



NBCRNA  
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022





TABLE OF  
CONTENTS

ABOUT THE NBCRNA	4
NBCRNA ACCREDITATION	5
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	6
MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	7
NBCRNA 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	8
NBCRNA STAFF LEADERSHIP	13
CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION (CPC) PROGRAM	14
NBCRNA CREDENTIALING RESEARCH	16
NBCRNA WEBSITE REFRESH	18
CRNAS BY THE NUMBERS	19
NBCRNA ELECTIONS	20
ADVANCING THE PROFESSION: INITIAL CERTIFICATION	22
SUPPORTING OUR COLLEAGUE’S	24
NBCRNA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	26



# 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 59,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Our mission is to guard the well-being of the public—our patients—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.

### 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 advanced practice nurse credentialing.

## CORE VALUES

### RESPECT

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

### 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.

### PROTECTION

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

# 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.

"The re-accreditations from the NCCA and ABSNC are the gold standard when it comes to providing certification for nursing professionals," said NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer John C. Preston, DNSc, CRNA, FAANA, FNAP, APRN. "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](http://WWW.NBCRNA.COM/ACCREDITATION)



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

During my tenure as the President of the NBCRNA Board of Directors (BOD), we were able to make significant strides in advancing our mission, vision, and core values through our work, to demonstrate that nurse anesthetists around the country possess the essential knowledge to practice safely and effectively. During 2022, the NBCRNA implemented positive changes to enhance our services to CRNAs across the country, while continuing our work with future advancements for nurse anesthesia credentialing.



**CORMAC O'SULLIVAN, PHD,  
CRNA, ARNP, FAANA**

As credential renewal deadlines approach over the next 24 months for CRNAs in the second cycle of the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) program, thousands of CRNAs will need to take their Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA). No matter what future modifications to the CPC program are implemented, **all CRNAs** will be required to take the CPCA at least once in its current form.

Based on feedback from CRNAs, NBCRNA took the necessary steps to make registering and taking the CPCA a more streamlined process that works best with CRNAs busy schedules. If you haven't taken the assessment yet, I encourage you to do so as soon as you can – don't delay. You can now take the CPCA year-round. You do NOT need to wait for a testing window.

The first step for improvement was switching the NBCRNA's online assessment provider to Pearson OnVue, to provide an upgraded online experience. As second step for an improved experience, NBCRNA worked with Pearson Vue to offer the CPCA year-round, eliminating specific testing windows. Finally, as a third step for an improved CPCA experience, CRNAs are now provided an immediate preliminary score report with official assessment results being provided to candidates in one to two business days, whether the assessment is taken remotely or at a brick-and-mortar testing center.

In addition to all those CPCA enhancements, NBCRNA launched a research study in April 2022 to explore the potential of Longitudinal Assessment (referred to as LA) as the assessment component for the CPC program. NBCRNA's research will seek to determine comparability in performance among participants who take the CPCA in its current single long form versus those who engage in an LA configuration. The LA assessment participants answer 30-40 questions per calendar quarter, receive immediate performance feedback and also receive rationales

and referencing for the questions. Results from this study will help inform the NBCRNA BOD's decisions for potential future changes to the CPCA program requirements.

In closing, I've had the great pleasure of working with the NBCRNA BOD, our Chief Executive Officer John Preston, and John's staff, to put these improvements and enhancements into effect. I am excited to hear about the results of the LA research study after it is presented to the BOD in the summer of 2023. I've seen firsthand how John and his entire staff at the NBCRNA are dedicated to continuously evaluating, developing and implementing credentialing programs that promote lifelong learning for nurse anesthetists with one over-arching goal in mind; to ensure that your CRNA credential is, **and remains**, unassailable as the gold standard in advanced practice nursing certification.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It has been a busy and exciting 2022 for the NBCRNA. As the Chief Executive Officer, I could not be prouder of the tremendous accomplishments of my staff, nor more thankful for the guidance provided by our Board of Directors (BOD). As an organization committed to our mission, vision, and core values of protection, trust, respect and recognition, we have continued to make great strides in advancing the credentialing position of our profession and all the certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) around the country we are so fortunate to serve.



