NBCRNA
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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About the NBCRNA

Patient-Centered - Supporting Lifelong Learning

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) is the nation's certifying body for initial, continued, and subspecialty board certification of the more than 61,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Our mission is to guard the well-being of the public by seeking to ensure that those who secure the CRNA credential have the necessary knowledge and skills to practice safely and effectively. We accomplish our mission through the development and implementation of credentialing programs that support lifelong learning among nurse anesthetists. We are a nonprofit organization and our CRNA and Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) credential programs are accredited by both the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC).

NBCRNA credentialing provides assurances to the public that CRNAs have met objective, predetermined qualifications for providing nurse anesthesia services. A rigorous national entry process helps ensure that those who secure the CRNA credential enter the profession with the knowledge and demonstrated skills necessary to practice--however this is only the first step. Those who earn the credential dedicate themselves to lifelong learning. While state licensure provides the legal credential for the practice of professional nursing, private, voluntary certification indicates compliance with the professional standards for practice in this vital clinical nursing specialty.

Mission
The mission of the NBCRNA is to promote patient safety through credentialing programs that support lifelong learning.

Vision
The vision is to be recognized as the leader in advanced practice nurse credentialing.

Promoting Patient Safety by Enhancing Provider Quality

Core Values

Respect
The NBCRNA is highly respected for our programs, innovation and commitment to lifelong learning and safety.

Protection
The protection and the faith the public has in us is our sole reason for existing and determines everything we do.

Trust
The NBCRNA has a long and established track record of regulatory excellence and keeping our promises to the public as the basis of our trust.

Recognition
Because of our earned respect and trust, the NBCRNA's credential programs are universally recognized and respected, throughout the entire United States.

Learn more about NBCRNA by visiting WWW.NBCRNA.COM/ABOUTUS

NBCRNA Accreditation

Supporting Lifelong Learning Through Nationally Accepted Standards

The credentialing programs of the NBCRNA are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC). NCCA accreditation means that the NBCRNA credentialing programs meet the highest national voluntary standards for private certification. NCCA accreditation validates the credential against the accepted standards across all credentialed professions. The NBCRNA received its initial accreditation from the NCCA in June 1984.

ABSNC accreditation means that the NBCRNA credentialing programs meet the standards of the only accreditation program for nursing specialties. It promotes the highest quality of specialty nursing practice through the establishment of standards of professional specialty nursing certification. When the NBCRNA received its initial accreditation from the ABSNC in August 1992, it was one of the first national certification bodies to be recognized and approved by the ABSNC.

In 2022, NBCRNA was re-accredited by the NCCA and the ABSNC for its CRNA and NSPM programs. Each program is re-accredited for the maximum five-year period.

NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer John C. Preston, DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN said: "As a leader in advanced practice specialty nursing, our continued accreditation ensures the public that our programs meet or exceed the published expected quality standards and are consistent with other peer certification programs around the country. Maintaining our accreditation is yet another example of how the NBCRNA supports patient safety through lifelong learning and our commitment to quality."

Together, NCCA and ABSNC accreditation provides a strong and widely accepted standard for the nurse anesthetist credential that has been institutionalized in many position descriptions as a practice requirement or as a standard for demonstrating equivalency. It has been recognized in state nurse practice acts and state rules and regulations.

Learn more about NBCRNA accreditation and recognition by visiting WWW.NBCRNA.COM/ACCREDITATION

Awards and Recognition

NBCRNA Selected for 2023 I.C.E. Innovator Award

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) was selected by the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.) as one of two national recipients for the 2023 I.C.E. Innovator Award. I.C.E. announced the recipients of the award at this year's Annual Exchange Conference in Colorado Springs, CO on October 26th.

The I.C.E. Innovator Award recognizes an individual or an organization who has created an innovative approach to a product, policy, process, or system that transforms or achieves a new level of success in a unique way.

The recognition is for NBCRNA's ongoing work surrounding the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program and research into Longitudinal Assessment (LA). In 2023, The NBCRNA research team completed a study to explore the potential of LA as an alternative assessment approach that promotes patient safety and lifelong learning to meet the needs of the CRNA profession.

NBCRNA CEO John C. Preston, DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN accepted the award on behalf of the NBCRNA at the 2023 I.C.E Annual Awards Luncheon and remarked "The work that NBCRNA has undertaken with the LA research study can serve as a roadmap for other certification industry partners as they contemplate the best, most efficient and most reliable ways to support life-long learning and the maintenance of competency for the certificants they serve."

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> John C. Preston, DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN

This award underscores NBCRNA's commitment to engaging all nurse anesthesia providers in a continuous and ongoing innovative program that is aligned with the identified knowledge domains of the practicing nurse anesthesia professional. It also marks another milestone in NBCRNA's advancement of certification practices supporting the nurse anesthesia community.

NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer Inducted into the Fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing

John C. Preston, DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer of the NBCRNA, was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as a Fellow (FAAN) on October 7th, 2023.

The 2023 Fellows were chosen based on their significant contributions to the nursing profession, and their exceptional leadership within and outside the industry. Dr. Preston was selected for his role in supporting the design, establishment and subsequent accreditation of the first post-graduate fellowship for CRNAs in the field of advanced pain management.

"I'm honored to have been selected and inducted as a Fellow of the 2023 Class," said Dr. Preston. "The alleviation of pain, especially considering this nation's opioid addiction crisis, is a challenging and daunting task for all advanced practice registered nurses. I am proud to have been at the helm for the creation of the nation's first post-graduate pain management fellowship for CRNAs and then to have been able to see the program through accreditation as the profession's first Council on Accreditation recognized fellowship."

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This is a well-deserved accomplishment for Dr. Preston, as his dedication to the nursing profession, in particular the nurse anesthesia profession, has positively impacted countless individuals.

Chief Credentialing Officer at NBCRNA Achieves Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certification

Christopher Gill, PhD, MBA, CRNA, ACNPC-AG, FACHE, NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer, earned his Acute Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (ACNPC-AG) certification from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) in April of 2023.

