

One Sharp Nursing: Everyday Excellence

SUMMER 2026

Terrence and Barbara Caster Institute for Nursing Excellence

"Nursing integrates the art and science of caring and focuses on the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and human functioning; prevention of illness and injury; facilitation of healing; and alleviation of suffering through compassionate presence. Nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in recognition of the connection of all humanity."

American Nurses Association, 2021

From Laurie Ecoff

Celebrating the Legacy of the Nursing Leadership Academy

We were created for meaningful work, and one of life's greatest pleasures is the satisfaction of a job well done.

John C. Maxwell

Launched in September 2021, the Nursing Leadership Academy (NLA) will transition to the Sharp Leadership Academy in October 2026. This evolution brings together the Nursing Leadership Academy and the Physician Leadership Academy to create a truly interprofessional leadership development program, featuring a shared core curriculum and specialized learning tracks aligned with the Sharp Leader Capability Model.

Over the past five years, the NLA has graduated nearly 200 Sharp leaders. A hallmark of the program, carried through to graduation, has been the creation of a unique cohort vision and identity. The team-building experience, led by Kim Failla, inspired memorable cohort names such as Resilient Navigators, Keepers of the Light, and Kaleidoscope Collective, each representing the cohort's shared vision and reflected in distinctive graphics.

Issue Highlights

- Honoring a legacy: Nursing Leadership Academy achievements pave the way for the new Sharp Leadership Academy
- Nurses are advancing innovation and impact across Sharp – from developing NASCAR's inaugural San Diego Infield Health Center to publishing and presenting nationally
- Celebrating nursing excellence through national awards, accreditation, and quality achievements

My sincere gratitude to the many individuals who contributed to the success of the NLA, including the leaders of the Caster Nursing Institute, faculty members, and mentors whose dedication shaped the program and its participants. The NLA's impact has been recognized both internally and externally, including a Sharp People CORE and Pillar Award and publication about program outcomes in a 2025 issue of Nurse Leader journal.

Congratulations to all and thank you for a job well done!
Laurie Ecoff



Transformational Leadership

Meet Sharp Tri-City Medical Center Leader Donald Dawkins Chief Nursing Officer

What has been your professional journey at Tri-City Medical Center?

My healthcare career spans more than 40 years and has been guided by a focus on building high-performing programs that improve quality, access, and financial stewardship. I began as a bedside nurse after earning degrees in Health Science and Nursing from Loma Linda University and later completing a Master of Business Administration. My early leadership experiences included operational oversight, quality improvement, accreditation, and performance reporting, which led to national recognition for cardiac surgery outcomes. Throughout my career, I have led cardiovascular, orthopedic, home health, telehealth, and service line initiatives, including development of San Diego County's first nationally accredited chest pain center and an eight-hospital cardiovascular service line. Most recently, I returned to Tri-City Medical Center to lead nursing strategy, operations, and quality improvement.

What experiences have most influenced your leadership philosophy?

Several pivotal experiences shaped my leadership approach. Early work in cardiac surgery outcomes taught me the value of transparent data, benchmarking, and measurable improvement. Leading large clinical programs reinforced that quality outcomes and financial performance are not competing priorities. They strengthen one another when teams share a common vision.

■ Best piece of leadership advice I have received:

"You can always quit!" This sentiment speaks to the need for focus on the work at hand no matter how complex and challenging, no matter how simple or mundane, no matter how valuable or reserved. You can always walk away...but why? So, pour yourself into each experience and learn.

■ Pivotal moment in my career:

Moving from care delivery at the bedside into management and shifting my educational pursuit from Nurse Practitioner to Business. Key to success during this phase was identifying a mentor to share experiences and provide support.



Donald Dawkins,
MBA, BSN, RN
Chief Nursing Officer
Sharp Tri-City Medical
Center

My experience managing service lines across multiple hospitals demonstrated the importance of governance, communication, and interprofessional engagement.

How has your leadership style evolved over time?

Early in my career, I focused on hands-on operational problem-solving. As my responsibilities expanded, I learned that lasting impact comes from building strong teams, developing leaders, and creating systems that endure beyond any one individual. Today, I lead through strategic planning, key performance indicators, transparency, and coaching. I strive to create a culture where leaders understand their responsibilities for quality, operations, and finance while empowering teams to make informed decisions that improve patient care and organizational performance.

What message would you like to share?