**JOHN C. PRESTON, DNSc, CRNA,  
FAANA, FNAP, APRN**

Our staff and BOD continue on their path of lifelong learning while also serving as leaders in advanced practice registered nursing credentialing. I want to highlight some of the accomplishments of these amazing individuals over the past year.

Christopher Gill, PhD, MBA, CRNA, ACNPC-AG, FACHE, NBCRNA's Chief Credentialing Officer, became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders. FACHE status represents achievement of the highest standard of professional development and only 8,866 healthcare executives in the US hold this distinction. Dr. Gill also completed his educational program and was subsequently certified as an Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in addition to being a CRNA. His additional board certification demonstrates his expanded knowledge, skills, and abilities in a complementary fashion to his CRNA.

Timothy Muckle, PhD, ICE-CCP, NBCRNA's Chief Assessment Officer, earned the designation of ICE-CCP from the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.). This credential is the demonstration of the culmination of professional accomplishment, the completion of a significant curriculum of credentialing-related educational content and the successful completion of a rigorous certification examination.

Matt Ferris, MA, MBA, CAE, ELS, NBCRNA's Senior Director of Testing, was accepted in to the I.C.E. Leadership Academy. This program is aimed at growing and preparing future leaders for I.C.E. and the programs they represent.

Carlos Cardenas, CAE, NBCRNA's Senior Director of Information Technology, earned the Certified Association Executive credential. This credential is the marker of a committed association

professional who has demonstrated the wide range of knowledge essential to leading and manage non-profit organizations.

The following individuals on the NBCRNA BOD, including myself, have been honored as Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FAANA, a recognition bestowed upon the most accomplished leaders in the field of nurse anesthesia):

Inducted into the inaugural class of 2021 were NBCRNA BOD Members Garry Brydges, PhD, DNP, MBA, CRNA, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANA, Sonya Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNA, FAANA, FAAN, along with NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer John Preston, DNSc, CRNA, FAANA, FNAP, APRN. Class of 2022 inductees included NBCRNA President Cormac O'Sullivan, PhD, CRNA, ARNP, FAANA, NBCRNA Vice President Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, CRNA, FAANA, NBCRNA Treasurer Susan McMullan, PhD, CRNA, CNE, CHSE, FAANA, FAAN, and NBCRNA BOD Member Sarah Giron PhD, CRNA, FAANA.

Of significant note is that Dr. McMullan and Dr. Moore both were inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in October 2022. The American Academy of Nursing serves the public by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With fewer than 3,000 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

Working with the NBCRNA BOD and staff every day and seeing their dedication to all CRNAs across our country, I am excited about the future of our organization and profession. It is my distinct honor and privilege to serve in my role of Chief Executive Officer for the NBCRNA and it is with great pride that I acknowledge the many NBCRNA accomplishments, which are always aimed at fulfilling our strategic goal of life-long learning and the demonstration of knowledge requisite for high-level competent practice that promotes patient safety and enhances provider quality.



# NBCRNA 2022 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

### CORMAC O'SULLIVAN, PHD, CRNA, ARNP, FAANA

Dr. Cormac O'Sullivan 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 26 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, perioperative crisis management, and provider and patient preferences for health care services.



## VICE 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.



## SECRETARY/TREASURER

### 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.



## DIRECTORS

### GARRY BRYDGES, PHD, DNP, MBA, 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.

### KEVIN DRISCOLL, DNP, MSN, CRNA

Dr. Kevin Driscoll is a Staff Anesthetist at the National Institute 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 John 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.



\*Kevin is serving in a personal capacity.



**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 (NMCS D) and obstetric anesthesiology fellowship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. She serves as a Commander in the United States Navy at NMCS D 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**

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.



**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.



**LISA M. BENNET, 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.



**TERRY WICKS, DNP, MHS, CRNA**

Dr. Terry Wicks 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.



**EMERGING LEADER FELLOWS**

**SARA MYERS, DNP, CRNA**

Dr. Sara Myers 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.



