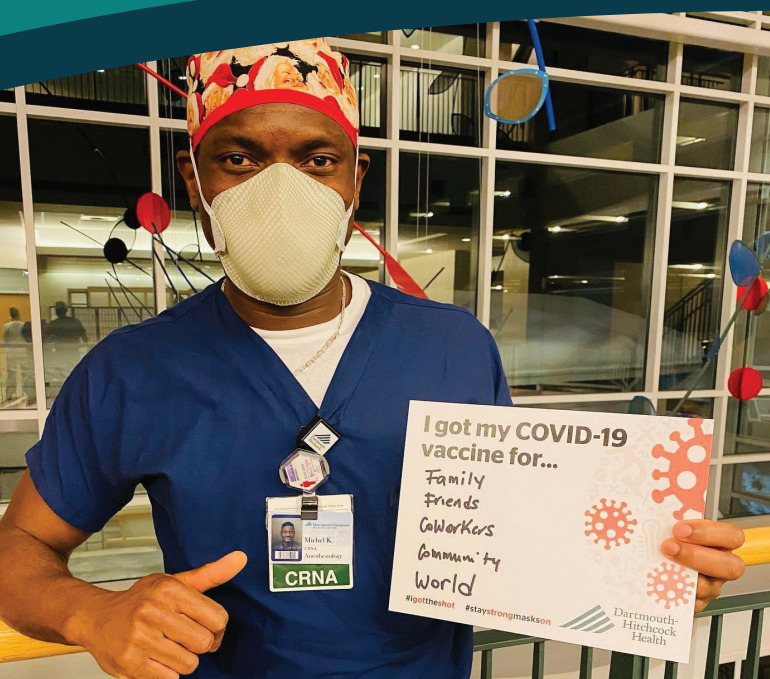


ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020



Did You Know?

- There are more than **55,000** certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) in the United States working in every health care setting in which anesthesia is delivered.
- CRNAs work in both rural and urban areas, in every state and US territory.
- CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in nearly all rural hospitals and are the main provider of anesthesia for members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Learn more about the NBCRNA by visiting
WWW.NBCRNA.COM

NBCRNA
National Board of Certification
& Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

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The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) is the nation's certifying body for the initial, continued, and subspecialty certification of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Our primary responsibility 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.

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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 55,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). 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 assure 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, certification indicates compliance with the professional standards for practice in this vital clinical nursing specialty.

Promoting Patient Safety by Enhancing Provider Quality

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 a dvanced practice nurse credentialing.

Strategic Plan Goals: 2019-2021

VALUE OF THE CREDENTIAL

1

Focus the conversation within the nurse anesthetist profession regarding the value of certification and continued certification (recertification) credentials.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

2

Promote an organizational culture that embraces mission-focused change in the following areas: relationships with key stakeholders; volunteer management; committees; information sharing; and program evaluation and outcomes measurement.

TECHNOLOGY

3

Position the NBCRNA technology and security to meet the needs of the organization.

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

NBCRNA ACCREDITATION

Enhancing the Value of the Credential 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 2018, the NCCA and ABSNC approved the reaccreditation of the NBCRNA certification program and the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program through July 2022. The NBCRNA's Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) subspecialty certification program was granted accreditation by the ABSNC in August 2017, and in 2018 was granted accreditation by the NCCA.

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**





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA
2019 - 2020 NBCRNA President

A year that began just like any other turned into a year like no other. This unprecedented year allowed the value of the CRNA credential to shine, as thousands of CRNAs pivoted and utilized our critical care training to help fill massive health care gaps during the pandemic. CRNAs rose to the challenge time and again in 2020. We showcased our training, flexibility, and professionalism on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

As an organization, NBCRNA also stayed strong, renewing our three Strategic Plan goals to guide our work. These include an emphasis on the Value of the CRNA Credential, specifically the profession's conversation regarding the value of certification and continued certification credentials; our Organizational Culture - to promote a culture that embraces mission-focused change; and Technology - to position NBCRNA's Technology and security to meet the organization's needs.

We also welcomed three new CRNA members to the Board, along with one anesthesiologist member, each bringing depth, new perspectives, and experience to NBCRNA's Board work. They are Garry J. Brydges, Ph.D., DNP, MBA, ACNP-BC, CRNA, FAAN; Robert T. Laird, CRNA; and Lisa M. Riedel, DNP, MS, CRNA along with Sara Gonzales, MD, DABA. They began their three-year terms in October 2020.

Compounding a challenging year, or perhaps in part provoked by it, our country saw an uprise in racial unrest not seen in years. The NBCRNA issued a statement emphasizing the value we place on diversity, noting how we have long felt responsible for contributing professionally to building a health care community of equal opportunity. We saw how the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted healthcare disparities within our society related to outcomes and race. NBCRNA's mission is to protect patient safety by enhancing provider quality, including all patients of all backgrounds, and speaks directly to our core values.

As 2020 wore on, the CRNA profession realized it is not pandemic-proof as we witnessed the cancellation of elective surgeries, for example. Yet because of our strong CRNA credential, we could flex our skills in other areas. Our training and commitment to quality enabled us to showcase our value add, marking our profession's pivotal time.

As we reflect on the life-changing events of 2020, we look forward to brighter days in 2021.

Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE
NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer

This was a challenging year to say the least for all of us—both personally and professionally. For the NBCRNA, it also marked several milestones, beginnings and endings. We saw our strong CRNA credential leveraged and our scope of practice expanded to provide support on the health care front lines throughout the pandemic. Like many organizations and individuals in 2020, NBCRNA embraced agility. Yet, we kept our mission and strategic goals at the forefront to guide us steadily through the disarray that was 2020.

Research remained a key focus for the NBCRNA. To benchmark CRNAs' perceptions of value, satisfaction and quality of the CRNA credential, NBCRNA launched a nationwide survey to all active CRNAs in February. We engaged RTI International to conduct the nationwide survey to gain an understanding of CRNA perceptions of the value of the CRNA credential. This Value of the Credential survey indicated that despite varied work environments, the profession being identified as a high-stress occupation, and legislation impacting scope of practice, an extremely high percentage of CRNAs are personally satisfied with their profession choice, are proud to have obtained the CRNA credential, and indicated that it gives them greater job satisfaction. The survey provided a valuable baseline for better understanding CRNA views on the credential to inform strategic decisions and will be used in future studies for benchmarking and trending over time.

The pandemic also took its toll on testing facility availability, impacting nurse anesthesia students' ability to schedule and take their National Certification Examination (NCE). NBCRNA worked with our testing facility partners to secure additional testing seats and locations. Additionally, US Military Base testing sites were also added to expand opportunities for taking the National Certification Examination and the Self-Evaluation Examination.

Showcasing our position as a leader in the credentialing field, NBCRNA was honored to be awarded the Janel Parker President's Award for Credentialing Excellence by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. The NBCRNA was recognized with this award for its commitment to excellence in certification, research to advance certification, and NBCRNA's

visionary programs.

Two CPC Program-related initiatives also debuted in 2020. A pilot of the CPC Assessment component of the CPC Program was conducted to ensure a smooth launch of this requirement beginning in 2021. This year also marked the first 4-year certification renewal cycle in the CPC Program since its launch in 2016. Because of the impact on continuing education opportunities due to the pandemic, the NBCRNA extended the July 31, 2020 certification renewal deadline by four months to November 30, 2020, to allow additional time to complete any needed credits.

Lastly, this year marked another milestone as I announced my plan to retire as CEO in August 2021. The Board of Directors initiated its CEO succession plan and I will remain in my current role as CEO through the transition. After a 15-year career leading the NBCRNA through incorporation and the launch of a new certification renewal program, among other advancements, I am confident that it is the right time to transition the organization to its next generation of leadership. Serving NBCRNA alongside our growing staff, Board of Directors, the hundreds of volunteers, and on behalf of the over 55,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, has been my great privilege and the highlight of my professional career. I am extremely proud of all that we have accomplished to position NBCRNA as the leader in advanced practice nurse credentialing. As we look to transition to the next chapter in 2021, I have great confidence in the strength of our team and the opportunity ahead for NBCRNA.

I will continue to be a proud part of this amazing CRNA community and profession.

Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE

NBCRNA 2020 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. Two non-voting Emerging Leader Fellows also participate on the Board of Directors as part of the Fellowship.



PRESIDENT

Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA

Terry is currently serving as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. He is a graduate of the DNP Program at the University of Iowa. Prior to leaving the military in 1992, Terry served as Assistant Program Director at the clinical site for US Army's Course for Nurse Anesthetists at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. After graduating from the US Army Anesthesia Course for Nurse Corps Officers in 1986, Terry served as a staff anesthetist at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Terry has also served as President of the Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and for the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists, as well as president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists 2006-07. He was most recently president of the NBCRNA Board of Directors in 2019-2020.



VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Wojnakowski, PHD, CRNA

Mary holds a PhD in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and is an actively practicing anesthesia provider, educator, and researcher. She provides anesthesia services at Maricopa Medical Center, a Level 1 trauma hospital and regional burn center, and Mayo Clinic Hospital. Mary is also on faculty at Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, AZ. Mary actively participates in community and professional organizations at the state and national levels and has published in the AANA Journal, OR Nursing, and the Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing.



SECRETARY-TREASURER

Kevin Driscoll, DNP, MSN, CRNA

Kevin is a Staff Anesthetist at the "National Institutes of Health Clinical Center. This is the world's largest research-only dedicated hospital where they take on medically complex cases to gain greater insights into future diagnosing, treating and curing patients. Prior to that he was at the Johns Hopkins Hospital where he helped lead the first Collaborative Unit Based Safety Program in the Department of Surgery as well as co-chaired a Johns Hopkins Medicine Clinical Community. He received his DNP from Yale University where his focus was on the geo-spatial analysis of the positive correlates for veteran suicide in the post-9/11 veteran communities.

NBCRNA 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS



Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, CRNA

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 member of the Illinois Board of Nursing.



Pamela Chambers, DNP, EJD, MSN, CRNA

Pamela is a member of a private practice anesthesia group in north Texas. She also has a health law consulting firm assisting attorneys, healthcare providers, hospitals, and insurers in matters related to standards of care, resource utilization, and negligence claims. Pamela was on active duty for 18 years in the US Army Nurse Corps, achieving the rank of Major before separating from the Army to attend law school. Pamela has practiced independently all over the country as well as in several locations overseas. In addition to clinical practice, Pamela has authored several articles covering topics in anesthesia clinical practice as well as professional practice matters. She was a past online instructor for the legal nurse consulting program with Kaplan University. Before joining the board of directors, Pamela served on several volunteer panels for the NBCRNA including the SEE committee and as an item writer. Pamela's DNP project topic was Implementing a Quality Measures Trigger Tool in a Private Practice Anesthesia Workgroup.



David Coffman, DO, PhD

David is the surgeon member of the NBCRNA board and is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Surgery at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine-California (TUCOM), Vallejo, CA. He is also a trauma surgeon with the Acute Care Surgicalist Management Group, Sacramento, CA. He obtained his DO from Des Moines University School of Medicine, did his fellowship in Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Yale University, and obtained his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Capella University.



Stephen Klinkhammer, DNP, CRNA, CHSE, APNP, APN

Stephen received his Master of Nurse Anesthesia from the Mayo School of Health Sciences, Rochester, MN, and his Doctor of Nursing Practice from Rush University, Chicago, IL. He has provided anesthesia care in multiple settings including military, government, academic, and private practice. Stephen was on the faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Rosalind Franklin University School of Medicine and Science, is a nationally Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator, and lectures on a regional and national level on various anesthesia-related topics.

NBCRNA 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Susan McMullan, PhD, MSN, CRNA, CNE, CHSE

Susan is an Associate Professor and Nurse Anesthesia Specialty Track Coordinator 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. She has previous academic experience at Rush University Graduate College of Nursing and at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. In her current role, Susan manages day-to-day operations of the Nurse Anesthesia program. She also developed a new doctoral curriculum and transitioned the Nurse Anesthesia Specialty Track from the master's to Doctor of Nursing Practice outcome degree. Susan maintains a clinical faculty practice at UAB Callahan Hospital. Susan is a 2017 American Association of Nurse Anesthetist Post-Doctoral Fellow and 2016 UAB School of Nursing Dean's Scholar Award recipient for her research on CRNA workload and patient safety.



Cormac O'Sullivan, PhD, CRNA, ARNP

Cormac is an Associate Clinical Professor and the director of the DNP program in Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Iowa. He has worked as a CRNA at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for 20 years. He completed his CRNA education at DePaul University and Ravenswood Hospital in Chicago, IL. He received his PhD in Health Services with a focus on Health Economics from the University of Iowa. His areas of research interest focus on quality and safety in surgical patients, and provider and patient preferences for health care services.



Edward J. Susank

Ed is the Public Member of the NBCRNA Board. He previously served as a Public Member on the American Board of Imaging Informatics, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and the Foreign Credentialing Commission of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Ed spent 25 years as a Principal with William M. Mercer, Inc., a benefits and human resource consulting firm. During that time Ed spent 13 years on the governing board of Downey (CA) Regional Medical Center and chaired their board for four years. He has also served on boards or committees for the Hospital Council of Southern California, the California Hospital Association, the American Board of Medical Specialties, AARP, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Alexandria, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education at the University of Minnesota. Ed has been a speaker on programs dealing with employee benefit and health care topics for such organizations as the Federation of State Medical Boards, The Conference Board, and the Society of Enrolled Actuaries.

NBCRNA 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mark H. Zahniser, MD

Mark serves as the anesthesiologist representative on the NBCRNA board. He received his medical degree from the University of Toledo medical school (formerly MCO) in 1990 and currently works in the Department of Cardiac Anesthesia at Cleveland Clinic. He is also Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Mark's primary training in anesthesiology and fellowship in critical care both occurred at the Cleveland Clinic.

EMERGING LEADER FELLOWS



Jessica Kubisch, DNAP, MS, CRNA

Jessica practices anesthesia at a critical access hospital in rural Oregon, where she provides compassionate, evidence-based anesthesia care for surgical, emergency, and obstetric patients. Prior to this, she worked at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital as a Staff CRNA and clinical site faculty for Georgetown University's Nurse Anesthesia Program. Jessica is a graduate of Georgetown University where she received her MSN and obtained her DNP from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her critical care experience was completed in the Pediatric ICU at UCLA Medical Center. Currently, she is involved in implementing enhanced surgical care and recovery pathways, as well as developing a program to utilize high-fidelity simulation for interdisciplinary crisis resource team training in the operating room.



Michael T. Rucker, DNP, CRNA, LCDR, NC, USN

Michael is a Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy and is a CRNA practicing as Assistant Clinical Site Director for the Uniformed Services University Nurse Anesthesia Program clinical site at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA (NMCP). He also serves as a staff CRNA for the NMCP Anesthesia Department, which includes providing general, regional and neuraxial anesthesia. He holds a DNP from the Uniformed Services University and serves as the Chairperson of the command Procedural Sedation Committee and the education coordinator for the command Procedural Sedation Monitors course.

Learn more about the volunteer Board of Directors that governs the NBCRNA credentialing programs by visiting WWW.NBCRNA.COM/BOARD

Survey Shows CRNAs are Highly Satisfied with the Profession Choice Despite Challenges

In February 2020, the NBCRNA engaged RTI International to conduct a nationwide survey of more than 55,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to gain an understanding of CRNA perceptions of the CRNA credential. More than 10,000 CRNAs responded to the Value of the Credential (VOC) survey, providing important insights.

This first phase of the multi-phase Value of the Credential study indicated that despite the various work environments, the profession being identified as a high-stress occupation, and legislation impacting scope of practice, an extremely high percentage of CRNAs are satisfied with being a CRNA, are proud to have obtained the credential, and indicated that it gives them greater job satisfaction.

● Learn more about the 2020 Value of the Credential Study Results and Highlights in the NBCRNA Credentialing Research section on page 16 of this Annual Report.

96%

of respondents agreed
(somewhat or strongly)
they were personally
satisfied with being
a CRNA.



The CRNA Credential Shows **VALUE**

The strong CRNA credential continues to be recognized as validation of knowledge in the nurse anesthesia profession. CRNA certification creates undeniable value as evidenced by patients, employers, and regulators who recognize that the CRNA credential stands for quality and competence in nurse anesthesia practice, creating numerous opportunities in various practice settings in an ever-changing and evolving health care environment. The rigorous and demanding initial education and training, followed by ongoing continued certification, places nurse anesthetists at the forefront of ensuring continuing competency in health care practitioners.

The CRNA Credential Shows **PRIDE**

Nurse anesthetists take justifiable pride in the history and success of their profession. NBCRNA's unwavering focus on patient safety honors that tradition and will continue to protect the value of the CRNA credential, as the CRNA profession continues to grow year over year.



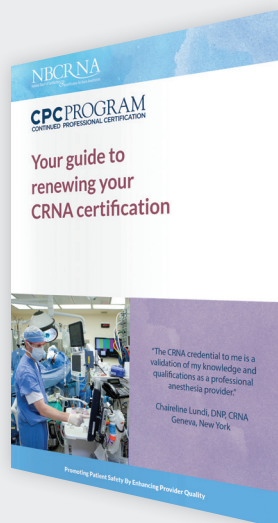
VALUE OF THE CRNA CREDENTIAL

CRNAs are Committed to Lifelong Learning

The Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program provides the framework for nurse anesthetists to demonstrate to their patients, patient families, and colleagues that they have the knowledge to provide high quality patient care throughout their career.