Nursing has never had a greater opportunity to influence the future of healthcare. When nurses are equipped with leadership skills, data literacy, strong professional relationships, and a voice in the organization, they drive meaningful improvements in quality, access, and affordability. By investing in leadership development, embracing innovation, and remaining grounded in evidence-based practice and compassion, nurses can help shape the future of care delivery.

What opportunities do you see with joining Sharp?

Integration offers tremendous opportunities to share best practices, standardize metrics, and strengthen collaboration across settings. Nurses will benefit from the common clinical pathways, shared dashboards, and cross-site leadership forums. There is also potential to better connect acute care, ambulatory services, telehealth, and home-based care to improve patient experiences and maximize nursing expertise across the continuum of care.

Structural Empowerment

Nurse Residency Program

The Sharp HealthCare Nurse Residency Program (NRP) was developed to provide a flexible, supportive environment to build confidence in new graduate nurse residents. Newly licensed nurses are hired into Sharp's 12-month, systemwide NRP, which recently earned its second Accreditation with Distinction by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Practice Transition Accreditation Program®. Nurses in the program experience curricula promoting the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors necessary to deliver safe, evidence-based care. The NRP offers challenging and inspiring opportunities and clinical experiences in all clinical specialties to cultivate skills that promote lifelong success in nursing. Here is what **Kourtney Shaw, MSN, RN, CCRN** had to share about her Sharp journey. We celebrate her ongoing achievements at Sharp!

New Graduate Spotlight

I was born and raised in San Diego, where I grew up playing softball and ultimately earned a Division I scholarship to the University of California, Berkeley. Although Berkeley did not offer a nursing program, I always knew nursing was my path. My late grandmother, who was a nurse, greatly inspired me. I was drawn to a profession centered on helping others, working collaboratively, and building a meaningful career that offered both growth and variety beyond a traditional desk job. After graduating from Berkeley, I moved to Baltimore to pursue my MSN at Johns Hopkins University.

I was in nursing school when the COVID-19 pandemic began, a defining experience that shaped my development as a nurse and influenced the direction of my career. In September 2021, I began working as an RN Extender in the ICU at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center. With no prior ICU experience, I had not initially envisioned a path in critical care. However, I quickly became inspired by the level of teamwork, critical thinking, and clinical expertise required to care for critically ill patients. Observing ICU nurses manage life-sustaining therapies and support patients and families during vulnerable moments demonstrate what it truly means to practice at the top of one's license.

With encouragement from my preceptors, including Veronica Cabrera, I applied to the Sharp NRP and soon after transitioned into the ICU as a new graduate nurse. The NRP provided a strong foundation for my transition into practice.



Kourtney Shaw,
MSN, RN, CCRN,
Clinical Nurse

Sharp Chula Vista
Medical Center

Through dedicated preceptor support, structured learning goals, critical care education led by Molly Quillin-McEwan, clinical nurse specialist, and Critical Care Conversations facilitated by Lindsay Damoose, Stress First Aid therapist, I developed the confidence, competence, and resilience needed to succeed during a challenging time in healthcare.

Since completing the NRP, I have continued to grow professionally at Sharp Chula Vista. I became actively involved in our Unit-Based Practice Council and now serve as Chair, where I help lead staff engagement and retention initiatives. Our team has also advanced early mobilization efforts for mechanically ventilated patients to improve both outcomes and post-ICU quality of life. Beyond my unit, I am contributing to a partnership with Southwestern College Nursing to support and mentor future nurses. Personally, I continue to advance my practice by earning a CCRN certification, pursuing my Doctor of Nursing Practice with a focus on becoming a Clinical Nurse Specialist, and serving as a clinical instructor for nursing students.

I am deeply grateful for the support of my family, partner, and friends, who have helped sustain me throughout this journey—whether through post-shift debriefs, long phone calls, or simply being present after challenging days. I am also convinced that my incredibly cute cat plays a significant role in maintaining my well-being. Outside of work, I prioritize time outdoors and look forward to future trips and celebrations, which help me stay balanced and renewed.

Looking ahead, I plan to continue growing within Sharp HealthCare by advancing my clinical expertise and taking on increasing leadership responsibilities. As a future Clinical Nurse Specialist, I am passionate about contributing to evidence-based practice, staff development, quality improvement, and mentorship, while continuing to support exceptional patient care. I am grateful to be part of an organization that has invested so meaningfully in my growth, and I look forward to continuing my career at Sharp for years to come.