**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.



**NBCRNA  
LEADERSHIP**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
JOHN C. PRESTON, DNSc, CRNA, FAANA, FNAP, APRN**

Dr. John Preston was named NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer in April 2021 after six years as the NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer. He 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, he 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**

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, information technology and office operations. She has over 13 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.

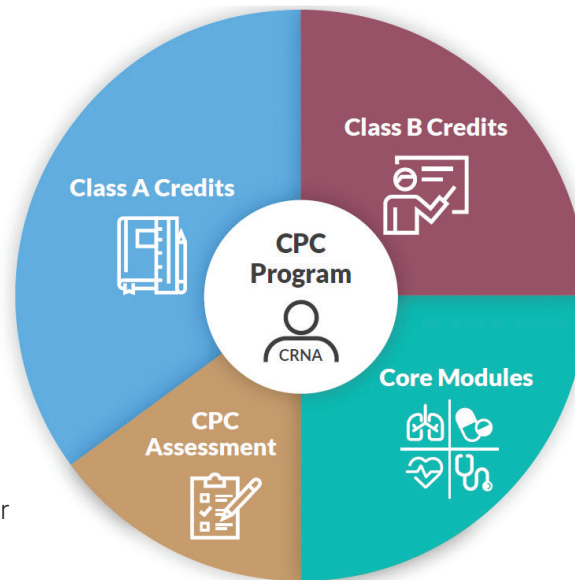




# CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION CPC PROGRAM

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 APRN regulatory requirements of every state Board of Nursing.

The program also reinforces the validity and value of your



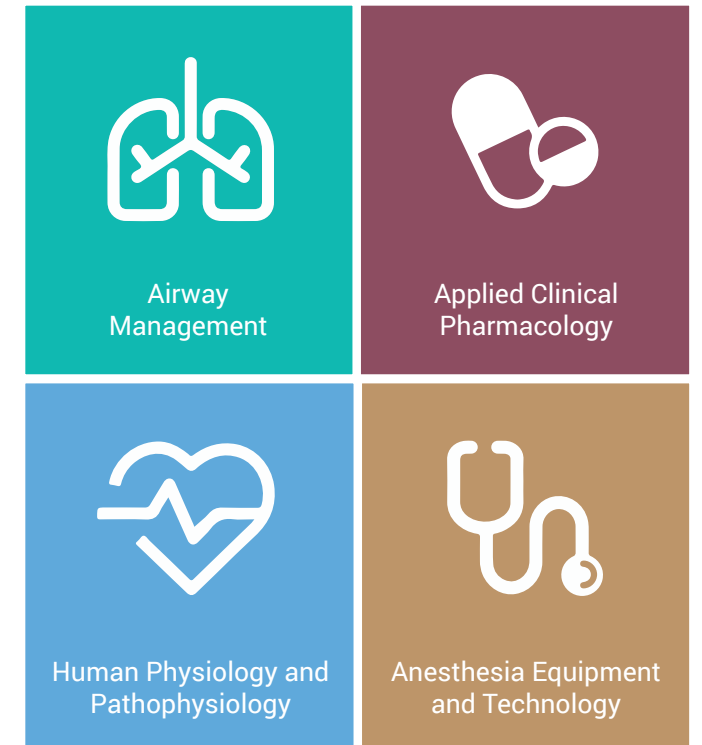
CRNA credential, demonstrating to your patients, their families and your employer that you meet the credentialing requirements designed to promote lifelong learning, help you maintain current anesthesia knowledge, and encourage patient safety— even as the health care environment constantly changes.

*The 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 CPC Assessment at [WWW.NBCRNA.COM/CPCA](http://WWW.NBCRNA.COM/CPCA)



## THE CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT (CPCA)

As CRNAs move through the 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 early August 2022, NBCRNA announced the CPCA is now available year-round, either in-person at a Pearson VUE center or online through Pearson OnVUE. The CPCA application and scheduling process remains unchanged - CRNAs can apply for the CPCA via the NBCRNA portal, and then schedule the CPCA at the date and time that is most convenient for them.