Requirements of the ACNPC-AG include completing a graduate-level advanced practice education program as an adult-gerontology ACNP at a nationally accredited school of nursing. Additionally, 500 hours of specialty clinical education and training under the supervision of licensed and credentialed practitioners are required before sitting for the certification exam.

"Only a limited number of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in the United States hold both CRNA and ACNPC-AG certifications," said NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer John Preston, DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN. "This achievement not only demonstrates Dr. Gill's commitment to advanced practice nursing, but also his dedication to lifelong learning."

> I look forward to using this experience and training to enhance NBCRNA's certification programs while continuing to promote patient safety by enhancing provider quality.
>
> Christopher Gill, PhD, MBA, CRNA, ACNPC-AG, FACHE

"With this new certification, I am eager to provide the highest level of care to my patients and make a positive impact on their lives," said Dr. Gill. "I look forward to using this experience and training to enhance NBCRNA's certification programs while continuing to promote patient safety by enhancing provider quality."

Letter From the President

Lori Anderson
DNP, MSN, CRNA, FAANA

This has been a milestone year in NBCRNA history. Although we have experienced challenges, 2023 has brought significant accomplishments and innovations.

From the outset of my tenure, the NBCRNA mission statement has been at the forefront of the Board of Director's (BOD) decision making; to promote patient safety through credentialing programs that provide lifelong learning. Working in tandem with the NBCRNA staff, we made progress in advancing the strategic objectives of NBCRNA, and I am truly appreciative of the work that both the BOD and NBCRNA staff have completed in 2023.

One of our most notable efforts was to encourage CRNAs to take the Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA). The CPCA is a required component of the CPC Program, and CRNA's in their second four-year cycle are required to take the CPCA to renew their certification. The BOD and NBCRNA staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that CRNAs understand and successfully complete the requirements of the CPC Program and the necessary steps for certification renewal.

In 2023, 14,473 CRNAs completed the CPCA, which is an outstanding achievement for the organization and for the profession. When the entire profession engages in an assessment of their knowledge and demonstrates ongoing maintenance needed for safe practice, it sends a powerful and important message to the public we serve.

In 2024, many more CRNAs will need to complete their CPCA. We encourage CRNAs who are in their second four-year cycle to schedule their CPCA as early as possible so you can choose your preferred date, time, and modality (online or in-person).

Another mile-marker moment during my time as President was the completion of the Longitudinal Assessment Research Study. This ground-breaking research study explored the potential of Longitudinal Assessment (referred to as LA) to replace the CPCA as the assessment component for the CPC Program. NBCRNA's research team aimed to determine comparability in performance among participants who took the CPCA in its current single long form versus those who engaged in an LA modality. The LA assessment participants answered 30-40 questions per calendar quarter, received immediate performance feedback, and received rationales and references for the questions.

From the start of the study, the BOD offered guidance to the NBCRNA research team, but we had full faith that they would be meticulous and steadfast in exploring the LA modality and provide accurate and detailed results to the BOD for decision-making. The outcome of the study was powerful, meaningful, and notably enhanced our understanding of adult learning principles. Together, we were able to forge a path forward for the CPC Program and CRNAs.

Based on the findings of the LA Research Study, the NBCRNA BOD made a strategic decision to move the assessment component of the CPC Program to an LA format for future CPC Program cycles. Beginning August 2024, an enhanced CPC Program will be launched, with the assessment portion of the program offering the LA modality to participants. Other CPC program enhancements were also approved by the BOD this year and you will be hearing about those improvements in the coming months.

Until the launch of the enhanced CPC Program, CRNAs will need to finish the requirements of their current CPC Program cycle (Class A, Class B, Core Modules, and the CPCA in its current form if applicable) before moving into the enhanced CPC Program.

Working together with the NBCRNA BOD and our Chief Executive Officer John C. Preston DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN, has been an absolute pleasure, and I am honored to be a part of a team who is dedicated to furthering the CRNA profession. Dr. Preston and his entire staff at the NBCRNA are nothing short of remarkable. They are a visionary, cohesive team who strive to safeguard the CRNA credential and ensure that it remains an authoritative gold standard in advanced practice nursing certification.

Message From the CEO

John C. Preston
DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN

As I reflect on this past year, there is only one word that comes to mind: remarkable. The efforts of the NBCRNA to encourage patient safety through our credentialing programs that support lifelong learning is remarkable, and we have achieved some amazing results. Staff members have shown incredible ingenuity, our BOD have exemplified steadfast leadership, all of which has led to the accomplishment of major milestones for the organization. However, in the end it's all about you, the CRNA - our one reason for existing.

To begin, I wish to express my gratitude to the NBCRNA staff. They are undeniably some of the most visionary and hard-working individuals I know. I am honored to know each of them personally and to have the pleasure to work with them every day. I am extremely proud of the work they have done over this past year, and unquestionably appreciative for their skills, talents and abilities.

Additionally, the achievements of the NBCRNA in 2023 would not have been possible without the support and guidance of our BOD. This year has brought many twists, turns, and challenges, none of which could have been successfully navigated without our Board's forethought and guidance. Individually and collectively, I am so very thankful to be able to work alongside this incredible group of leaders.

Here are a few highlights from 2023 that I would like to touch on:

As previewed during AANA 2023 Annual Congress, NBCRNA announced the enhanced Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program scheduled to begin in August 2024. After more than five-years of planning and a year-long research study amongst CRNAs, the CPC Program's assessment component is evolving to a longitudinal assessment (LA), replacing the once every eight years assessment. This update will better reflect how professional learning is lifelong and continuous, while also supporting the delivery of safe, quality anesthesia care. The CPC Program is also being simplified, based on feedback directly from the CRNA community, including a streamlined program timeline and removal of Core Modules as a program requirement. These enhancements will go into effect after CRNAs complete their current requirements to renew their credential.

Next, the aforementioned year-long research study diving into LA led to a historic moment for the NBCRNA, as we were selected by the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.) as one of two national recipients for the 2023 I.C.E. Innovator Award. The recognition is for NBCRNA's ongoing work surrounding the CPC Program and research into LA. The research study concluded in March 2023, and the results helped the BOD and Leadership team make enhancement recommendations to the flagship CPC Program.