Structural Empowerment

Nursing Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the 2026 Nursing Excellence Honors across Sharp HealthCare. Various activities honoring nurses occurred in May 2026 during Nurse Week.

Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center	
Structural Empowerment Clinical Nurse: Keegan Roloff Nurse Leader: Nicole Witt	Transformational Leadership Clinical Nurse: Sebastian Da Silva Nurse Leader: Anna Villanueva
New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvement Clinical Nurse: Jade Salcedo Nurse Leader: Kieu Tran	Exemplary Professional Practice Clinical Nurse: Ryan Taylor Nurse Leader: Jillian Downing
Clinical Nurse of the Year Ryan Taylor	Preceptor of the Year Azel Rabanal
Licensed Vocational Nurse of the Year: Jessica Rosales	
Sharp Community Medical Group	
Clinical Nurse of the Year Caron Pharoah	
Sharp Grossmont Hospital	
Structural Empowerment Clinical Nurse: Lindsey Eguez Nurse Leader: Holly Reutens-Leano	Transformational Leadership Clinical Nurse: Amanda Schwartz Nurse Leader: Joseph Lopez
New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvement Clinical Nurse: Travis Brown Nurse Leader: Martin Graf	Exemplary Professional Practice Clinical Nurse: Nicole Schumacher Nurse Leader: Shannon Larson
Clinical Nurse of the Year Nicole Schumacher	Preceptor of the Year Kimberly Thomas-LeBlanc
Licensed Vocational Nurse of the Year Tanya Rodgers	Nightingale Award Alicia Garza

Sharp Coronado Hospital	
Structural Empowerment Clinical Nurse: Kenneth Molnar Nurse Leader: Kristi Porfirio	Transformational Leadership Nurse Leader: Kyle Williams
New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvement Clinical Nurse: Sergio Leos Nurse Leader: Katherine Goble	Exemplary Professional Practice Clinical Nurse: Abby Madariaga Nurse Leader: Charlene Robbins
Clinical Nurse of the Year Allyssa Garland	Preceptor of the Year Dave Echaluse
Licensed Vocational Nurse of the Year Josie Sampal	Going the Extra Mile Award Clinical Nurse: Charelle Gallegos Licensed Vocational Nurse: Moahna Campos Nurse Leader: Ellie First
Person-Centered Care Award Clinical Nurse Winner: Craig Cowan Licensed Vocational Nurse: Jenny Biascan Nurse Leader: Taylor Glasrud	Lifetime Achievement Clinical Nurse: Maribeth Chiong Licensed Vocational Nurse: Alicia Hubbard Nurse Leader: Cindy Smith
Rising Star Award Clinical Nurse: Angie Casillas Licensed Vocational Nurse: Leonela Lopez Franco	
Sharp Metropolitan Campus	
Structural Empowerment Clinical Nurse: Dan Uribe (SMH) Nurse Leader: Erica Pablo (SMH)	Transformational Leadership Clinical Nurse: Gladiola Martinez (SMH) Nurse Leader: Laura Townsend (SMH)
New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvement Clinical Nurse: JP Conly (SMV) Nurse Leader: Steve Molina (SMV)	Exemplary Professional Practice Clinical Nurse: Monica Bowman (SMH) Nurse Leader: Maribel Koke (SMH)
Clinical Nurse of the Year JP Conly (SMV) Allyson Hoffstein (Fritzler) (SMB) Gladiola Martinez (SMH)	Preceptor of the Year Bei Bei Wu (SMH) Heather Menser (SMV)
Licensed Vocational Nurse of the Year Carl Delgado (SMV)	

Nursing Excellence Awards

(continued)