Additionally, based on feedback from the CRNA community, NBCRNA took the necessary steps to provide CPCA results, both preliminary and official, much earlier than the previous 90-day waiting period. CRNAs are provided a preliminary performance report immediately upon completing the CPCA. An official score report will be provided within 1-2 business days, after the assessment has been verified and finalized by the NBCRNA.

**In 2022, 1,589 CPC assessments were delivered.**





# CREDENTIALING RESEARCH

## LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENT RESEARCH STUDY BEGINS IN 2022

The NBCRNA is committed to the evaluation of our assessment processes on a regular basis, which includes elements of the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) program. In 2021, the NBCRNA Board of Directors approved a new research study to explore the potential of longitudinal assessment (LA). Longitudinal assessment, as compared to a single large test, 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. After

receiving an incredible response with 7,659 applications, 1,000 CRNAs were selected and notified they had been chosen to participate. 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.

User experience feedback from the study has been very positive. CRNAs like the format, the process, and the fact they can take the Assessment on their own time in their home on a browser of their choice.

### WHAT IS LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENT?

Longitudinal Assessment delivers shorter, ongoing assessments, with immediate feedback and rationales to increase understanding and reinforce knowledge.

Once the study ends in April 2023, NBCRNA will conduct a thorough review and analysis of the resulting data to determine the viability, feasibility and acceptability of LA as an alternative to the CPCA. Results from this study will help inform the NBCRNA Board of Directors' decision on whether to change to LA instead of the CPCA requirement.

**Please note, unless a CRNA's requirement has been met through participation in one of NBCRNA's pilot studies or research studies, every CRNA will have to take the CPCA at least once in its current form (3 hours, 150 questions in-person or online) regardless of the outcome of this study.**

Continuing education with assessment supports lifelong learning and enhances our professional standing by providing important external validation of the expertise CRNAs possess to patients, regulators and employers. The NBCRNA is committed to always employing the best tools to support these critical goals.

## NEW NBCRNA RESEARCH AGENDA

In October 2022, the Board of Directors approved a new research agenda for the NBCRNA, as proposed by the Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC). The five research questions on the Research Agenda are:

- Do any of the NBCRNA credentialing programs exhibit bias against any groups (e.g., age, gender, race/ethnicity, and native language)?
- Is the SEE providing nurse anesthesia educational program faculty useful information or are additional enhancements needed?

- Is certificant performance comparable on CPCA and CPCA-LA; are there significant differences in perceptions among CRNA participants who complete either modality as well as their perceptions on the feasibility and acceptability of CPCA-LA?