Finally, I am particularly honored to have been inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). I was selected for my work in designing and establishing the first accredited post-graduate fellowship for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in the field of advanced pain management.

2023 was a defining year for the NBCRNA. Seeing our staff and Board work tirelessly to ensure that we are moving in the right direction on behalf of our CRNA community is inspiring. I sincerely appreciate the commitment to continuous learning that the NBCRNA promotes both externally to CRNAs, as well as internally among our own staff. The future is bright for nurse anesthesia credentialing and we are laying the foundation for future landmark moments for all CRNAs.

NBCRNA 2023 Board of Directors

The NBCRNA is managed by a Board of Directors who are recognized as leaders in nurse anesthesia and related fields. The members of the Board are comprised of certified registered nurse anesthetists, as well as a board-certified surgeon and anesthesiologist, both of whom have a current working relationship with nurse anesthetists, and a representative of the public at large. Members of the Board are elected to serve staggered three-year terms.

President
Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, CRNA, FAANA

Dr. Lori Anderson is an Associate Professor, and the Chair/Program Director for the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at Rosalind Franklin University, North Chicago, IL. Lori earned her BSN and MSN from Northern Illinois University, and her DNP from Rush University. She was a past president of the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists and a past member of the Illinois Board of Nursing.

Vice President
Susan McMullan, PhD, CRNA, CNE, CHSE, FAANA, FAAN

Dr. Susan McMullan is an Associate Professor and Director, BSN-DNP Pathway in Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing. She earned her BSN from University of Michigan, her MSN in Nurse Anesthesia from Rush University, and her PhD from Rutgers, the State College of New Jersey. Prior to her move to Birmingham, she worked full time as a clinical CRNA in Chicago. In her time at UAB, she has received over $500,000 in Nurse Anesthesia Traineeship and AANA Foundation Research Grants. She also developed the only anesthesia workload instrument and was key in increasing the number of CRNAs in Alabama during a critical workforce shortage. She has been inducted as a Fellow of both the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and the American Academy of Nursing. In 2019 she received the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ALANA) Outstanding Advocacy and Service to the CRNA Profession Award for her dedication to the profession. Susan maintains a clinical faculty practice at UAB Callahan Hospital.

Secretary/Treasurer
Garry Brydges, PhD, DNP, MBA, MHA, CRNA, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANA

Dr. Garry Brydges is the Director of Quality and Outcomes in Anesthesia and the former chief nurse anesthetist for 17 years at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Currently, his work includes a subdomain in artificial intelligence known as neural network machine learning for developing a perioperative oncologic collaborative registry. He is adjunct faculty at the University of Texas and Baylor College of Medicine Nurse Anesthesia Programs, Texas Woman's University Nursing Graduate Programs, and adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University - Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy. Garry graduated from the University of Texas Nurse Anesthesia Program and was the recipient of the Agatha Hodgins Outstanding Graduate Award. He has an extensive academic background also graduating from the University of Texas Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program before nurse anesthesia training, concentrating in cardiovascular surgery. He completed his DNP at Texas Christian University in 2011, focusing research in Preoperative Considerations for the Heart Failure Patient with Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy. Other degrees include an Executive MBA, Masters in Healthcare Administration, as well as a PhD in Financial Management and Economics in Healthcare Delivery, at Texas Woman's University. In 2021, he was recently inducted as an inaugural fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for his leadership nationally and globally contributing to the nurse anesthesia profession. He completed his term in 2019 as the 79th President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. He was the President of the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists from 2012-2013.

Directors

Lisa M. Bennett, DNP, MS, CRNA

Dr. Lisa M. Bennett earned her BSN from the University of Michigan, her MS in nurse anesthesiology from the University of Detroit Mercy, and her DNP from Robert Morris University. She has served on the Diversity and Inclusion committee for the AANA, is a poster and scholarship reviewer for the AANA Foundation and a former item writer for the NBCRNA. Lisa was the keynote Dorothy Brangman speaker for the 2019 AANA Annual Congress and has published in the *AANA Journal*.

Sara C. Gonzalez, MD, DABA

Dr. Sara Gonzalez is the anesthesiologist member of the NBCRNA Board. Dr. Gonzalez received her medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine and completed her residency training at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) and obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. She serves as a Commander in the United States Navy at NMCSD where she is a staff obstetric anesthesiologist and the Residency Program Director. She deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. She enjoys teaching residents and students. Her academic interests include provider wellbeing, operational medicine, and maternal patient safety.

Sarah E. Giron, PhD, CRNA, FAANA

Dr. Sarah Giron is a full-time Academic and Clinical Instructor for the Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia (KPSA) in Pasadena, California and Adjunct Professor at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) School of Nursing. She is the Director of the Kaiser Permanente Anesthesia Technology program and Co-Lead of the DNP scholarly project process. Her didactic expertise includes neurosurgical cases, organ transplant, burn anesthesia, cardiac and pharmacology. Dr. Giron holds a BS in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology from University of California San Diego, MS in Nurse Anesthesiology from Columbia University, and a PhD from University of San Diego with a focus in Psychoneuroimmunology. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Chaired the Longitudinal Assessment Committee for NBCRNA and is published in myriad textbooks and journals.

Robert T. Laird, BSN, CRNA

Robert Laird is an anesthetist in private practice in the Abilene, Texas, area. He has been in private practice for over 35 years. Robert has served in many capacities with the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists, including four terms as President. He graduated from Texas Christian University with a BSN, before being accepted into the anesthesia residency program at Wichita General Hospital in Wichita Falls, Texas. While there, he developed an air transport system for sick babies, served as field triage nurse during the Wichita Falls tornado of 1979, and helped develop policies for the use of CRNAs in the Emergency Department. After graduation, Robert was recruited by a private hospital in Abilene where he became the pediatric specialist for the center. Robert worked with both State and National organizations to lobby for rules allowing CRNAs to be accepted by Medicare as independent practitioners. Robert has continued to practice full time, managing a four- CRNA group and serving as Chief of Anesthesia for four ASCs and one rural hospital. He also serves as part-time adjunct instructor for a local university nursing program. Robert has served as a testifying expert in several cases involving CRNAs and continues to provide research and opinions concerning standard of care.