Sharp Rees Stealy Medical Group	
Clinical Nurse of the Year (by Service Line) Sandy Degulis – Population Health Bethany Joseph – Urgent Care Angelica Nunag – Medical Specialties/Hem/Onc Kristi Wuchner – Primary Care Mayte Zendejas – Surgical Specialties/Wound Clinic	Overall Clinical Nurse of the Year Sandy Degulis – Population Health
Nurse Leader of the Year (by Service Line) Abby Arvizu – Urgent Care Hazel Blackwood – Quality Melissa Gager – Medical Specialties Bianca Morales-Gamino – Primary Care Cristina Spencer – Surgical Specialties	Overall Nurse Leader of the Year Abby Arvizu – Urgent Care
Licensed Vocational Nurse of the Year (by Service Line) Brenda Alanis – Surgical Specialties/General Surgery Vanessa Barrios – Primary Care	
Sharp System Services	
Structural Empowerment Clinical Nurse: Jordan Pertzborn Nurse Leader: Jorge Chacon Cordero	Transformational Leadership Clinical Nurse: Khoder Osman
New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvement Clinical Nurse: Ben Baker Nurse Leader: Kathy Jenks	Exemplary Professional Practice Clinical Nurse: Kashika Singh Nurse Leader: Sunny Stirling
Clinical Nurse of the Year Kashika Singh	Preceptor of the Year Jonathan Argento
Licensed Vocational Nurse of the Year Diana Tapang	

Nursing Recognition for Excellence

Sharp HealthCare was selected as the recipient of the **Perceptyx 2026 EX IMPACT Award for Employee Safety and Well-Being**, recognized for turning employee feedback into measurable business results. The award honors organizations that act on employee insights to improve outcomes. Sharp reduced workplace violence claims by 12%, decreased trip-and-fall incidents by 17%, and improved retention to 91.6%.

Sharp Memorial Hospital has been recertified by **The Joint Commission as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center**, recognizing the hospital's excellence in stroke care, patient safety and clinical outcomes. Surveyors highlighted the strength of our interprofessional teamwork, quality of stroke rounds and data capture, and continued improvements in door-to-needle and door-to-puncture times.



Sharp Memorial Hospital has earned **The Joint Commission's Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification**, a prestigious designation recognizing excellence across the full continuum of cardiovascular care. This achievement reflects years of dedicated work and places the hospital among a select group of hospitals in California and fewer than three dozen nationwide to receive this distinction. The certification highlights the commitment to delivering coordinated, evidence-based, patient-centered cardiac care.



CERTIFICATION
Meets standards for
Comprehensive Stroke Center

Sharp HealthCare has been recognized by **Becker's Healthcare** as one of its 2026 **"Simulation and Education Programs to Know"** highlighting

the impact of education and simulation programs on patient safety, clinical excellence and outcomes. This recognition honors organizations that demonstrate innovation, quality and a commitment to preparing professionals through advanced education and simulation. Central to this achievement is the James S. Brown Simulation Center at the Terrence and Barbara Caster Institute for Nursing Excellence.



Exemplary Practice

Nursing Excellence Drives Stroke Certification Success Across Sharp

Sharp HealthCare continues to demonstrate excellence in stroke care, driven by the critical role nurses play in achieving and sustaining stroke certification. This spring, Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, Sharp Memorial Hospital, and Sharp Coronado Hospital successfully earned Primary Stroke Center recertification, an accomplishment that reflects strong interprofessional collaboration and exceptional nursing practice.

These efforts were led by Stroke Program managers Adam Metzger (Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center), Sue Crooks (Sharp Memorial Hospital), and Wendy Rutherford (Sharp Coronado Hospital), whose leadership and partnership with bedside nurses ensured survey readiness and ongoing compliance. From rapid stroke recognition and precise documentation to patient education and performance improvement, nursing exemplary practice was evident throughout the recertification process.

Momentum continues at Sharp Grossmont Hospital, where the team is preparing for Comprehensive Stroke Center recertification this fall under the leadership of Valentina Miller, Program Stroke Manager. Nurses remain central to this work, supporting advanced stroke care, complex workflows, and continuous quality improvement.

“Stroke certification reflects more than a single milestone—it represents a sustained commitment to high-quality, evidence-based care. Across Sharp HealthCare, this success highlights the expertise, vigilance, and dedication of our nurses in improving outcomes for patients experiencing a stroke.” – Megan Kennelly, DNP, MBA, AGACNP-BC, RN

- **System-wide success:** Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, Sharp Memorial Hospital, and Sharp Coronado Hospital achieved Primary Stroke Center recertification, reflecting strong interprofessional collaboration and nursing excellence
- **Nursing leadership impact:** Stroke program managers and clinical nurses drove survey readiness through rapid recognition, precise documentation, patient education, and continuous performance improvement
- **Building momentum:** Sharp Grossmont Hospital is preparing for Comprehensive Stroke Center recertification this fall, with nurses leading advanced stroke care, complex workflows, and quality improvement efforts

ANA Position Statement: Competence and Competency in the Nursing Professional Role

Although each nurse is individually responsible and accountable for maintaining competence in their professional role, the American Nurses Association (ANA) emphasizes the nursing profession must lead efforts to ensure competence by promoting best practices and ongoing professional development.