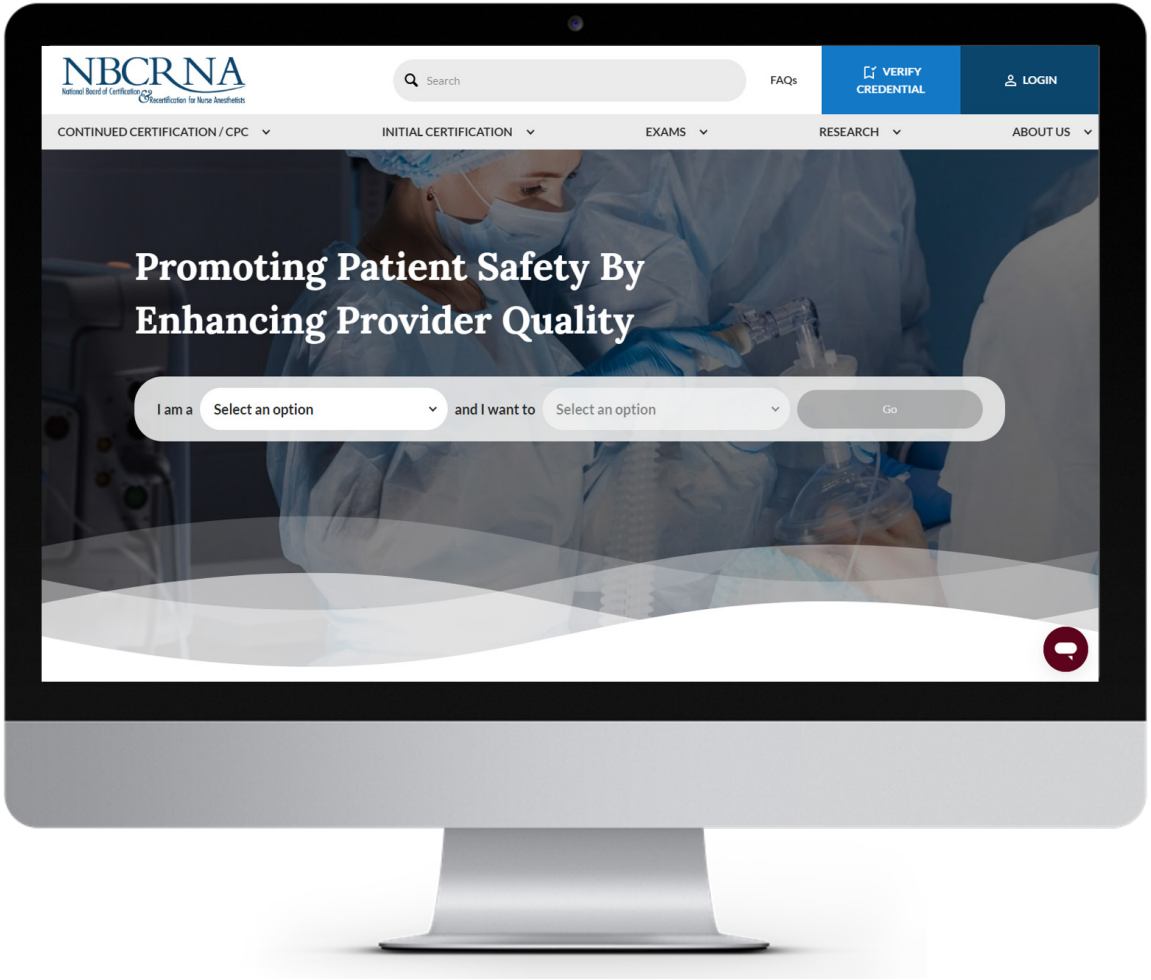
- What changes, if any, are needed to the CPC Program?
- What has been the impact (on certificants and patients) of the NSPM-C since its inception?

The ERAC will meet throughout 2023 to further delineate the research questions, and to develop research protocols where applicable.





# NBCRNA WEBSITE REFRESH



In mid-2022, [NBCRNA.com](https://www.nbcrna.com) went through a website refresh based on feedback from the 2021 Communications survey, which included the following updates:

- Streamlined homepage content
- New homepage dropdown function with most frequently visited webpages
- Improved and updated navigation

Continue to look for future improvements to [NBCRNA.com](https://www.nbcrna.com) in the future.

# CRNAS BY THE NUMBERS

**59,000**

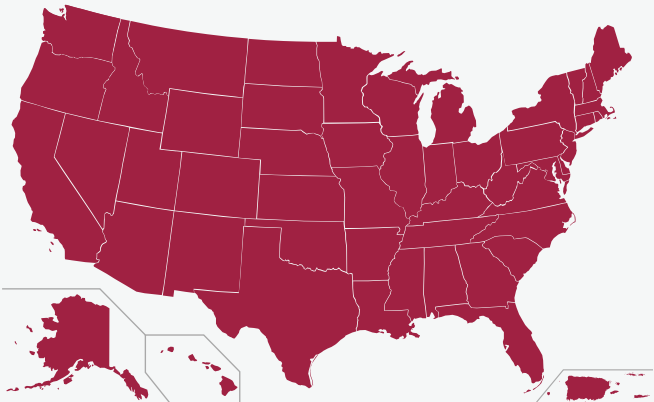
There are more than 59,000 nurse anesthesia professionals who hold the CRNA Credential.