NEW RESOURCES DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT CRNAS AS MANY PREPARED TO RENEW THEIR CERTIFICATION IN 2020

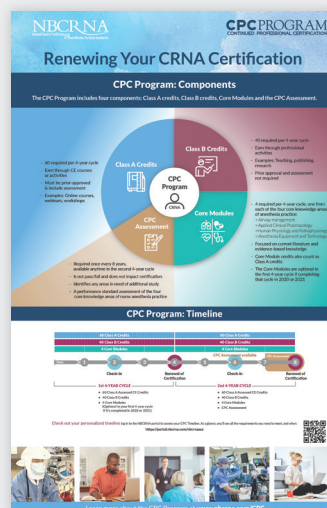
The CPC brochure offers a clear, straightforward overview of the CPC Program and each of the components.



The 4-minute video provides an overview of CPC Program components, supporting CRNAs' commitment to lifelong learning.



The updated CPC web pages provide a new, interactive view of the CPC Program.



The CPC poster provides a visual overview of the CPC Program. Many CRNAs have displayed the poster in their office or facility to help fellow CRNA colleagues as they work towards their CPC renewal.

VALUE OF THE CRNA CREDENTIAL

NBCRNA Celebrates National CRNA Week 2020!

National CRNA Week is celebrated during the last full week in January on an annual basis and the NBCRNA is a proud supporter. In celebration of National CRNA Week 2020, NBCRNA promoted the event on our website and social media outlets through engaging posts focused on the value of the CRNA credential, including CRNA testimonials.

Celebrate National CRNA Week!

Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care in the United States for the last 150 years, with a credential that represents accountability to the public that CRNAs are competent to provide safe, high-quality care.



“

“The CRNA credential to me is a validation of my knowledge and qualifications as a professional anesthesia provider.”

– Chaireline Lundj, DNP, CRNA



Learn more about what the credential means to CRNAs. Visit the spotlights page on the NBCRNA website at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/SPOTLIGHTS



NBCRNA Celebrates Nurses Month 2020!

This year, National Nurses Week was extended to a month-long celebration during the entire month of May to expand opportunities to elevate and celebrate nursing. Given the prominent role nurses were to play in the coming months during the COVID-19 pandemic, this longer celebration was especially appropriate. The celebration is a time “to recognize the vast contributions and positive impact of America’s four million registered nurses,” according to the American Nurses Association. To help celebrate, NBCRNA created



a dedicated area on its website with information on the celebration week and nursing, a feature on the website home page, as well as regular social media posts promoting #NationalNursesMonth. Thank you, nurses!

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) safely administer approximately 43 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). Today, over 55,000 professionals hold the nurse anesthetist certification in the United States and practice in every type of setting requiring anesthesia, from delivery rooms and dental offices to operating rooms and outpatient surgical centers.

NBCRNA CREDENTIALING RESEARCH

NBCRNA's research initiative allows us to leverage today's technologies and research to continue to develop the evaluation of the current NBCRNA credentialing programs, and investigation of the question: What are optimal* ways to assess and maintain knowledge? From a multi-phase nationwide CRNA survey on the Value of the Credential to the addition of a fifth subcommittee, research is helping to guide the work of the NBCRNA on behalf of the nurse anesthetist profession. Research and technologies will continue to impact CRNA practice in various ways over the coming years and the NBCRNA is committed to research in determining optimal* ways to assess and maintain the knowledge needed for initial and continued board certification over time in CRNA practice. **evidence-based, valid, reliable, feasible, desirable, and viable*



The Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC)

The NBCRNA Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC) is responsible for developing an evidenced-based evaluation of all recommendations related to the credentialing programs to help inform the NBCRNA. In 2020, the ERAC spearheaded the Value of the Credential (VOC) study. Through its work like the VOC study, the committee assists the board in providing oversight for project development and design, ongoing analysis, outcomes, and reports related to the NBCRNA's credentialing programs.

Fifth ERAC Subcommittee Established

As part of this ongoing work, the NBCRNA's ERAC established a fifth subcommittee in 2020 to focus on research specific to credential value and satisfaction. The subcommittees now include:



VALUE AND SATISFACTION SUBCOMMITTEE:

Added in 2020: This subcommittee was formed to investigate how to measure and evaluate value and satisfaction of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) credential.



SIMULATION-BASED CPC ASSESSMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE: This subcommittee was established to explore innovative simulation modalities and determine what role, if any, they may play in NBCRNA credentialing programs (i.e., screen-based simulation, extended reality, oral exams, and as well objective structured clinical examination).



LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE: This subcommittee was formed to investigate the use of longitudinal assessment as an alternative or option to the CPC Assessment and throughout NBCRNA's credentialing programs.



METHODS TO ASSESS KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE SUBCOMMITTEE:

This subcommittee was formed to explore current and innovative methods for assessment of CRNAs' crucial clinical decision-making knowledge, judgement, and skills throughout their career. These methods include: Simulation, Longitudinal Assessment, and Virtual Reality – Gaming. The subcommittee has completed their work and are developing a final report.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) SUBCOMMITTEE:

This subcommittee was formed to explore considerations on examination performance for examinees with English as a second language (ESL) and Limited English proficiency (LEP) and provide recommendations to the NBCRNA Board of Directors.

Value of the Credential Survey Conducted Results Published Fall 2020

As part of NBCRNA's strategic priority, a multi-phase research initiative on the Value of the Credential (VOC) was launched through a survey to collect data from the population of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) on their perceived value of the CRNA credential.

The purpose of this baseline survey was to obtain a better understanding of CRNA perceptions on the value of the credential, holistically, throughout their career and not on any specific credentialing program. Overall, the findings from the VOC survey revealed that CRNAs have a highly favorable view of the credential. More than 10,000 CRNAs responded to the survey, providing important insights. Phase I of this multi-phase project focuses on benchmarking and better understanding perceived value of the CRNA credential by the CRNA community. NBCRNA Chief Research Officer Dennis Spence, PhD, MS, CRNA, FAAN, noted that upcoming phases of the Value of the Credential survey will look more closely at the CPC components and process for further evaluation.

Value of the Credential (VOC) Survey Results & Highlights



96% of respondents agreed (somewhat or strongly) they were personally satisfied with being a CRNA.

94% agreed (somewhat or strongly) being a CRNA has given them greater job satisfaction.

93% agreed they were proud to have the CRNA credential.

92% felt the credential was somewhat or extremely valuable to them.

92% agreed earning the CRNA credential was a significant personal achievement.

91% agreed (somewhat or strongly) that the CRNA credential demonstrates that they have met a professional standard.

87% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with having the CRNA credential.

86% responded that the CRNA credential represented good or excellent quality.

The survey provided NBCRNA with a valuable baseline for better understanding CRNA views on the credential to inform strategic decisions and will be used in future studies for benchmarking and trending over time.

- View the Executive Summary and full report on the research studies page at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/RESEARCH-STUDIES
- Read the press release on the NBCRNA website at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/PUBLICATIONS

NBCRNA CREDENTIALING RESEARCH

NBCRNA Completes CPC In-Person and Remote Online Proctored Pilot

The NBCRNA launched a pilot study for the CPC Assessment (CPCA) using two testing conditions: in-person at testing centers and remotely using online proctoring. A total of 314 candidates completed in-person testing in February 2020 and 220 completed testing via remote online proctoring in August 2020.

The Remote Online Proctored Pilot featured online testing with a record and review component. This means that all sessions were reviewed by trained vendor staff and any areas of question or concern were flagged for NBCRNA review and final decision. There were no testing performances that were determined to be in violation of NBCRNA's rules of conduct for the pilot. This pilot effort provided the NBCRNA with valuable insights beyond the test scores of the participants. The pilot concluded in August 2020, followed by data analysis and finalized scoring.

- Find out more about the data-driven activities of the NBCRNA, the Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee, and more, on the Research section of the NBCRNA website. Visit WWW.NBCRNA.COM/RESEARCH



NBCRNA Welcomes New Visiting Research Fellow

The NBCRNA Visiting Research Fellowship Call for Applications was sent to more than 55,000 CRNAs in early March 2020, inviting those interested and eligible to apply. **NATALIE MEYERS**, PhD, CRNA, was selected as the 2021 Visiting Research Fellow. Dr. Meyers joined inaugural Visiting Research Fellow Nicole Hymel, DNP, CRNA, MSN, APRN.

- Learn more about this unique opportunity and others by visiting the Get Involved! Page on the NBCRNA website at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/GET-INVOLVED

ERAC Committee Member Publications and Awards

NBCRNA congratulates several of its committee members who received prestigious awards during 2020.