Becky LeBuhn, MA

Rebecca (Becky) LeBuhn is a co-founder and Chair of the Board of Citizen Advocacy Center, and is responsible for research, policy development, and publications. She has coordinated public participation on regulatory boards, specialty certifying bodies, federal regulatory proceedings, private sector decision-making, and technical standards development in such diverse fields as healthcare, medical devices, solar energy conversion, and indoor air quality. A professional writer, Ms. LeBuhn is the author of numerous publications and newsletters on various subjects including health professional licensure, specialty certification and recertification, continuing professional development, consumer-business relations, regulatory and healthcare policy, and financial services. Active in the public interest community, Becky has been the President of the National Consumers League and of the Continental Association of Funeral and Memorial Societies. She currently serves as a public member of the American Board of Medical Specialties Stakeholder Council and in the past served as the public member on the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), and on the boards of directors of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.), the American Board of Radiology Foundation (ABRF), and ASTM International. She received the 2020 Mary Macomber Service Award from I.C.E. Ms. LeBuhn earned her B.A. in Economics and Government at Wells College and her M.A. in Soviet Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Sonya D. Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNA, FAANA, FAAN

Dr. Sonya Moore, with over 20 years of nurse anesthesia experience, is the Program Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Case Western Reserve University, where she developed and implemented the Leadership Excel and Achievement Program (LEAP). As a part of her commitment to practice, she currently holds a PRN position with The Cleveland Clinic and an independent locums' practice, through SDMS Anesthesia limited. Sonya is involved in the nurse anesthesia community as a member of the AANA and OSANA Board of Directors, and while on the AANA board, served as liaison to the NBCRNA. She values her roles outside of the community, such as being the co-chair of the MSK Leadership Academy DNP Founders Circles, which engages her with leaders in nursing at the national and international levels.

Ellen Reynolds, MD, FACS

Dr. Ellen M. Reynolds, MD, FACS, is a fellowship trained pediatric surgeon with over 20 years of experience of general pediatric and trauma surgery at St. Luke's Children's Hospital, Boise, Idaho. Her particular interest is the management and treatment of chest wall deformities. Dr. Reynolds has helped to pioneer techniques used in the surgical correction of pectus excavatum and carinatum deformities. Dr. Reynolds earned her bachelor's degree at Pomona College; and attended medical school at Washington University in St. Louis where she graduated first in her class. She completed her general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Dr. Reynolds volunteers her time with IPSAC organization, serving as an educator for Danang Children's Hospital in Vietnam.

Audrey E. Rosenblatt, PhD, CRNA

Dr. Audrey Rosenblatt is the Director of Advanced Practice Anesthesia Services at Lurie Children's Hospital where she oversees management, strategic planning, and clinical care of pediatric patients. Dr. Rosenblatt has over a decade of clinical experience as a CRNA in pediatric anesthesia. Her time at Lurie Children's Hospital has been one of promotion and expansion, growing the team from 0 to 26 CRNAs. Dr. Rosenblatt supported development at Lurie within pediatric subspecialties creating dedicated teams for pediatric cardiac anesthesia in the Lurie Heart Center and maternal-fetal anesthesia within the Chicago Institute for Fetal Health. An advocate for clinical education, Lurie is the pediatric anesthesia training site for the Chicagoland CRNA programs. Lurie received accreditation from the COACRNA for a CRNA pediatric anesthesia fellowship in 2021 and Dr. Rosenblatt serves as the director. She is an assistant professor in Rush's College of Nursing and serves as the assistant program director of didactic education in the nurse anesthesia program track. Her research expertise is in qualitative methods, with a focus on medical decision-making and well-being during clinical education.

Emerging Leader Fellows

The Emerging Leader Fellowship is a one- to two-year position for newly certified CRNAs designed to expose rising leaders in nurse anesthesia to board governance, high level-decision making, and trends affecting the future of the profession.

Unique Laylor, MSN, CRNA

Unique Laylor is currently a CRNA at Baylor, Scott & White Health in Temple, TX, where she also serves on the hospital Nurse Research Council. She began her term as an Emerging Leader Fellow in October 2021. While at UCSF, Unique was a member of the departmental Quality Improvement Committee, Orientation Committee, and participated in the annual Students Capturing the Operating Room Experience (SCORE) event speaking with underrepresented minorities in health care. Prior to relocating to Texas, Unique was a simulation fellow at the San Francisco Veteran's Affairs Medical Center.

Priscilla Aguirre, DNP, CRNA

Dr. Priscilla Aguirre is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON). Her passion for nurse anesthesia led her to obtain a Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree at the University of Buffalo in 2017. At UMSON, Priscilla works as the Director of Simulation and provides low- and high-fidelity simulation experiences for nurse anesthesia students. She has designed and implemented numerous high-fidelity intraoperative simulations that include OB, PEDs, difficult airway, and cardiac resuscitation. In 2020, Priscilla received the New Faculty Award for demonstrating exceptional contributions to teaching, scholarship, and service. Recently, she was granted the Dean's Teaching Scholars Award for the study titled "The Impact of High Fidelity Simulation on Nurse Anesthesia Students' Knowledge, Self-Confidence, and Psychomotor Skills" in which she's the Primary Investigator.

NBCRNA Leadership

Chief Executive Officer
John C. Preston, DNSc, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP, FAAN

John Preston was named NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer in April 2021 after six years as the NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer. John brings more than 36 years of experience in nursing and advanced practice nursing, of which 25 were spent leading nurse anesthesia education and professional development. Prior to joining the NBCRNA, John has served as the Associate Program Director at Rosalind Franklin University, the Graduate Program Director for the University of Tennessee, and the Senior Director of Education and Professional Development at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Chief Operating Officer
Leah Cannon, CPA, CAE, SHRM-CP

Leah Cannon joined the NBCRNA in May 2011 after consulting with NBCRNA for two years. In her current role, She oversees the finance, human resources and office operations. She has over 14 years' experience working with nonprofit organizations and has also worked in public accounting and private industry.