**2,711**

2,711 newly certified CRNAs entered the profession in 2022

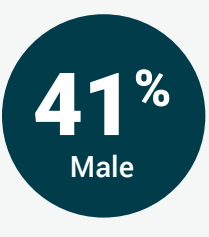
**50 Million**

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



**46.1**

CRNA Overall Average Age: 46.1 years

**32.4**

Average Age at Start of Career: 32.4

## STUDENT REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST'S (SRNAS) & AND GRADUATES

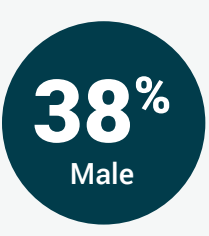
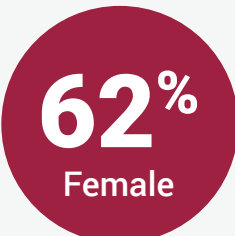
**8,500**

More than 8,500 Students & and Graduates are working hard to prepare to be leaders and competent care providers in the dynamic nurse anesthesia profession.

**130**

There are 130 Accredited Nurse Anesthesia Programs throughout the United States.

## SRNA DEMOGRAPHICS



**3,300\***

Number of Newly Enrolled Students During 2022: Approximately 3,300\*

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



# NBCRNA ELECTIONS

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2022, NBCRNA welcomed two newly elected CRNAs to its Board of Directors, and a new Emerging Leader Fellow, for the 2023 fiscal year. The new directors began their three-year terms in October 2022. 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.

### 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.



### AUDREY E. ROSENBLATT, PHD, MSN, BSN, BA, CRNA

Dr. Audrey Rosenblatt is the CRNA manager at Lurie Children's Hospital where she oversees management, strategic planning, clinical care of pediatric patients, and clinical education of SRNAs. Dr. Rosenblatt has over a decade of experience as a CRNA in pediatric anesthesia, she has completed a PhD in Nursing Science at Rush University where she holds a faculty appointment as an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and serves as the assistant program director of didactic education in the nurse anesthesia program track. Her time at Lurie Children's Hospital has been one of promotion and expansion, growing the team from 0 to 20 CRNAs with further expansion planned. 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. She is also the director of Lurie's CRNA pediatric anesthesia fellowship program accredited by the COACRNA in 2021.



### EMERGING LEADER FELLOW: 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.





# 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

Candidates in the 130-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, 2022, through December 31, 2022, a total of 3,548 NCE's were administered; 2,794 candidates were first-time takers with a pass rate of 83.4%. There was a total of 754 repeat administrations of the exam with an overall pass rate of 57.8%. 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.

## NCE EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

From January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022:

**97%** 97% of NCE candidates were satisfied with the NBCRNA testing experience.

## NSPM EXAM STATISTICS

From January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022:

**175**

175 CRNAs now hold the NSPM-C credential.

**45**

45 CRNAs earned the NSPM-C credential during 2022.

**87.8%**

The NSPM-C has an 87.8% pass rate.

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](http://WWW.NBCRNA.COM/NSPM)

## SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION: NONSURGICAL PAIN MANAGEMENT CONTINUES GROWTH IN 2022

Since inception of the NSPM Program through December 31, 2022, 175 CRNAs now hold the NSPM-C credential, 45 of which were achieved in 2022. 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.

## SELF-EVALUATION EXAMINATION

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, 2022, through December 31, 2022, a total of 6,213 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.

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/INITIAL-CERTIFICATION](http://WWW.NBCRNA.COM/INITIAL-CERTIFICATION)

- According to the SEE survey, 83.6% of individuals who took the SEE agreed that it helped prepare them to take the NCE.
- An analysis of 2022 SEE and NCE performance showed that, similar to previous years, a clear, positive