ERAC committee member **SARAH JINGYING ZHANG**, PhD, CRNA, was presented the prestigious 2020 John F. Garde Researcher of the Year Award by the AANA Foundation. Dr. Zhang is currently working on a retrospective study of ketamine's effect on postoperative delirium, and tranexamic acid effect on blood loss in complex spine cases.



ERAC Simulation Subcommittee Co-Chair, **VIRGINIA C. MUCKLER**, DNP, CRNA, CHSE-A, FAAN, co-authored an article in the August 2020 *AANA Journal* on perioperative anesthetic techniques to reduce surgical morbidity after amputation. Muckler also published the paper, "Recertification and Reentry to Practice for Nurse Anesthetists Using High-Fidelity Simulation: Phase III," in the October 2020 *Journal of Nursing Regulation*.



Visiting Research Fellow, **NICOLE HYMEL**, CRNA, DNP, published results from her doctoral work on development of an antiemetic decision support tool in the August 2020 *AANA Journal*.



EDWIN N. AROKE, PhD, CRNA, a member of the ERAC committee, co-authored a review on the pharmacogenetics of postoperative pain management in the June 2020 *AANA Journal*.

- Stay up to date about NBCRNA's research initiatives and the activities and projects of the Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC) at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/RESEARCH

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION (CPC) PROGRAM

CPC Cycle Deadline Extended Four Months Due to Pandemic

During 2020, more than 20,000 CRNAs finished their first four-year cycle of the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program and successfully completed the first certification renewal since the launch of the program in 2016. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the NBCRNA extended the July 31, 2020 certification renewal deadline by four months to November 30, 2020, allowing additional time to fulfill the CPC requirements.*

21,588 CRNAs

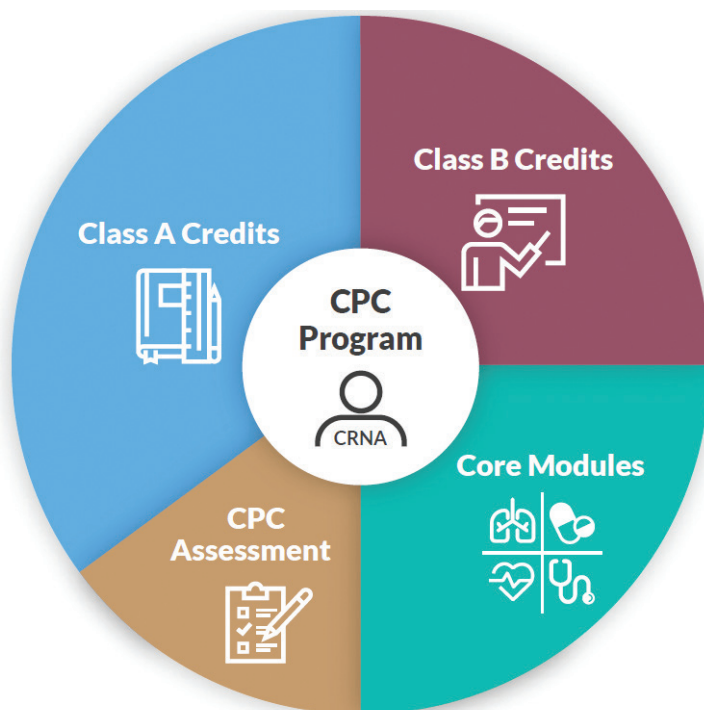
completed the 2020 CPC Renewal.*

*Those with the extended November 30, 2020 renewal deadline.

*The goal of the NBCRNA is to stay connected with the CRNA community and be responsive and supportive during such unprecedented times. Read the press release on the NBCRNA publications page at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/PUBLICATIONS

To help CRNAs understand their requirements for renewing their certification in the CPC Program, a robust marketing campaign accompanied the opening of the application window and continued throughout 2020, further educating the CRNA community about the CPC Program as they progress through the program's first 8-year period.

The CPC Program reinforces the validity, integrity, and value of the CRNA credential by providing the framework to demonstrate that throughout their careers nurse anesthetists have the knowledge and skills to provide safe, effective patient care in a constantly evolving health care environment.



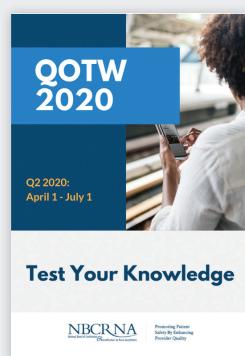
Learn more about the CPC Program at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/CPC

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION (CPC) PROGRAM

NBCRNA Adds Sixth Core Module Provider

During 2020, a sixth Core Module vendor was added to the list of approved providers. Core Modules, a component of the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program, are a specialized type of continuing education (Class A) credit that helps CRNAs stay current in their practice. Core Modules focus on recently emerging information and evidence-based knowledge, bringing recent information to CRNAs in an educational format, addressing the four core domains of nurse anesthesia practice.

Learn more about Core Modules and vendors at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/COREMODULES



NBCRNA Launches New Question of the Week (QOTW) Booklet

During 2020, the NBCRNA developed an additional resource to help CRNAs prepare for the upcoming Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA). The QOTW Booklet aggregates all weekly Questions of the Week posted on social media in a downloadable format. Each booklet includes approximately 13 questions, with answers and rationale, and complements the CPCA Practice exam as a study source.

Visit the NBCRNA website to view and download the booklet at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/QOTW

Looking Ahead: The Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA)

CRNAs will begin taking the CPCA, a performance standard assessment, beginning in 2021. The 150 multiple choice assessment covers knowledge in the four knowledge 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.

THE CPCA ASSESSES KNOWLEDGE IN THE FOUR KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE

34%

Airway
Management

24%

Applied Clinical
Pharmacology

24%

Human Physiology and
Pathophysiology

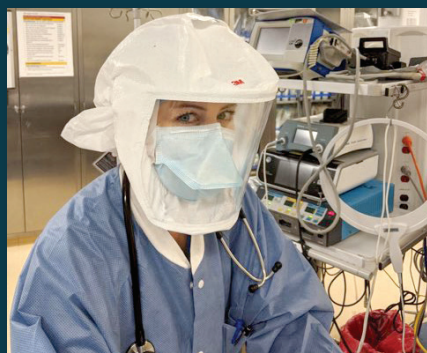
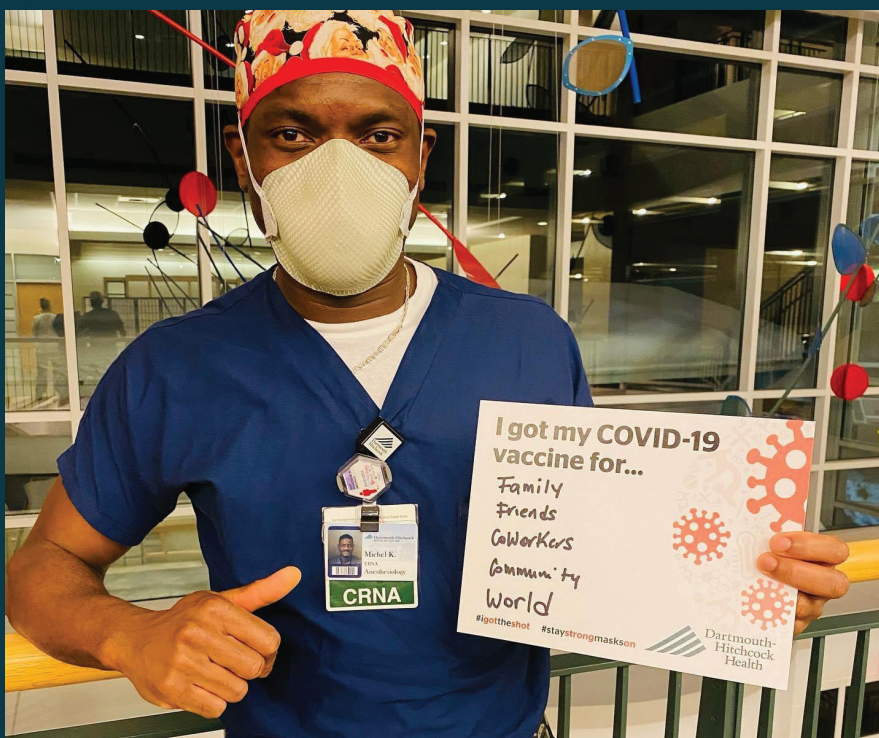
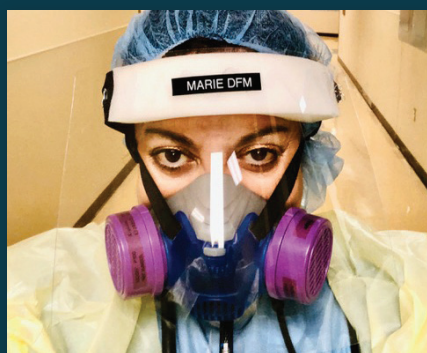
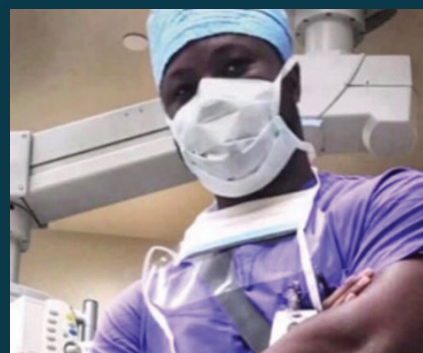
18%

Anesthesia Equipment,
Technology,
and Safety

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

CRNAs Take on the Front Lines: COVID-19

With the massive impact of COVID-19 on the health care environment, the NBCRNA reflects on all that occurred during 2020. We are thankful for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) who stepped up, shared expertise, and helped those in need, underscoring the critical work that nurse anesthetists perform every day. CRNAs provided undeniably courageous and professional care to their patients during the pandemic and this past year would not have been the same without their expert care. Thank you, CRNA heroes!