Chief Credentialing Officer
Christopher Gill, PhD, MBA, CRNA, ACNPC-AG, FACHE

Dr. Christopher Gill joined NBCRNA in August 2021 and has progressive leadership experience in the profession of nursing, including a two-year term as an Emerging Leader Fellow on the NBCRNA Board of Directors. Prior to joining the NBCRNA, he served as a Regional Director for the New England and Northwell territories at North American Partners in Anesthesia. He has also served as Chief CRNA and Clinical Coordinator prior to becoming a Regional Director.

Chief Assessment Officer
Tim Muckle, PhD, ICE-CCP

Dr. Tim Muckle returned to NBCRNA in June 2021, having previously served as the NBCRNA Senior Director of Testing from 2008 through 2017. He has published numerous articles in testing-related scientific journals and has been a regular presenter at meetings of the National Council on Measurement in Education, the Association of Test Publishers, and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, among others. Prior to returning to the NBCRNA, He most recently served in the role of Senior Director, Psychometrics and Testing, with the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program

The CPC Program supports lifelong learning and the strong CRNA credential, protecting your ability to continue practicing as a CRNA. It is designed to meet the Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) regulatory requirements of every state Board of Nursing.

The program also reinforces the **validity** and **value** of your CRNA credential, demonstrating to your patients, their families, and your employer that you meet the credentialing requirements designed to promote lifelong learning, help you maintain current anesthesia knowledge, and encourage patient safety— even as the health care environment constantly changes.

The Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA)

As CRNAs move through the current CPC Program, they continue to take the CPCA, a performance standard assessment. The 150-question assessment covers knowledge in the four core domains of nurse anesthesia practice, has a three-hour time limit and may be taken at a testing center or at home under remote-proctor conditions. **The CPCA is not a pass/fail exam**, but rather can be used as a self-assessment.

In 2023, 14,473 CRNAs took their CPCA.

The CPCA needs to be completed during a CRNA's second four-year cycle. As soon as a CRNA is in the second four-year cycle, they are eligible to take the CPCA. The deadline for the CPCA is six months before a CRNA's credential renewal deadline. We encourage all CRNAs to complete their CPCA as soon as they are ready.

The CPCA assesses knowledge in the four core domains of nurse anesthesia practice:

- Airway Management
- Applied Clinical Pharmacology
- Human Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Anesthesia Equipment and Technology

Learn more about the CPCA at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/CPCA

Enhancing the CPC Program Experience

As previewed during NBCRNA's update at the AANA 2023 Annual Congress, NBCRNA is making enhancements to the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program for 2024. The enhancements, based on CRNA feedback to the current program and evaluating alternative programs and assessment approaches, better reflect how professional learning is lifelong and continuous when delivering safe, quality anesthesia care.

CPC Program updates will include:

- **Streamlined Program Timeline:** The overall program will have a simplified four-year certification cycle timeline, where all components are the same for every four-year cycle.

- **Reduction in Program Components:** Core Modules will no longer be a program requirement. Note: CRNAs can still take "Core Module Courses" by approved providers as a part of Class A Continuing Education Credits, which will continue to be a requirement for the CPC Program as well as Class B Professional Activities Credits.

- **Convenience in Assessing Knowledge:** A revised assessment approach - Continued Professional Certification Longitudinal Assessment (CPC-LA) - that provides a series of multi-choice and multi-select questions every quarter conveniently on your computer or mobile device via a new mobile app. Throughout the CPC-LA, CRNAs will receive immediate feedback— explaining the rationale of answers and recommending knowledge areas for further professional development.

CRNAs will begin to be notified about when they enter the enhanced CPC Program with more specifics about the program throughout 2024 and 2025.

Although changes are planned for the future of the CPC Program, CRNAs are required to fulfill their current cycle requirements to renew their credential before they are enrolled in the enhanced CPC Program.

Credentialing Research

Longitudinal Assessment Research Study Completed in 2023

In 2021, the NBCRNA Board of Directors approved a new research study to explore the potential of longitudinal assessment (LA). LA, as compared to a single large assessment, processes the ability to spread shorter assessments of specific content over a long period of time to help build understanding, knowledge and confidence.

In February 2022, a call for volunteers was sent to all eligible CRNAs to participate in the research study. 1,000 CRNAs were selected, and those selected are representative of the CRNA population, and randomly assigned one of two conditions: CPCA in its current form or in its LA configuration. The study began on April 4, 2022, and concluded March 31, 2023.

The outcome of the research study revealed that LA is not only feasible but also preferable. Despite minor differences in performance metrics, both groups (CPCA in its current form and the LA configuration) expressed high satisfaction and the LA group displayed a higher mean scaled score and improved performance on repeated questions. The results of the study underscore the value of LA, offering flexibility for busy professionals and promoting lifelong learning.