Nursing regulatory bodies across the United States and territories set minimum practice standards, issue licenses, monitor compliance with laws and regulations, and act when unsafe nursing practice occurs. Employers also play a key role by creating supportive work environments that help nurses develop and sustain competence in practice.

Ultimately, assurance of competence is a shared responsibility involving the nursing profession, individual nurses, regulatory agencies, employers, accrediting and certifying bodies, academic institutions, professional organizations, and other key partners. Together, these groups create conditions that support professional growth, promote excellence, and strengthen the quality of health care delivery.



Megan Kennelly, DNP,
MBA, AGACNP-BC, RN
Director of Neuroscience
Service Line
Sharp HealthCare

Exemplary Professional Practice

Building Emergency Care from the Ground Up: Sharp Coronado Nurses Lead Historic NASCAR Infield Health Center

By Andrew Zimmerman, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, Manager – Emergency Department (ED)

When thousands of spectators gathered aboard Naval Base Coronado for NASCAR's inaugural race weekend in San Diego, few realized that beyond the racecourse was a fully operational Infield Health Center—designed, built, run, and staffed by Sharp Coronado Hospital (SCH).

For four days, from June 18 to June 21, SCH (ED nurses and physicians provided comprehensive medical coverage within NASCAR's Infield Health Center, delivering care to drivers, pit crews, race officials, VIPs, and other NASCAR personnel. The team evaluated and treated 48 patients during race weekend, including drivers involved in high-speed racing incidents requiring rapid trauma assessment, stabilization, and treatment.

The medical coverage for this sporting event was a historic undertaking. NASCAR traditionally races at permanent venues with established medical infrastructure. The San Diego race marked only the second time in NASCAR's history that an Infield Health Center had been built entirely from the ground up before a race weekend, and the first ever on an active U.S. military base.

Nurses played a central role in bringing this vision to life. The nurse team was responsible for operationalizing and staffing the Infield Health Center, ensuring it functioned as a safe, efficient, and fully capable ED. Nursing leaders and

- SCH nurses and physicians designed, built, and staffed NASCAR's Infield Health Center at the inaugural San Diego race, providing emergency care to 48 patients—including drivers involved in high-speed racing incidents—in a first-of-its-kind event on an active U.S. military base.
- Through extensive planning, trauma preparedness training, and collaboration with interprofessional partners, SCH nurses successfully created and operationalized a fully functioning emergency care center from the group up, achieving safe, high-quality care with no adverse outcomes.



Top row (left to right): Andrew Zimmerman, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, William Binachi, DO (ED Medical Director), Kevin Hanneken, MD, Nicholas Topoleski, DNP, CNS, Morgan McGuire, MD, Matthew Olsen, RN; Middle row (left to right): Nicole Havey, RN, Gabriella Lococo, HCP, Joyce Wang, MD; Front row: Martha Garcia-Hall, RN

educators developed and reviewed nearly 100 pages of operational plans, clinical protocols, and workflows that guided care delivery throughout the event.

A critical component of preparation included extensive training and partnership. SCH nurses collaborated closely with Sharp Memorial Hospital's trauma program to support education and readiness for high-acuity trauma scenarios. In addition, the nursing team participated in hands-on decontamination training with regional decontamination partners and worked closely with Respiratory Therapy to ensure readiness for airway management and respiratory support in complex emergency situations.

Working alongside physicians, the disaster and emergency preparedness team, the United States Navy, Federal Fire, Reach Air, AMR, Coastal Medix, and colleagues from across Sharp, nurses helped establish patient flow processes, clinical response protocols, equipment readiness, and staffing models. The Infield Health Center was equipped with a stocked pharmacy containing dozens of medications to treat conditions ranging from minor illnesses and injuries to full-blown medical emergencies. In addition, the team maintained comprehensive supplies to manage everything from minor urgent care needs to full trauma resuscitation. Throughout the race weekend, ED nurses staffed the Infield Health Center, delivering hands-on care, coordinating with interprofessional partners, and adapting in real time to the dynamic and high-risk environment of NASCAR racing.

The event was a tremendous success, with no adverse outcomes—a testament to the ED team's exceptional collaboration and the extensive planning, preparation, and training of the NASCAR Infield Health Center.