MEET THE CRNA!

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)

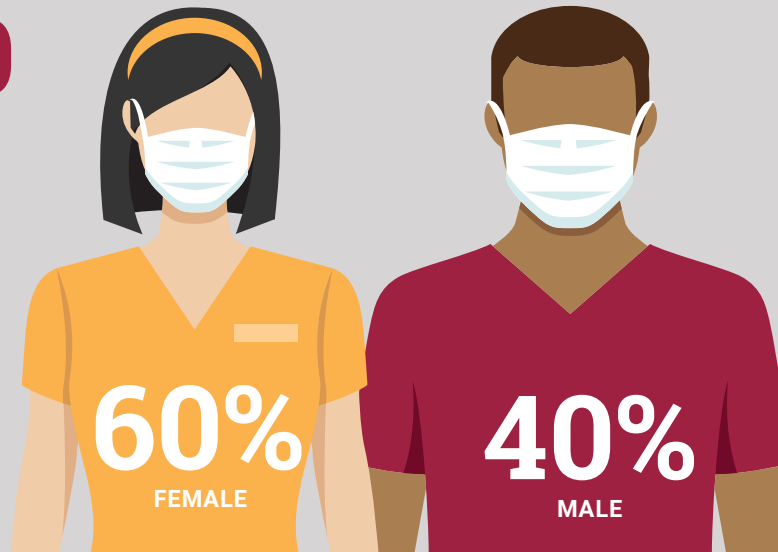
BY THE NUMBERS

55,000

There are more than 55,000 nurse anesthesia professionals who hold the CRNA Credential.

2,600

More than 2,600 newly certified CRNAs entered the field during 2020.



46.7

CRNA Overall Average Age

32.9

Average Age at Start of Career

CRNAs safely administer approximately **43 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.

Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs) and Graduates

BY THE NUMBERS

7,000

More than 7,000 Students and Graduates are working hard to prepare to be leaders and competent care providers in the dynamic nurse anesthesia profession.

124

There are 124 Accredited Nurse Anesthesia Programs throughout the United States.



NUMBER OF NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS DURING 2020:

Approximately 3,090

Learn about NBCRNA Initial Certification Programs at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/INITIAL-CERTIFICATION

NBCRNA Pivots with Virtual Outreach to CRNAs



Live presentations at state association and vendor conferences remain a critical component of NBCRNA's CPC Program educational outreach. As meetings were forced to cancel in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NBCRNA continued this initiative by promoting the availability of live, online presentations at virtual meetings to continue to provide information on the CPC Program to CRNAs across the country. Though a few in-person presentations were still held, the information-sharing, presentations continued using remote and virtual platforms.

Throughout 2020, CPC Program educational outreach delivered 24 live presentations in 18 states. This effort provided valuable, real-time information and opportunity for Q&A to CRNAs across the nation. Additional outreach included CPC Program information and updates in videos, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) publications, and more. More than 4,000 CRNAs across the United States were reached in 2020 through these in-person presentations, webinars, or were provided resources.

24 PRESENTATIONS
18 STATES
4,000 CRNAs REACHED

Learn more about CPC Program Nationwide Outreach on the CPC Toolkit page at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/CPC-TOOLKIT



See what CRNA facilities are saying about the CPC Program Update Webinar



When I requested that a CPC program webinar be held for the Marshfield Medical Center System CRNAs, the NBCRNA staff were responsive to my inquiry and, above all, communicated a palpable excitement about the event. The presentation they had prepared was polished, informative, and comprehensive; despite the short hour timeframe my group allowed them. Overall, our entire group was grateful to the presenters and appreciative of both having learned new information and having the opportunity to clarify our understanding of the CPC Program."

- Seth Hamre CRNA, APNP

State Association Outreach

State Associations play a vital role in connecting the CRNA community to the NBCRNA and to disseminate CPC and other credential-based information. The NBCRNA continued to expand on these developing relationships in 2020 through increased outreach via the quarterly State Association Newsletter, materials, and resources, and by providing CPC Program speakers and presentations at state meetings.



View recent editions of the State Association eNewsletter on the NBCRNA State Association webpage at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/STATE-TOOLKIT

SEE WHAT STATE ASSOCIATIONS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE CPC PROGRAM UPDATE WEBINAR

“Our members enjoyed having the CPC content as part of our Fall Meeting. We appreciate the NBCRNA's assistance coordinating and thank our speaker!”

–Autumn Phelps, Association Manager, Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KyANA)

State Toolkit Webpage

The NBCRNA's State Association Toolkit webpage was completely revised in 2020, adding new, ready-to-post articles, information, social media posts, and resources to include on the states' own websites, and in newsletters and other communications.

The updated State Association Toolkit resource page provides states with direct access to resources and CPC Program materials to help their members better understand and navigate the CPC Program and access important certification news. In support of lifelong learning, the goal of this continuing outreach is to build relationships and disseminate certification and other valuable content and resources to CRNAs throughout the country.



STATE ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT

Due to consistent outreach efforts, multiple state associations have added and or further incorporated NBCRNA State Association Toolkit resources to their website, including the New York Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NYSANA). Thank you, NYSANA, for supporting the goal of disseminating CPC Program materials to your CRNA members!

Find the State Association Toolkit on the NBCRNA State webpage at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/STATE-TOOLKIT



NBCRNA ELECTIONS

New Board Members and New Board Orientation

During 2020, NBCRNA welcomed three newly elected CRNAs to its Board of Directors, an anesthesiologist, and a new Emerging Leader Fellow, for the 2021 fiscal year. The new members underwent orientation throughout the spring and summer, including a virtual session in August 2020 where CEO Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE, and President Kevin Driscoll, DNP, MSN, CRNA, welcomed them to the organization and provided key information and overviews of the organization's governance and operations. The new directors began their three-year terms in October 2020. 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.

The NBCRNA Board of Directors represents the NBCRNA to internal and external constituents, and all Directors represent the broad interests of the NBCRNA and support the mission, purpose, goals and policies of the NBCRNA at all times. The Board is comprised of nine certified registered nurse anesthetists, a representative of the public, and a board-certified surgeon and board-certified anesthesiologist, both of whom have a working relationship with nurse anesthetists. The Board also includes two non-voting Emerging Leader Fellows* who are early-career CRNAs identified as future leaders in the profession. These volunteers log nearly 300 hours each year conducting the work of the NBCRNA participating in ongoing Board development and meetings. They additionally serve on committees and/or task forces throughout the year.

**The Emerging Leader Fellowship provides a one-year leadership opportunity for newly certified nurse anesthetists identified as future leaders in the profession. The Fellowship is designed to expose rising leaders in nurse anesthesia to board governance, high level-decision making, and trends affecting the future of the profession. The leadership development and experience fostered in this Fellowship will prepare nurse anesthetists for future board and committee work within the NBCRNA and beyond. This is a non-voting position on the NBCRNA Board of Directors.*

NBCRNA VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 2020



NBCRNA Board members, AANA Board liaisons, and NBCRNA staff attended the virtual Board meeting in October 2020.

NBCRNA ELECTIONS

Meet the new Board Directors and Emerging Leader Fellow



GARRY BRYDGES, PHD, DNP, MBA, CRNA, ACNP-BC, FAAN

Garry Brydges is the Chief Nurse Anesthetist and Director of Anesthesia Quality & Outcomes at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, overseeing a group of over 110 CRNAs. He is also adjunct faculty at University of Texas and Baylor College of Medicine Nurse Anesthesia Programs. He continues a passion for teaching and precepting students in focused areas of neurasthenia, and his acute care nurse practitioner expertise in cardiovascular surgery. Garry graduated from the University of Texas Nurse Anesthesia Program and was the recipient of the Agatha Hodgins Outstanding Graduate Award. He was inducted in 2018 as a Fellow into American Academy of Nursing for his work in Opioid-Sparing Strategies.