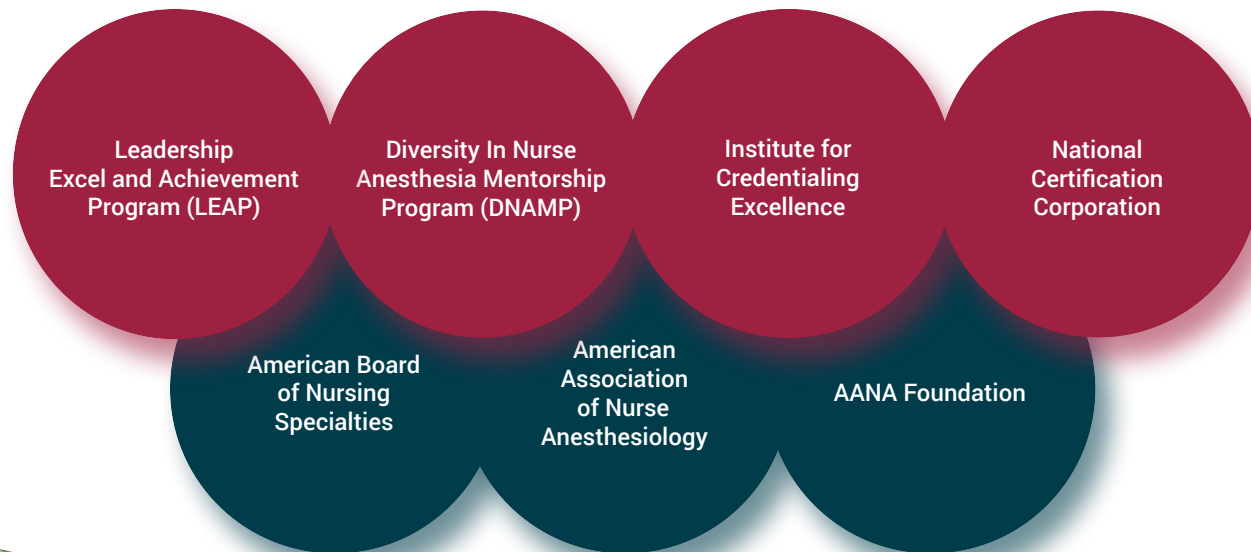


# SUPPORTING OUR COLLEAGUES

## 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 2022, the NBCRNA contributed to the following programs and organizations to support the CRNA profession and credentialing:



## CERTIFIED NURSES MAKE A DIFFERENCE CAMPAIGN



NBCRNA is one of a dozen organizations working with the National Certification Corporation (NCC) to help produce and promote the “Certified Nurses Make a Difference” public service announcement (PSA) series.

The PSAs highlight the continuum of care provided by certified nurses within various health care specialties and helps patients and families understand that certified nurses will provide information, support, and guidance for those they care for as they navigate the health care

system through every stage of their life. Distribution for the national campaign includes broadcast and cable TV, Connected TV, Marketed YouTube, Hulu Streaming, News Site Video Pre-Roll along with National Network Commercials in major designated market areas across the country and is expected to generate over 200 million impressions.

To view the program, please visit [CertifiedNurses.org](https://www.CertifiedNurses.org).



# NBCRNA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



The Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC)

## 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 2022, 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.

## 2022 COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES AND PANELS

<b>CPC CORE MODULE RECOGNITION PANEL</b>	<b>CHAIR</b> Kenneth Wofford	CDR Kennett Radford II	Kyle Dale Nevills
	<b>CHAIR</b> Mark A. Kossick	Michael Boytim	David E. Gaskin
	<b>CHAIR</b> John Borza	Franklin McShane	
	Jennifer Martin	Vincente Gonzalez	
	Nicholas Reeder	Sarah Jingying Zhang	
	Virginia Chris Simmons	Young J. Yauger	
	Jessica Phillips	Julia L. Walker	
	Carrie Bowman	Dustin Paul Gill	

### CPCA PRACTICE PANEL

**CHAIR** Daniel King  
Jason S. Bruce  
Jennifer Johnson  
Jennifer Raynor  
John Volk  
Lienda Littlejohn  
Lisa McKenzie

Nancy Westbrook  
Natalie Heather  
Nathan Stortroen  
Nicole Irick  
Nikita Layson  
Sekina Showers  
Sonia Mae Beduya

Zohn Centimole

### CPCA SUBCOMMITTEE

**CHAIR** Patty Satariano-  
Hayden  
Dwayne Accardo  
Sophia Assem  
Dee Bender  
Barbara Beyer  
Kristin Bowden  
Chad Butler  
Yasmine Campbell  
Marc Caruana  
Richard Conley  
Gail Crawford  
Maureen Devlin  
Valerie Diaz  
Deniz Dishman  
Mark Evans  
Darlene Falco  
Mike Frame