Sharp HealthCare Recognized by Becker's for Simulation and Education Excellence

By Mike Froeberg MSN, RN, CNS, CHSE, AGCNS-BC, CEN



Mike Froeberg, MSN, RN, CNS, CHSE, AGCNS-BC, CEN

Brown Simulation Center,
Caster Nursing Institute

Becker's Hospital Review named Sharp HealthCare's Brown Simulation Center a 2026 **"Simulation and Education Program to Know"** and recognized its **innovative use of simulation to strengthen workforce readiness, clinical excellence, and patient care.**

In March 2026, *Becker's Hospital Review* recognized Sharp HealthCare as one of 93 hospitals and health systems with exceptional simulation programs, naming the Brown Simulation Center (BSC) as one of their 2026 "Simulation and Education Programs to Know." *Becker's* highlighted Sharp's commitment to "strengthening its workforce and expanding service lines through forward-thinking education and simulation," underscoring the role of simulation in advancing clinical excellence and system readiness.

May 2026 also marked the BSC's three-year anniversary. In three years, the program has supported more than 100 simulation-based learning and improvement activities, engaging over 5,000 participants across Sharp—with nurses representing the largest participant group.

Simulation activities supported by the BSC have contributed to improvements in patient and staff safety, emergency preparedness, team performance, and professional practice, including reductions in hospital-acquired infections and falls, and enhanced responses to stroke, sepsis, and cardiac arrest events.

Together, these outcomes and national recognition reflect the shared commitment of nurse leaders and interprofessional partners to professional development and advancing clinical excellence, teamwork, and patient-centered care across Sharp HealthCare.

Sharp Cancer Centers Achieve Commission on Cancer Accreditation

By Wendy Mbugua, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE



Wendy Mbugua, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Vice President, Oncology
Service Line
Sharp HealthCare

Sharp HealthCare is proud to announce that its cancer centers have achieved Commission on Cancer (CoC) accreditation and designation as an Integrated Network Cancer Program (INCP) by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. These awards recognize Sharp's coordinated, systemwide approach to delivering high-quality, interprofessional, and patient-centered cancer care.

Nurses are vital to cancer-care coordination and navigation, guiding patients seamlessly from diagnosis through treatment and into survivorship. Their work ensures adherence to standardized clinical pathways and enhances the overall patient experience. In addition, oncology nurses are deeply involved in the care of patients enrolled in clinical trials by supporting protocol compliance, patient education, and collaboration with research teams, which helps bring innovative therapy options to Sharp's patients.

Through their leadership in survivorship planning and patient education, nurses continue to play a critical role in advancing high-quality, compassionate cancer care across Sharp HealthCare.

- Commission on Cancer (CoC) Accreditation and Integrated Network Cancer Program (INCP) designation are quality recognitions awarded by the American College of Surgeons.
- Oncology nurses played a pivotal role in earning this distinction through their commitment to specialty education, care coordination, clinical trial support, survivorship planning, and collaboration, ensuring seamless, evidence-based care across the cancer journey.

New Knowledge, Innovations, and Improvement

Nursing Publications

Brandt-Mayo, K., **Malagon-Maldonado, G., & Graham, J.K.** (2026). Quality and safety implications of boarding geriatric and high acuity patients in the emergency department: A literature review. *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/TME.0000000000000639>

Chanmany Pastor, R.M., Nguyen Truax, F., Sahin, S., **Donnelly, J.**, Nick, J. M., & Tamares, S. (2026). Prevalence of problematic digital media use among young adults: Protocol for a systematic review. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 15, e82245. <https://doi.org/10.2196/82245>

Colio, P., & **Graham, J.K.** (2026). Evidence-based practice versus evidence-informed practice in nursing: pearls, practice & policy. *Advanced Emergency Nursing*, 48(2), 65–69. <https://doi.org/10.1097/TME.0000000000000618>

Ecoff, L., Failla, K., & Pelletier, L. (2026). A blueprint for effective succession planning using a structure-process-outcome framework. *Journal of Nursing Administration*. (in-press)

Graham, J.K., Damoose, L., Buenconsejo, G., Jenkins, D., Duran-Montano, C., Camberos, G., & Malagon-Maldonado, G. (April 2026). The team therapist model: A successful approach to Supporting ED and ICU nurses. *American Nurse Journal*, 21(4). <https://www.myamericannurse.com/the-team-therapist-model/>