ROBERT LAIRD, 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. While studying anesthesia in the residency program at Wichita General Hospital in Wichita Falls, TX, 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. He has continued to practice full time, managing a four CRNA group and serving as Chief of Anesthesia for four ASCs and one rural hospital.



LISA RIEDEL, DNP, MS, CRNA

Lisa M. Riedel is the director for the University of Tulsa Doctoral Program of Nurse Anesthesia. She 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.



EMERGING LEADER FELLOW: SARA MYERS, DNP, CRNA

Sara practices anesthesia at Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, MO. She is a clinical instructor and Professor for the Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia. Sara earned a BA from the University of Kansas, a BSN from Creighton University, and her DNP from the University of Missouri Kansas City. She has volunteered on a variety of national committees and panels, including the AANA Practice Committee (2017-2020) and NBCRNA CPCA Item Writing Committee (2019-2020). Sara enjoys participating in at least one medical mission trip annually.



SARA C. GONZALEZ, MD, DABA

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 (NMCS) and obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. She serves as a Commander in the United States Navy at NMCS where she is a staff obstetric anesthesiologist and the Residency Program Director.

Read the press release announcing the new CRNA Board Members on the NBCRNA Publications page at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/PUBLICATIONS

Call for Applications: Certificant-Elected Director

A Certificant-Elected Director is a CRNA who is elected by the full 55,000 CRNA community to serve a three-year term on the NBCRNA Board of Directors. In the fall 2020, the NBCRNA held a Call for Applications for the Certificant-Elected Director (CED) position on the 2021 – 2022 NBCRNA Board of Directors.

Applications are reviewed by both the NBCRNA and AANA Boards of Directors. Interviews with selected applicants for the position and all-CRNA voting will take place in early 2021, with results announced in March 2021. The Certificant-Elected Director position provides a unique and valued perspective for the NBCRNA Board's work, priorities, and discussions.



Hear from a former Certificant-Elected Director

PAMELA CHAMBERS, DNP, EJD, MSN, CRNA

“My time as a member of the Board of Directors of the NBCRNA has been enlightening, engaging, and just plain fun. I expected to learn and contribute; I've done both. It has been extremely enlightening to learn of the complex operations required to develop and administer the testing processes for certification and maintenance of certification. Additionally, the vast amount of knowledge present in one room discussing all matters to run a complicated national organization is just beyond amazing to the uninitiated. I've made lifelong friends and developed relationships with other CRNAs who feel as strongly as I do that we can never be satisfied with mediocrity. I now am comfortable advocating for my profession and managing all manner of intricate operations required for fiduciaries in today's professional business environment. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and I am ready to tackle the next chapter in continued patient and provider advocacy.”

NBCRNA Emerging Leader Fellowship

The NBCRNA Emerging Leader Fellow Call for Applications launched in early March 2020 to more than 7,000 CRNAs certified within the past two-to-five years inviting them to apply for the one-year fellowship position on the NBCRNA Board of Directors. The NBCRNA was pleased to name Sara Myers, DNP, CRNA, as the new Emerging Leader Fellow. Dr. Myers began her term in October 2020.

CRNAs early in their practice have a unique view of the profession they have recently entered and represent the profession's leaders of the future. The NBCRNA Board of Directors includes two Emerging Leader Fellows as an effort to provide that exposure to high-level board governance within their profession, preparing them for volunteer service throughout their career.

New Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 Executive Committee

The incoming Executive Committee was named and began their terms in October 2020. They include President Kevin Driscoll, DNP, MSN, CRNA, Vice President Cormac O'Sullivan, PhD, CRNA, ARNP, and Secretary/Treasurer Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, CRNA.



KEVIN DRISCOLL
DNP, MSN, CRNA



CORMAC O'SULLIVAN
PHD, CRNA, ARNP



LORI ANDERSON
DNP, MSN, CRNA

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

The CRNA credential is the gold standard board certification for advanced practice registered nurses, who are experts in the field of anesthesia. The credential is awarded to those who demonstrate the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to deliver quality, safe, effective, reliable anesthesia care.

The high standards for achieving and maintaining the CRNA credential instills confidence among certificants in their professional ability to provide safe, individualized care to the patients they serve.

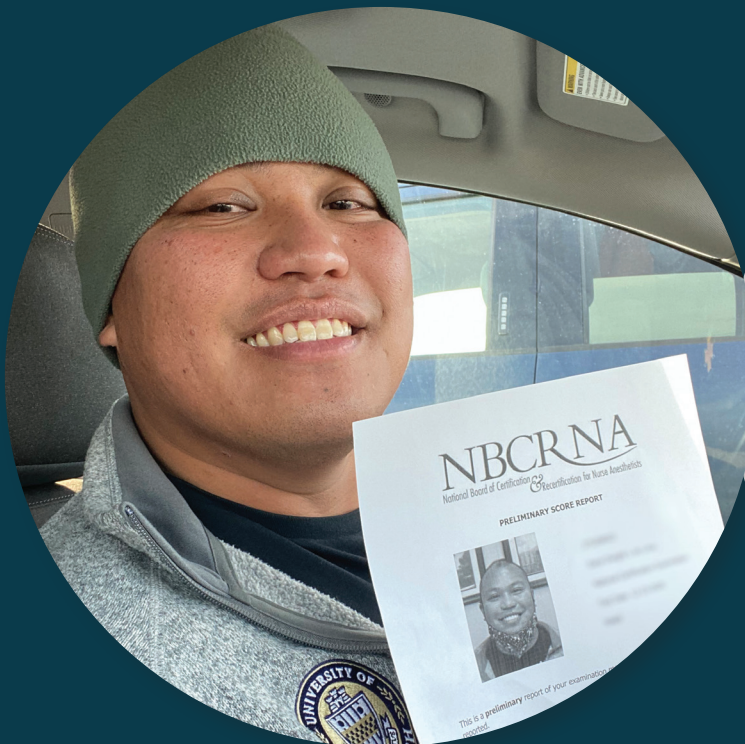
As a guardian of public safety, the NBCRNA is dedicated to protecting the integrity of the exams which are an integral part of nurse anesthesia training. This dedication benefits both patients and nurse anesthetists.

Each year, 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

Each year, candidates in the 124 nurse anesthesia educational programs throughout the United States sit for the National Certification Exam (NCE), which requires a passing score to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). The NBCRNA administers the NCE to measure the knowledge necessary for entry-level nurse anesthesia practitioners.

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the number of NCE candidates testing increased over the previous year despite pandemic constraints. There were a total of 3,130 NCE administrations; 2,630 candidates were first-time takers with a pass rate of 85.2%. A list of newly certified CRNAs by state of residence is published monthly on the NBCRNA website.



NCE Exam Statistics

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

3,130

candidates took the NCE.

2,630

candidates were first-time test takers.

85.2%

overall pass rate for first-time test takers

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

NCE Exit Survey Results

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

THE NBCRNA STRIVES TO UPHOLD OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. OVERALL SATISFACTION REMAINS HIGH.

97%

of NCE candidates agreed or strongly agreed that the NCE application process was very easy.

96%

of NCE candidates agreed or strongly agrees that NBCRNA responded to their questions in a timely manner.

96%

of NCE candidates were satisfied with the NBCRNA.

Self-Evaluation Examination

The NBCRNA Self-Evaluation Examination (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 the National Certification Examination (NCE) experience. From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, a total of 4,450 candidates took the Self-Evaluation Examination.

SEE Predictability

The NBCRNA strives to support Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (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, 95.6% of individuals who took the SEE agreed that it helped prepare them to take the NCE.
- An analysis of 2020 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.

● Read the SEE Predictability Report on the NBCRNA website at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/INITIAL-CERTIFICATION

SEE Exam Statistics

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

4,450

4,450 candidates took the Self-Evaluation Examinations.

95.6%

According to the SEE survey, 95.6% of individuals who took the SEE agreed that it helped prepare them to take the NCE.

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

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

NBCRNA Launches New Test Center Opportunities for Military in 2020

Periodically, nurse anesthesia students are deployed soon after completing their nurse anesthesia educational program, as are civilian students who have post-graduation commitments with the armed services, and active-duty service in our military programs. In these cases, the graduate may experience a significant delay in being able to take their National Certification Examination following deployment.

To reduce the incidence of this delay, NBCRNA worked with Pearson VUE testing center representatives during 2020 to provide National Certification Examination (NCE) and Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE) testing access to active duty military at select US military base sites. The military testing channel went live on June 29, 2020 and supports SEE/NCE testing needs at select US military bases in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. On-base testing provides defense employees with the opportunity to conveniently test where they serve, diminishing the delay, cost and interruption associated with arranging state-side testing if or when that option is available.