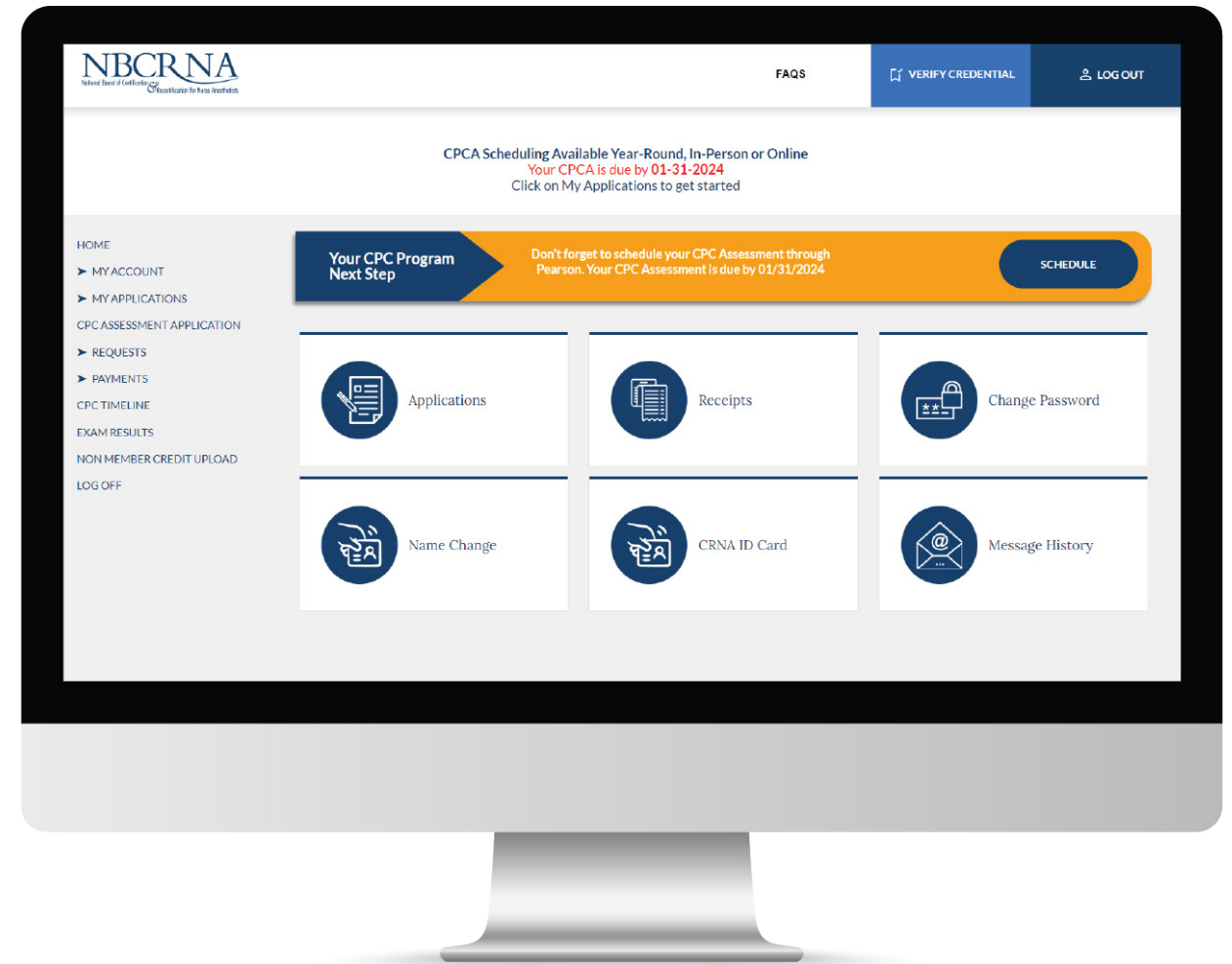> " I like how easy it is to answer the questions from your phone and on the go.

CRNA Research Study Participant "

In June 2023 based on the findings of the LA Research Study, the NBCRNA Board of Directors made the strategic decision to move the assessment component of the CPC Program to a LA format for future CPC Program cycles based on the findings of the LA Research Study.

In 2024, NBCRNA is launching an enhanced CPC Program to support the ongoing learning and knowledge of CRNAs, which will include the Continued Professional Certification Longitudinal Assessment (CPC-LA). More details about the enhanced CPC Program can be found at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/ENHANCEDCPC

> " I liked the immediate feedback and rationale for the answers, and the flexibility to log on and do the questions when I had time.

CRNA Research Study Participant "

NBCRNA Portal Improvements

In mid-2023, the NBCRNA Portal received a few enhancements, which included:

- Banner that shows the next step for the CPC Program.
- Updated menu to provide a streamlined experience for users.
  - Simplified left hand navigation.
  - Overall updates to the mobile experience.

Continue to look for future improvements to the NBCRNA Portal in 2024.

NBCRNA Elections

In 2023, NBCRNA welcomed two newly elected CRNAs to its Board of Directors, and a new Emerging Leader Fellow, for the 2024 fiscal year. The new directors began their three-year terms in October 2023. The NBCRNA looks forward to their contributions to the Board of Directors as it relates to the mission of the NBCRNA on behalf of the profession.

Rishelle Yufei Zhou, DNAP, LL.B., CRNA

Dr. Rishelle Yufei Zhou is a CRNA and Assistant Professor at the Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing. She also serves as a CRNA for the Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System, is a member of the NBCRNA Evaluation and Advisory Committee and is President of the Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists. Prior to her current roles, Dr. Zhou worked at the international accreditation organization for hospitals, Det Norske Veritas. She is a former NBCRNA Continued Professional Certification (CPC) item writer and served as an Emerging Leader Fellow on the NBCRNA Board of Directors from 2017 to 2019.

Derrick C. Glymph, PhD, DNAP, CRNA, CHSE, COL., AN, USAR, FAANA, FAAN

Dr. Derrick Glymph is a Clinical Education Coordinator for the Duke University Nurse Anesthesia Program and also serves as the Deputy Commander of Nursing in the Army Reserves, where he holds the rank of Colonel. He is a former NBCRNA Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE) item writer and played a pivotal role in transforming the SEE to correlate with the National Certification Exam. With over 16 years of experience, Dr. Glymph has made significant contributions to the advancement of nurse anesthesia education and clinical research as an Army CRNA, faculty member and administrator.

Emerging Leader Fellow
Terrica Harris, MSNA, CRNA

Terrica Harris is a CRNA at Grady Memorial Hospital and received her BSN from Emory University and her MSNA from Wake Forest School of Medicine. Currently, she is pursuing her DNP at Georgia State University. In addition to her role at Grady Memorial Hospital, Terrica is the Chief Executive Officer and Owner of Avery Emery Anesthesia LLC and part-time faculty at Emory's nurse anesthesia program. She also serves on the NBCRNA National Certification Exam Item Writing Committee.
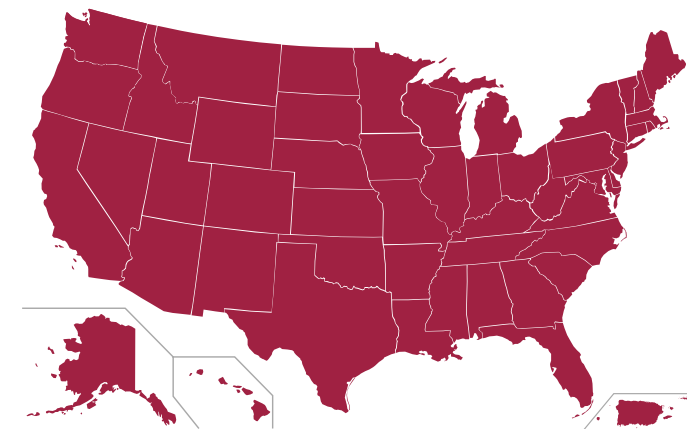
CRNAs By The Numbers

61,000
There are more than 61,000 nurse anesthesia professionals who hold the CRNA Credential.

