' hard work and an opportunity to raise awareness about their essential role in anesthesia care, from preoperative assessments to postoperative recovery. The events helped to strengthen the sense of community within healthcare teams and highlighted the dedication of perianesthesia nurses to ensuring patient safety and comfort.

CLICK HERE



TO SEE THE FULL VIDEO



MD Anderson



MD Anderson

PANAW 2025 CELEBRATION



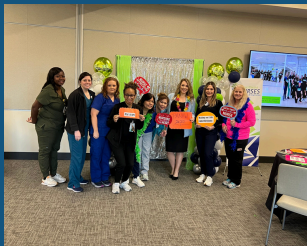
Memorial Hermann-
The Woodlands



Memorial Hermann-
The Woodlands



Memorial Hermann-
The Woodlands



Memorial Hermann-
The Woodlands



LSP Endoscopy PACU



LSP Endoscopy PACU



Memorial Hermann-
TMC



Memorial Hermann-
TMC



Memorial Hermann-
TMC



Houston Methodist-
Sugarland



Houston Methodist-
Sugarland




Houston Methodist-
Sugarland

GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION



THE STATE OF TEXAS

GOVERNOR

 *To all to whom these presents shall come,
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented
to all observing*

PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week

February 3–9, 2025

In times of illness or injury, Texans depend upon medical professionals for exemplary care in hospitals, clinics, and outpatient facilities. Among these dedicated professionals are perianesthesia nurses, who care for patients before, during, and after a medical procedure. An integral part of our healthcare system, perianesthesia nurses develop and implement patient care plans alongside doctors, surgeons, and anesthesiologists.

Perianesthesia nurses serve the Lone Star State with distinction as they care for their fellow Texans. These men and women represent the best of our great state, and I am proud to call them fellow Texans.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in encouraging all Texans to observe PeriAnesthesia Nurse Awareness Week with appropriate programs and activities.



*In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed
my name and caused the Seal of the State of
Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin this
the 10th day of January, 2025.*

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

EDITORIAL



THE UNSUNG HEROES: CELEBRATING THE VITAL ROLE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSES

Eric F. Pazziuagan, MSN, MAN, RN, CMSRN, NI-BC, CPAN
Newsletter Editor

I was a nervous wreck when I had meniscus repair surgery back in 2021. It was a scary moment for me, seeing a lot during my stint as a PACU nurse. Thankfully, I had the incredible perianesthesia nurses at the Memorial Hermann Surgery Center in the Woodlands. They were so calm and professional even though I didn't mention that I was a nurse in the same hospital system. I want to thank each of them for doing such a fantastic job. Too bad, I can't remember a single name because of anesthesia. I now understand why perianesthesia nurses are one of the most undervalued nurses in the field of nursing. It is rare for perianesthesia nurses to receive a DAISY or other awards unless a colleague nominates them. Patients always remember their surgeon's name, but they often forget their PAT, preoperative, or PACU nurse's name.

For this reason, I want to celebrate every one of you...the perianesthesia nurses! You make a big difference in patients' lives. Without any desire for recognition or praise, you work hard to ensure every surgical patient is safe and goes home without any problems or complications.

From the pre-admission and testing nurses who meticulously go over the patient's histories, medications, and prepare them to undergo a surgical or a medical procedure, to the preoperative nurses who ensures that each patient can proceed with their procedures safely by preparing them on the day of their surgery, and finally to the PACU nurses who ensures that every patient recovers safely from anesthesia with the ultimate goal of sending them home so that they can go back to their lives, each of them plays a vital role in the perioperative process. If only patients knew that each of these nurses is a superhero in their way by safeguarding their lives!

Perianesthesia nursing is also one of the most misunderstood fields in the world. How often do we hear that the PACU is the "retirement floor" or that pre-op is too redundant? Interestingly, when there is a job opening in these areas, it also generates the most number of applicants. I remember applying several times to get a PACU job, only to be turned down each time. I knew of hospitals where almost all ICU or ER nurses were applying for a single PACU position. This only proves how valuable our positions are.