Emily Funk  
James (Jamie) Furstein  
Kathleen Galluzo  
Lelina Gauuan  
Jena Hill  
Tamara Hill  
Maria Elena Johnston  
Darlena Jones  
Basem Jumaa  
Terumi Kadin  
Patricia (Trish) Kearnan  
Julie Kelbert  
Elizabeth Kelly  
Patricia Kitt  
Vadim Korogoda  
Jimmy Krueger  
Katherine Marx  
Ann Misterovich

Nancy Moriber  
Afusat Nesbitt  
Johanna Newman  
Adeleke Oyemade  
Scot Pettey  
Jessica Pitman  
Kenneth Rogado  
Scott Shaffer  
Robert Simon  
Jingjing Sparrow  
Martina Steed  
William Teskey  
Tito Tubog  
Martha Vera  
Tedrick Vernon  
Ann-Marie Whitney  
Bradley Wilber  
Lindsey Wilson

### EVALUATION AND RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ERAC)

**CHAIR** Robyn Ward  
Susan McMullan  
Sarah Giron  
Ellen Reynolds  
Ken Wofford  
Edwin Aroke  
Sonya Moore

Chris Simmons  
Jeffery Groom  
Rishelle Zhou  
Sara Schnabel  
Deniz Dishman  
Gram Cotton  
Andy Tracy

Nicole Hymel  
Natalie Meyers

### FINETUNE TESTING PANEL

April Phillips  
Bernard Gilligan  
Jason Hayes

Mary Anna Krogh  
Nancy Moriber  
Terri Kane

Lara Barrow



**NCE PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE ANALYSIS  
(PPA) PANEL**

Cindy Linenthal	Jacob Kessen	Shanah Atkinson
Dawn Bent	Katie Cole	Susan Elczyna
Dennis James	Kelly Lannert	Anne Sauri
Frank Cardella	Marian Feil	Sashsa Wallace
Gloria Chan	Rhea Temmermand	

**NCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

<b>CHAIR</b> Lisa Miller	Brittainy Stalvey	Katie Helmrick
Amola Shah	Danilo Lovinaria	Lara Barrow
Andrea Bittinger	Elizabeth Bamgbose	Lauryn Rametta
Antonio Fisher	Heather Bair	Mark Caldwell
Bernard Gilligan	Jason Hayes	Veronica Amos



Thank you to our amazing group of volunteers for your service. We appreciate all that you contribute to the success of the CRNA credential, the CRNA Profession, and the NBCRNA.

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

**NSPM STANDARD  
SETTING**

Andrea Valicoff	Jacob Szafranski	Kellon Smith
Brian Jacobs	Jerold Benjamin (Ben)	Robert Bland, Jr.
Francis Valenti	Campbell	Susan D. Thomas
Gram Cotton	John Schirmer	Dale Moore

**SEE ITEM WRITING  
COMMITTEE**

<b>CHAIR</b> Reggie Valerio	John Lauro	Priscilla Aguirre
Adam Kuz	Kathleen Fear	Rachel Smith-Steinert
Ashlee Ericksen	Marco Perez	Sarah Veeneman
Beth Crochet	Michael Conti	Mercedes Weir
Cora Rabe	Nicole (Kay) Moore	

**SIMULATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE (SIM)**

<b>CO-CHAIR</b> (Virginia) Chris Simmons	Catherine Horvath	Gaige Flewelling
<b>CO-CHAIR</b> Jeffery Groom	John Wickett	Allison Foust
Richard Flowers	Anthony Zara	Kristen Southwick
Kristin Henderson	Pamela Jeffries	Jocelyn Sammons
	Susan McMullan	







Published by:

National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

8725 W. Higgins Road, Suite 525, Chicago, IL 60631 (855) 285-4658

Promoting patient safety by enhancing provider quality

[WWW.NBCRNA.COM](http://WWW.NBCRNA.COM)

©2023 NBCRNA