Read the press release on the NBCRNA Publications page at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/PUBLICATIONS

Subspecialty Certification: Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) Continues to Grow

Since inception of the NSPM Program through December 31, 2020, 105 CRNAs now hold the NSPM-C credential, 28 of which were achieved in 2020. 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.

NBCRNA Awarded 2020 Janel Parker President's Award for Credentialing Excellence

The NBCRNA was pleased to be awarded the 2020 American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) Janel Parker President's Award for its leadership in the certification industry. The award recognizes an individual or organization within the ABNS membership that has made significant contributions to specialty nursing certification and to the association. The NBCRNA was recognized with this award for its commitment to excellence in certification, research to advance certification, and NBCRNA's visionary programs. NBCRNA is honored to be recognized by the ABNS for the notable work it takes part in within the nursing specialties industry. The Janel Parker President's Award was announced at the ABNS Conference, March 5-6, 2020, in Atlanta.



“The NBCRNA is very deserving of the Janel Parker President's Award. The award nomination is quite impressive and demonstrates both industry leadership and deep commitment to specialty nursing certification and the patients who benefit from it.”

— Janie Schumaker, MBA, RN, CEN, CPHQ, CENP, FABC, President, American Board of Nursing Specialties

NSPM Exam Statistics

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

The NSPM credential program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC). Find out more about the NSPM-C Program by visiting the NBCRNA website at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/NSPM

105

105 CRNAs now hold the NSPM-C credential.

28

28 CRNAs earned the NSPM-C credential during 2020.

87.5%

The NSPM-C has a 87.5% pass rate.

THE FUTURE OF NURSE ANESTHESIA: STUDENT REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS (SRNAs)

New SRNA Resources Launched

During 2020, NBCRNA focused on building an earlier relationship with the more than 7,000 student registered nurse anesthetists and graduates. This included the creation of new, helpful resources to assist them throughout their journey towards becoming a CRNA. The goal of the outreach to students is to develop a long-term, positive relationship even before they begin their CRNA career.

New Student Toolkit

NBCRNA launched the new Student Toolkit Infographic providing students with a variety of helpful resources including videos, NCE/SEE Exam Tutorials, the NCE Bibliography, the NCE/SEE Interpretive Guide, NCE/SEE FAQs, and more.

View the new student toolkit infographic at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/STUDENTS

New Student e-Newsletter

To build on the NBCRNA-Student relationship, a student e-Newsletter was launched in September 2020. View the e-Newsletter and other student communications and resources at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/STUDENTS



NBCRNA SHARING AND SEEKING EXPERTISE

Recognized as the leader in advanced practice nurse credentialing, NBCRNA regularly seeks opportunities to share expertise in credentialing and interact with like organizations and professionals from around the world. In 2020, NBCRNA staff, Board and committee members had numerous opportunities to share expertise with colleagues from across the credentialing and related professions.

NBCRNA Participates at AANA ADCE Meeting

The NBCRNA was pleased to meet with nurse anesthesia program administrators from around the country at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators (ADCE) meeting in February 2020, in Braselton, GA. NBCRNA Board members and staff hosted an exhibit booth where they met with program administrators, students and others to provide education on NBCRNA's credentialing programs. NBCRNA Director of Credentialing Kathryn Berry, MEd, scheduled one-on-one meetings with program directors to address their unique program needs and provide an orientation to NBCRNA's new database platform.



AANA January 2020 NewsBulletin Article on CPC Program

An article on the CPC Program was published in the January 2020 issue of the AANA NewsBulletin, titled, "CPC Program Begins Second Four-Year Cycle: What Members Need to Know." The four-page article provided an overview of the CPC Program and the distinct roles of the NBCRNA and AANA. NBCRNA staff Chief Credentialing Officer John Preston, DNSc, CRNA, FNAP, APRN, and Director of Credentialing Kathryn Berry, MEd, were interviewed for or provided input and review of the information.

ERAC Subcommittee Members Present Virtual Posters at the 2020 American Academy of Nursing Virtual Conference

The "Assessment During Recertification: A Scoping Review" poster was presented by Kenneth A. Wofford, PhD, CRNA, Kay Sanders, DNP, CRNA, and Edwin Aroke, PhD, CRNA, and discussed how there are limited studies on the assessment of Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) or clinical performance in non-physician providers and that only a few studies report on the use of novel methods such as gaming, longitudinal assessment, or simulation. Recertification organizations, especially for advanced practice nurses, should prioritize and incentivize research programs to close these knowledge gaps and ground future recertification programs on substantial evidence.

The "NBCRNA Pilot: Simulations in Lieu of Recertification Exam" poster reviewed and addressed simulation as an alternative to the existing 150-item multiple choice question (MCQ) CPCA. This poster was presented by Suzie Kardongh-Edgren, PhD, RN, ANEF, CHSE, FSSH, FAAN, Virginia "Chris" Muckler, DNP, CRNA, CHSE-A, FAAN, and Michele Abersol, PhD, RN, CHSE, FAAN.



NBCRNA CRO Awarded FAAN Designation

NBCRNA Chief Research Officer (CRO) Dennis Spence, PhD, MS, CRNA, FAAN, was selected to join the 2020 Class of Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing.

ERAC Members Submit and Publish Journal of Nursing Regulation Manuscripts

Members of the NBCRNA Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee's (ERAC's) Value and Satisfaction Subcommittee submitted a manuscript entitled, "Value of the Credential Phase 1: CRNA's Perspective" to the *Journal of Nursing Regulation*. Congratulations on this work. Additionally, ERAC Simulation Subcommittee Co-Chair, Virginia "Chris" Muckler, DNP, CRNA, CHSE-A, FAAN, co-authored a manuscript entitled, "Recertification and Reentry to Practice for Nurse Anesthetists Using High-Fidelity Simulation: Phase III" published in the October 2020 issue of the *Journal of Nursing Regulation*.



NBCRNA Testing and Credentialing Publish Paper in Journal of Nursing Regulation

NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer, John Preston, DNSc, CRNA, FNAP, APRN, Senior Director of Testing, Mary Browne, MA, Director of Test Development, Matt Ferris, MA, MBA, CAE, ELS, and ERAC Subcommittee Chair Chris Gill, MS, MSN, CRNA, authored the paper, "Validity Evidence for the Continued Professional Certification Assessment: Professional Practice Analysis of the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists." This important work will be released in the January 2021 edition of the *Journal of Nursing Regulation*.

ERAC, ESL Subcommittee Members Submit Manuscript to AANA Journal

Members of the ERAC English as a Second Language (ESL) Subcommittee submitted a manuscript entitled, "Translation of Credentialing Examination for Providers with English as a Second Language: An Exploratory Study" to the *AANA Journal*.

NBCRNA Staff, Board Members Participate in I.C.E. Exchange

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

NBCRNA Chief Research Officer (CRO) Dennis Spence, PhD, MS, CRNA, Director of Evaluation and Research Shahid Choudhry, PhD, MPH, and other NBCRNA staff, along with 2021 Board member Garry Brydges, PhD, DNP, MBA, CRNA, ACNP-BC, FAA, ERAC Simulation Subcommittee Co-Chair, Virginia “Chris” Muckler, DNP, CRNA, CHSE-A, FAAN, and Simulation Subcommittee member Gaige Flewelling, BSN, RN, CCRN, SRNA, led a successful half-day pre-workshop, “How Logic Models are Used to Plan, Implement and Evaluate Innovative Credentialing Programs” at the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.) Exchange.

I.C.E. EXCHANGE PANEL: COMMUNICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTIFICATION TO THE PUBLIC

NBCRNA Public Member of the Board of Directors Ed Susank and Chief Communications and Governance Officer Lisa Kamen, CAE, participated in a panel discussion on communicating to the public about the importance of certification during the I.C.E. Exchange conference. The session underscored the benefits of helping the public understand and value the certification of their health care providers.

NBCRNA TESTING DIRECTOR PROVIDES REMOTE PROCTORING EXPERTISE FOR I.C.E.

At the request of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.), Senior Director of Testing Mary Browne, MA, authored an article for the Credentialing Insights publication. The article, “Key Challenges to Remote Proctoring: Communications and Technology, Security, and Privacy,” discusses NBCRNAs journey into online proctoring. This was a follow-up to an April webinar in which Mary was a panelist presenting on benefits and challenges to remote proctored exam administration, lessons learned, and concerns moving into the future.

Mary is also serving on the I.C.E Certification Development Steering Committee, developing a Certification Program for Credentialing Professionals.



NBCRNA PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN CREDENTIALING INSIGHTS

Sharing testing expertise with the broader testing community, NBCRNA Director of Test Development Matt Ferris, MA, MBA, CAE, ELS, co-authored an article with Nathan Thompson, PhD, of Assessment Systems Corporation (ASC) in *Credentialing Insights*, the online journal for the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.). The article, “A Brief Introduction to Technology-Enhanced Items,” discusses pros and cons of alternative item types, also known as technology-enhanced items (TEIs).