Perianesthesia nursing is a highly specialized field that integrates anesthesia care with other fields of nursing. We wear different hats to make our patients comfortable. I remember a cancer patient who was so emotional and did not want any medicine. She just wanted a listening ear, and that made her feel better. She was so grateful that I listened to her. I saw my colleagues being second mothers to our pediatric patients while waiting for their parents to arrive at the bedside. Sometimes, we need to be clowns to make our suffering patients laugh, and often, as teachers, we give many discharge instructions. These are only a sample of what we do as a special breed of nurses!

Perianesthesia nurses, I want you to know you are unique and not forgotten. Thank you for doing a fantastic job ensuring the safety of our patients. Remember Maya Angelou's words: "They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

UPCOMING EVENTS



**ONLINE
MINI-SPRING
SYMPOSIUM**

April 12, 2025

STAY TUNED FOR More info



**2025 NURSE DAY
AT THE CAPITOL**

CARING FOR TEXAS

March 3-4
#TXNurseDay

Register now at
texasnurses.org/NurseDay



ASPAN

**2025 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2025 • DALLAS, TEXAS

SAVE THE DATE

Passion AND Excellence

GROWING, LEARNING, AND LEADING TOGETHER

APRIL 28 TO MAY 1, 2025

DALLAS, TX

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



ASPAN

**Member
GET-A
Member
CAMPAIGN**

Tell your colleagues about ASPAN,
earn rewards for doing so.

There are many advantages to ASPAN membership including automatic registration in our state component (TAPAN) and our regional component (UGCR). For more information on membership benefits, go to ASPAN.org.

Member-get-a-Member Campaign going on from January 1 – December 31, 2025. Invite your colleagues to join ASPAN today! To thank you for your recruitment work, a variety of awards are available for members who participate.

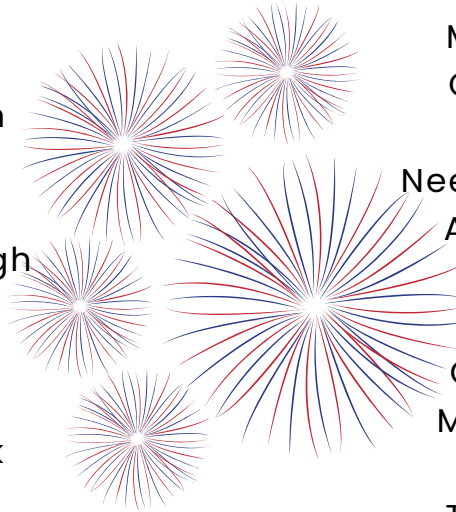


TAPAN UGCR Membership Update:

As of January 2025: **Total Members = 558**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Vipavull Hinson
Erin Quinn
Diana Salvio
Katresea Bouldin
Justine Cino
Rani Ararondan
Victoria Kavanaugh
Lindsay Nate
Miklyne Wren
Jaya Mathew
Shelby Machicek
Rajani Joseph
Mercy Babu



Stacey Wallace
Michelle Estrera
Christie Aguirre
Tessa Mae Uy
Neethu Valimattathil
Akwaugo Nduka
Atiya Morgan
Kelsie Kohn
Genesis Gaines
Margarita Cosep
Sheryl de Asis
Timaka Arnwine
Veronique Beatty

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of January 2025, TAPAN UGCR membership is at **558!** We had a total of **26** new members at the beginning of this year. Continue to promote ASPAN Membership to your colleagues and friends.

MEMBER-GET-AN-EDUCATOR Campaign.

ASPAN is offering members the opportunity to receive a free copy of the 2025-2026 Standards (print or electronic) and give their education director a free one-year membership to ASPAN



[Member-Get-An-Educator
INFORMATION](#)



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tapanugcr.nursingnetwork.com