2,861
2,861 newly certified CRNAs entered the profession in 2023.

50 Million
CRNAs safely administer approximately 50 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

CRNAs practice in every U.S. state and province and in every practice setting requiring anesthesia, safely administering anesthetics to patients across the United States each year.

CRNA Demographics

60% Female
40% Male

46.1
CRNA Overall Average Age: 46.1 years

33.0
Average Age at Start of Career: 33.0

Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs) and Graduates

8,885
More than 8,885 Students and Graduates are working hard to prepare to be leaders and competent care providers in the dynamic nurse anesthesia profession.

137
There are 137 Accredited Nurse Anesthesia Programs throughout the United States.

SRNA Demographics

64% Female
36% Male

3,300*
Number of Newly Enrolled Students During 2023: Approximately 3,300*

Partial year; enrollment numbers for this period will increase as submissions are reported from Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs

Advancing The Profession: Initial Certification

Each year, the NBCRNA administers various examinations including the Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE) for nurse anesthesia students, the National Certification Examination (NCE) to enter the profession, and the subspecialty Nonsurgical Pain Management Certification (NSPM-C) Examination.

National Certification Examination (NCE)

Candidates in the 137-nurse anesthesia educational programs throughout the United States sit for the NCE, which requires a passing score to become a CRNA. The NBCRNA administers the NCE to measure the knowledge necessary for entry-level nurse anesthesia practitioners.

From January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, a total of 3,613 NCE's were administered; 3,008 candidates were first-time takers with a pass rate of 83.2%. There was a total of 605 repeat administrations of the exam with an overall pass rate of 60.8%. A list of newly certified CRNAs by state of residence is published monthly on the NBCRNA website.

NCE Exit Survey Results

The NBCRNA strives to uphold our customer service commitment to excellence. Overall satisfaction remains high.

From January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023:

98.15% 98.15% of NCE candidates were satisfied with the NBCRNA testing experience.

Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE)

The SEE is an important part of the preparatory process to become a CRNA. The SEE is a voluntary examination with three objectives: to provide information to students about their progress in the nurse anesthesia educational program; to provide information to program administrators on how well their programs are preparing students with the knowledge they need for anesthesia practice; and to prepare students for NCE experience. From January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, a total of 6,361 candidates took the SEEs.

SEE Predictability

The NBCRNA strives to support SRNAs in their journey to become a CRNA. During their education program, students are eligible to take the SEE, which provides insights into their preparedness for the NCE to enter the profession. Each year, a predictability study is conducted on the SEE to gauge predictability in projected performance on the NCE.

- According to the SEE survey, 84.14% of individuals who took the SEE agreed that it helped prepare them to take the NCE.

- An analysis of 2023 SEE and NCE performance showed that, similar to previous years, a clear, positive correspondence exists between the SEE scores and the NCE scores. This information is especially important for nurse anesthesia educational programs to identify how their program is preparing students for the NCE, the examination required to enter the profession.

View the NCE and SEE Annual Report which provides a summary of NCE and SEE Performance and Clinical Experience at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/NCERESOURCES

Subspecialty Certification: Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM) Continues Growth in 2023

Since inception of the NSPM Program through December 31, 2023, 208 CRNAs have earned the NSPM-C credential, 33 of which were achieved in 2023. The NBCRNA's NSPM program was initially developed in 2015 in response to challenges continually faced by nurse anesthetists who practice nonsurgical pain management. The NBCRNA subspecialty certification for nurse anesthetists measures the knowledge, skills and abilities of CRNAs for practice in the field of nonsurgical pain management. A list of new CRNA NSPM-Certificants is published on the NBCRNA website following each exam testing window.

The NSPM credential program is accredited by the NCCA and the ABSNC. Find out more about the NSPM-C Program by visiting the NBCRNA website at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/NSPM

NSPM Exam Statistics

From January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023:

202 202 CRNAs now hold the NSPM-C credential.

33 33 CRNAs earned the NSPM-C credential during 2023.

86.84% The NSPM-C has an 86.84% pass rate.

Supporting Our Collegues

Contributions/Sponsorships

Throughout the year, the NBCRNA proudly sponsors and supports colleagues across the nurse anesthesia profession, as well as the advancement of the credentialing industry, to support program development, credentialing research, the nursing community, and nurse anesthesia students with grants and sponsorships.

During 2023, the NBCRNA contributed to the following programs and organizations to support the CRNA profession and credentialing:

Leadership Excel and Achievement Program

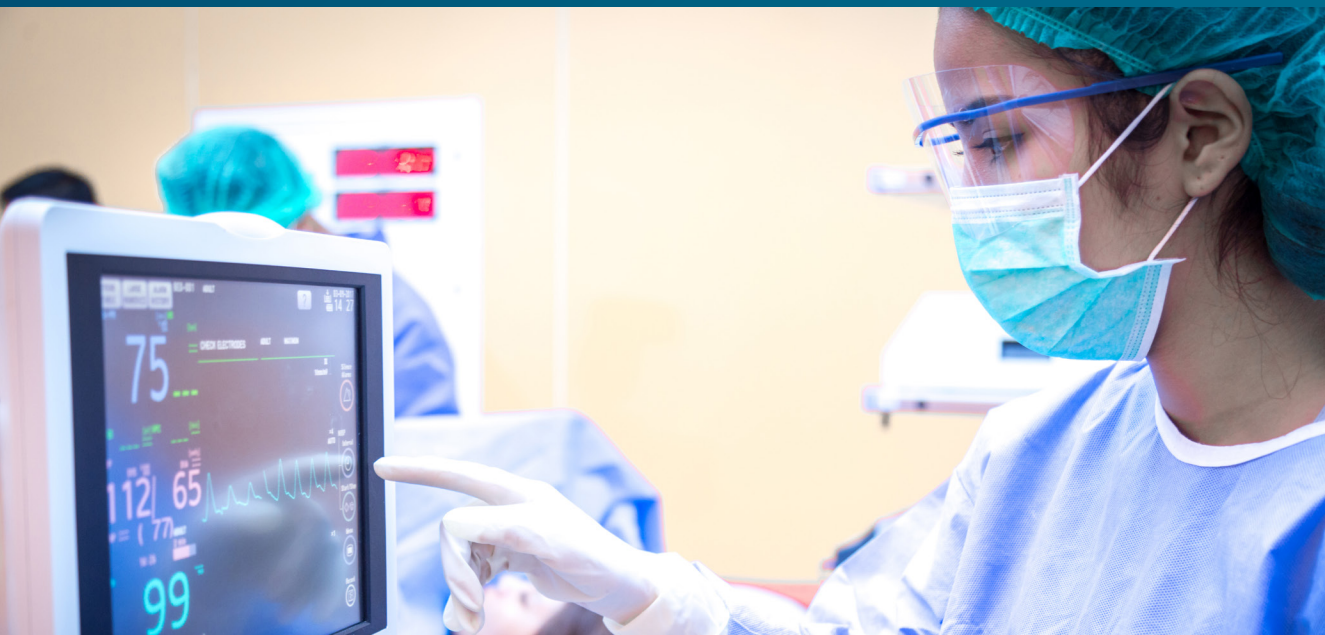Diversity In Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program

Institute for Credentialing Excellence

American Board of Nursing Specialties

AANA Annual Congress Student Luncheon

American Academy of Nursing

Neaux La Mode

NBCRNA Volunteer Program

CPCA Subcommittee

Committees and Subcommittees

The work of the NBCRNA is dependent on the expertise provided by the dedicated CRNAs who volunteer their time each year. During 2023, more than 100 volunteers served on various NBCRNA committees, subcommittees, and panels throughout the year. The NBCRNA would like to thank these individuals for their important work and contributions to their profession. The NBCRNA also thanks the many CRNA ambassadors who provide CPC Program presentations to their colleagues across the nation.

2023 Committees, Subcommittees, and Panels

NCE Subcommittee		
CHAIR Heather Bair	Elizabeth Bamgbose	Reggie Valerio
Anne Sauri	Jason Hayes	Rhea Temmermand
Bernard Gilligan	John Lauro	Terrica Harris
Brittainy Stalvey	Katie Helmrick	Veronica Amos
Cora Rabe	Lauryn Rametta	
Danilo Lovinaria	Mark Caldwell	

NCE Standard Setting Panel

Annastasia Masso	Eric Vargas VanderLee	Michael Imomoh
Clifford Charles	Ethan Moles	Molly McGonigle
Dana Brenhaug	Heather Bair	Nicole Lingle
Devontee' Rayford	Margaret Ludwig	
Emily Ford	Max Rozenberg	

NCE Standard Setting Panel

SEE Subcommittee

CHAIR Sarah Veeneman	Dawn Bent	Nicole "Kay" Moore
Adam Kuz	Donald Stafford	Rachel Smith-Steinert
April Phillips	Gloria Chan	Susan Elczyna
Ashlee Erickson	James Alberding	Wiliam Howie
Beth Crochet	Matthew Harmon	
Brad Stelflug	Mercedes Weir	

CPC Transition Task Force

Garry Brydges	Brett Morgan	Robyn Ward
Jan Setnor		

CPCA Practice Panel

CHAIR Zohn Centimole	Jingjing Sparrow	Nicolas Stalnaker
Adeleke Oyemade	John Volk	Nicole Irick
Craig Atkins	Kristin Bowden	Nikita Layson
Darlene Falco	Lienda Littlejohn	Patty Satariano-Hayden
Dee Bender	Lisa McKenzie	Robert W. Simon
Deniz Dishman	Maria Elena Johnston	Scott Shaffer
James Furstein	Martha Vera	Sekina Showers
Jason S. Bruce	Nancy Moriber	Sonia Mae Beduya
Jennifer Johnson	Natalie Heather	Sophia Assem
Jimmy Kruegar	Nathan Stortroen	Vadim Korogoda

CPCA Subcommittee

CHAIR Emily Funk	Jessica Szydlowski	Patricia (Trisha) Kearnan
Afusat Nesbitt	Joshua Olson	Patricia (Patty) Kitt
Ann Misterovich	Julie Kelbert	Richard Conley
Ann-Marie Whitney	Kenneth Rogado	Steven Fowler
Barbara Beyer	Kimyatta Brent	Tamara Hill
Bradley Wilber	Lelina Gauuan	Tedrick Vernon
Chad Butler	Lindsey Wilson	Terumi Kadin
Gail Crawford	Marc Caruana	Valerie Diaz
Jena Hill	Mark Evans	Yasmine Campbell

CPC Core Modules

Kenneth Wofford	CDR Kennett Radford II	Julia L. Walker
Jennifer Martin	John Borza	Nancy Sweet-Fitzgibbon
CDR Tiffany Unranga	Michael Boytim	Dustin Paul Gill
Virginia Chris Simmons	Franklin McShane	Kyle Dale Nevills
Mark A. Kossick	Vincente Gonzalez	David E. Gaskin
Jessica Phillips	Sarah Jingying Zhang	
Carrie Bowman Dalley	Young (John) Yauger	

Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC)

CHAIR Robin Ward	Rishelle Zhou	Sarah Giron
Kenneth Wofford	Andy Tracy	Nicole Hymel
Edwin Aroke	Deniz Dishman	Sarah Schnabel
Virginia Chris Simmons	Gram Cotton	Sara Gonzalez
Jeffrey Groom	Susan McMullan	

NBCRNA