DIRECTOR OF TEST DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN I.C.E TASK FORCE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH; STUDY PUBLISHED

NBCRNA Director of Test Development Matt Ferris, MA, MBA, CAE, ELS, participated on a Criminal Justice Research Task Force for the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.) that initiated a research project to explore how private certification organizations use information about an individual's criminal history in making credentialing decisions. The resulting Criminal Justice Research Study was released by the I.C.E. in spring 2020.

SUPPORTING OUR COLLEAGUES AND PROFESSION

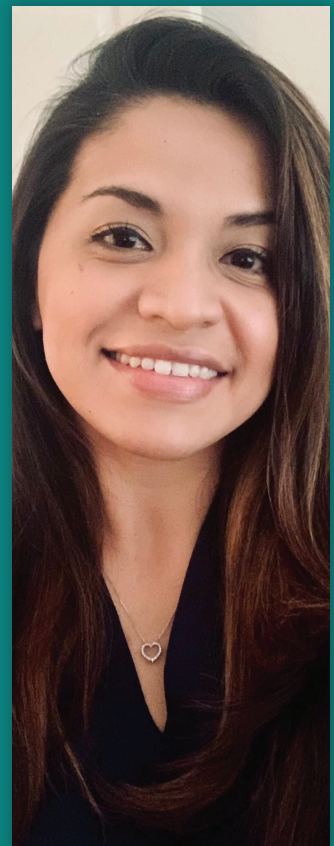
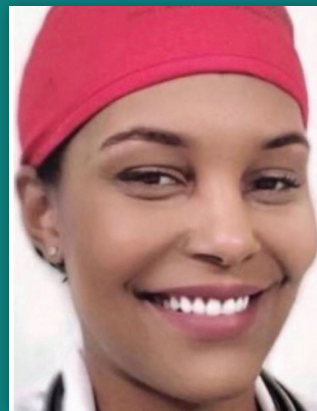
Contributions/Sponsorships

Throughout the year, 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 2020, the NBCRNA committed a total of \$63,000 in contributions to programs and organizations to support the CRNA profession and credentialing.

NBCRNA's Commitment to Diversity Initiatives

The NBCRNA has continually supported the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program (DNAMP) initiative for the past six years. NBCRNA also regularly provides speakers for various DNAMP meetings and in 2020, as many meetings moved to a virtual platform, provided a recorded presentation on the CPC Program for the DNAMP attendees. The mission of the DNAMP is to inform, empower and mentor underserved diverse populations with information to prepare for a successful career in nurse anesthesia.



SUPPORTING OUR COLLEAGUES AND PROFESSION

NBCRNA Continues Support of Diversity Initiative

“In 2020, we had to live through two pandemics: dealing with the deadly effects of COVID19 and a social justice movement. These two major events disrupted our daily lives in a profound way and limited our ability to network and mentor in close spaces.

The Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program mission remained intact with adapting to these changes with conversion of online content. First, we had to recognize the pain communities of color experienced as a result of the heaviness of dealing with death and COVID-19-related illnesses of family members and friends. Second, we shared an invaluable amount of online content with diverse nurses and nursing students to help them become competitive applications, as well as continued the networking opportunities with CRNAs and SRNAs of color.

All of the diversity initiatives in the last year prominently acknowledged the NBCRNA as a proud sponsor in our monthly Diversity CRNA Newsletters, online content and displayed on our website. On behalf of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program, we are grateful towards the NBCRNA for investing in the future of Nurse Anesthesia workforce even through a challenging time in our nation's history.”

- Wallena Gould, EdD, CRNA, FAAN, Founder & CEO, Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program

Did You Know?

82 of the 124

The DNAMP has members that have graduated from or currently enrolled in 82 of the 124 nurse anesthesia programs throughout the United States.

11%

Percent of CRNAs that are of color.

Learn more about the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program (DNAMP) at WWW.DIVERSITYCRNA.ORG

NBCRNA Civil Unrest Statement

During 2020, NBCRNA made a statement regarding the tragedies and social unrest erupting across the nation. NBCRNA President Wicks said in the statement:

“NBCRNA deeply values diversity and we have long felt a responsibility to contribute professionally to building a health care community of equal opportunity. Our mission to protect patient safety by enhancing provider quality includes all patients of all backgrounds and speaks to our core values. We will continue our longtime support of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program which promotes nurse anesthesia workforce programs, helping to embrace the diversity and various cultures of our profession.”

Read the full statement at WWW.NBCRNA.COM/PUBLICATIONS



NBCRNA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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 2020, more than 200 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.

2020 COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES AND PANELS

Communications Committee

Chair: Terry Wicks
Gram Cotton
Chris Gill
Jessica Kubisch

CPCA Practice Panel

Johanna Newman
Heidi Beverly
Mark Caldwell
Zohn Centimole
Darlene Falco
Jena Hill
Terri Kane
Daniel King
April Phillips
Eleanor Rawson
Nancy Westbrook

CPCA Item-Writing Oversight Subcommittee

Chair: Jennifer Thompson
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Raymond Bonds
Peggy Contrera
Cheryl Hines
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Elizabeth Kelly
Vadim Korogoda
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Robert W. Simon
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Anne Sauri
Lori Ann Winner
Jennifer Thompson
David Schwytzer
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CPCA Professional Practice Analysis Panel

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Kristin Bowden
Gram Cotton
Steven Donnan
Laoma Gerike
Elizabeth Gilmore
Chris Guess
Brian Haschke
Scott Johns
Marquerite Kelly-Salo
Henry Lang

Continued...

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Deborah Lowery
Michael Marks
Jane R McGowan
Eric McNaughton
Cheri Morio
Lisa Munger
William Prosser
Kelli Pryor
Ginger Stubbs
James Sykes
Stacey Vandyke
Amy Zhou
Lori Anderson



NBCRNA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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Maureen Devlin
Deniz Dishman
Steven J. Fowler
Mike Frame
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Lorena Huff
Cheryl Johnson
Maria Elena Johnston
Darlena Jones
Basem Jumaa
Kimberly Kimble
Jack Kless
Jimmy Krueger
Judith Lewis
Jacqueline Mainwaring
Matthew McCoy
Michele McGuire
Nancy Moriber
Sara Myers
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Crystal O'Guin
Adeleke Oyemade
Virginia Londahl-Ramsey
Manu Reddy
Lisa Riedel
Scott Shaffer
Jingjing Sparrow
John Thomas
Judy Thompson
Martha Vera
James West
Stephanie Woodruff
Kathleen Wren

CPC Core Module Recognition Panels

Including Airway Management Techniques, Applied Clinical Pharmacology, Equipment and Technology, and Human Physiology and Pathophysiology.

Chair: John Borza
Chair: Dustin Paul Gill
Chair: John Nagelhout
Chair: Larry Alan Todd
Chair: Kenneth Wofford
Jennifer Martin
(Virginia) Chris Muckler
Carrie Bowman Dalley
Rachel Davis
Lisa Maw
Ken Radford
Michael Boytim
Franklin McShane
John Maye
Joseph E. Pellegrini
Julia L. Walker
Michael Brown
Kyle Dale Nevills
David E. Gaskin
Vincente Gonzalez
Sarah Jingying-Zhang
Young Auger

CPC Discovery Speakers

Pamela Chambers
Kevin Driscoll
Chris Gill
Susan McMullan
Michael Rieker
Michael Rucker
Terry Wicks
Mary Wojnakowski
Steve Wooden

Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC)

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Edwin Aroke
Grady Barnhill
Susan Kardong-Edgren
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Natalie Meyers
Virginia (Chris) Muckler
Susan McMullan
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Edward Waters
Terry Wicks
Kenneth Wofford
Mary Wojnakowski
Sarah Jingying-Zhang
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Pamela Jeffries
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Bailey Augustine
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ERAC Methods to Assess Knowledge and Competence Subcommittee

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Nicole Hymel
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Rishelle Zhou

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Sarah Jingying-Zhang
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Anne Marie Remy
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NBCRNA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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Charles (Chuck) Griffiths
Andi Stamper
Myron Arnaud
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Grady Colson Barnhill
Jared Riel
Joe Chapman

NCE Subcommittee

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Daniel Bell
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Jose Ramirez
Brian H. Jacobs

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Gram Cotton
Jacob Szafranski
Lisa Pearson
Shane Garner

SEE Subcommittee

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Cora Rabe
John Lauro
Kathleen Fear
Laurn Rametta
Marco Perez
Michael Conti
Rachel Smith-Steinert
Reggie Valerio
Sallie Porter
Sarah Veeneman-Puckett
Stephanie Stewart
Thomas Lansden





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