Johnson, W., & Tewelde, S. Z. (2026). Quiet clues, critical consequences. *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America*, 44(2), xv–xvi. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emc.2025.10.002>

Kabakibi, M., & **Graham, J.K.** (2026). A sepsis-informed model of accelerated aging. *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*, 38(2), 283–290. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cnc.2026.02.006>

Massey, G., Thomason, T., **Graham, J.K.**, & Colio, P. (2026). Accuracy of signal-to-noise in novel electrocardiogram technology versus standard electrocardiogram technology: A literature review. *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/TME.0000000000000636>

Nibbelink, C.W., Galatzan, B.J., **Mendoza, K.**, Harding, H., & **Fields, W.** (2026). Using qualitative content analysis and natural language processing to explore nurse decision-making in urgent patient care situations. *Computers, Informatics, Nursing*. 10.1097/CIN.0000000000001530.

Zipp, J., Bochner, B., Bowles, W., **Failla, K.**, Joswiak, M.E., Lavender, J., Nelson, D., Shea, D., Smith, S., & Casey, K. (2026). Newly licensed RN competency: An analysis of practice setting expectations and perceptions. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 42(4), 192-198. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NND.0000000000001236>

Nursing Presentations and Posters

Balestrieri-Martinez, B., Johnson, H., & Yaschelyn, K. (2026, March 10). System clinical practice changes resulting from disaster: CNSs collaborate with partners during the IV solution crisis [Poster Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Fillmore, K., & Larson, S. (2026, March 10). Safer care together: Strengthening nursing assistant contributions to quality, person-centered care in hospitals [Poster Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Graham, J.K. (2026, May 19). Metabolic monitoring in critical care and progressive care [Podium Presentation]. *American Association of Critical Care Nurses, National Teaching Institute Exposition*, San Diego, CA.

Harter, A., Brown, L., & Carlson, J. (2026, March 10). Standardizing small-bore feeding tube insertion: CNS and multidisciplinary collaboration for safer enteral nutrition. [Poster Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Harter, A., & Doyle, R. (2026, March 10). Revitalizing fall prevention champions through CNS leadership: collaborative strategies to reduce patient falls. [Podium Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Jones, T., McGough, N. & Sunnell, H. (2026, June 15). Elevating professional governance through frontline nurse-led simulation. [Poster Presentation]. *American Organization for Nursing Leadership Professional Governance Leadership Conference*, Indianapolis, IN.

Lopez, K.M. (2026, April 16). Exploring predictors of ambulatory robotic gynecologic surgical patient same-day discharge [Dissertation Defense]. *University of San Diego Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science*, San Diego.

Mackenzie, C., & Herrera, T. (2026, March 10). Striving for excellence through the creation of a neuroscience nursing core concepts education program [Podium Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Malagon-Maldonado, G. (2026, March 10). Chief Nursing Officer [Panel Discussion]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Marinelli, D. (2026, March 10). Frontline nurse identification of research priorities: A Delphi study [Poster Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Sey, R. (2026, May 5). Pain, stress, and difficult IV access, [Podium Presentation]. *ONE Conference*, Las Vegas, NV.

Sey, R. (2026, May 5). Developmental care rounds: Bedside engagement in neurodevelopment empowers parents, [Podium Presentation]. *ONE Conference*, Las Vegas, NV.

Coughlin, K., Flynn, B., Stout, E., Adelman, B., & Sey, R. (2026, April 24). Fewer pokes, stronger starts: Minimizing painful procedures in the NICU, [Poster Presentation]. *Pediatric Academic Society*, Boston, MA.

Stirling, S., Ramos, A., Yap, E., McCafferty, D. (2026, April 30). NAC16: Monitor and optimize your nursing workload [Podium Presentation]. *Epic XGM Conference*, Verona, WI.

Turner, J., Ecoff, L., & Mendoza, K. (2026, March 10.). Leaders4Leaders: A mentorship structure for developing CNSs and transforming healthcare leadership [Poster Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Wynn, T. (2026, March 10). Closing the education gap: best practices for skin assessment in people with dark skin tones [Podium Presentation]. *National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA.



Nurse of the Year, Jordan Pertzborn with Amelia Benefiel



Nurse of the Year, Khoder Osman with Rocio Soriano



Nurse Leader of the Year, Sunny Stirling and family

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