

# AANN 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented jointly by the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
with the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing and the  
Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation



# RISING TOGETHER



The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN), and the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation (AMWF) present the AANN 2021 Annual Report. As a tri-board, AANN, ABNN, and AMWF work collaboratively to advance the science and practice of neuroscience nursing. AANN is the membership organization you can turn to for education and professional development; ABNN oversees the CNRN and SCR N certification programs; and AMWF is our foundation that supports neuroscience education by offering certification, research, and travel grants. Together, we are the three pillars driving neuroscience nursing excellence.

This report highlights our accomplishments from March 2021 through March 2022 and looks at our goals for the duration of 2022. A major accomplishment of the Tri-Board last year was the creation of the [Tri-Board Advocacy Grid](#). The grid is a tool that nurses can use to advocate for themselves, their patients, and the profession. It outlines resources available from AANN, ABNN, and AMWF and includes links to the resources. The Tri-Board also continues its collaboration on the mentorship program, with the goal of providing neuroscience professionals the opportunity for mentoring in clinical, research, and clinician educator pathways as well as advice on career development.

Over the past year, AANN kept our [mission](#) and [strategic plan](#) in mind and focused on the key areas of membership and engagement, education, and advocacy. The 2022 AANN Annual Conference theme, *Rising Together*, was a driving force for our work. AANN pivoted the Advances in Stroke Care Conference and International Neuroscience Nursing Research Symposium (INNRS) in August 2021 to virtual conferences. And in January 2022, AANN hosted the Neuroscience Advanced Practice Provider (Neuro-APP) Educational Conference as a hybrid event.

AANN met the call for more education by offering free quarterly [webinars](#) with CE and CNRN and SCR N review webinars before each exam window. AANN also was proud to publish the [Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient white paper](#), which describes the essential components of the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult, enabling nurses to recognize early neurological changes so that interventions can be implemented in a timely manner to prevent injury. In addition, the Clinical Science Committee's Research Priorities Task Force identified the [research priorities](#) for neuroscience nursing to lead the field for the next 3 to 5 years. The priorities are broken into five categories: assessment, biomarkers, nursing care outcomes, quality of life, and technology.

# RISING TOGETHER



AANN's latest educational product is a certificate program developed in collaboration with ABNN: the [Certificate Program for the Seizure and Epilepsy Healthcare Professional](#). This is an assessment-based certificate program with an online self-study educational course followed by a post-assessment. There is a six-module program and an eight-module program specific to nurses working at accredited National Association of Epilepsy Centers. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Also in conjunction with ABNN, AANN launched a [Neuro 101](#) checklist for new to neuro nurses and preceptors that provides support to nurses who are unfamiliar with the care of the neuro patient or the environment of care (i.e., floating, travelers, new to neuro).

ABNN's [certification toolkit](#) and [hospital registration program](#) continue to be valuable resources for certificants. The toolkit includes education about the benefits of certification and sample letters to leadership to help make the case for certification. The hospital registration program allows nurses to test with no out-of-pocket fee. There is no minimum number of nurses required

to test per year and no cost for employers to join. ABNN is also implementing remote proctoring, with plans to launch in spring of 2022.

AMWF supported neuroscience nurses by providing [grants](#) for research, leadership, and educational pursuits. The certification, recertification, membership, and new chapter grants are accepted on a rolling basis. AMWF also offers grants to assist with the registration fee and/or travel expenses to AANN conferences like the Neuro-APP Conference, Neuroscience Nursing Annual Conference, Advances in Stroke Care Conference, and INNRS. Finally, the AMWF Research Grant is awarded to a neuroscience nurse to provide financial assistance to neuroscience nursing research projects that address the clinical practice, educational, certification, or administrative dimensions of neuroscience nursing. The Foundation thanks everyone who donated this past year.

We thank you for your continued support and invite you to get involved!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary McKenna Guanci". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary McKenna Guanci,  
MSN RN CNRN SCR N FNCS  
*AANN President*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Beam". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Sarah Beam,  
APRN MSN ACNP-BC CCRN CNRN  
*ABNN President*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Littlejohns". The signature is cursive and elegant.

Linda Littlejohns,  
MSN RN SCR N CNRN FAAN  
*AMWF President*



# American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)

## 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **PRESIDENT**

Mary McKenna  
Guanci, MSN RN  
CNRN SCR N FNCS



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ACNS-BC FNCS FCNS



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SCR N CNRN FAHA



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BSN RN



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CNRN CRRN SCR N  
CNS-BC FAHA



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Kimberly S. Meyer,  
PhD ACNP-BC CNRN



### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Leah Zamora, CAE

## AANN MISSION

AANN leads neuroscience health through engagement, education, and advocacy.

## AANN VISION

AANN is indispensable to nurses and neuroscience health care.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

AANN represents a diverse population of nurses pursuing excellence in neuroscience practice. Our organization is strengthened by our support of members regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, or life experiences. It is through inclusion that we foster and respect the diverse ideas, opinions, and thoughts that ensure that AANN will continue to excel, innovate, and encourage learning and leadership. Embracing and celebrating our differences through diversity and inclusion ensures an environment of respect and engagement that will contribute to the growth and viability of the AANN organization.

# AANN's 2019–2022 strategic plan focuses on three main goal areas:



## **Membership and Engagement:**

Nurture an inclusive, engaged community. Involve others in decisions affecting them.



## **Education:**

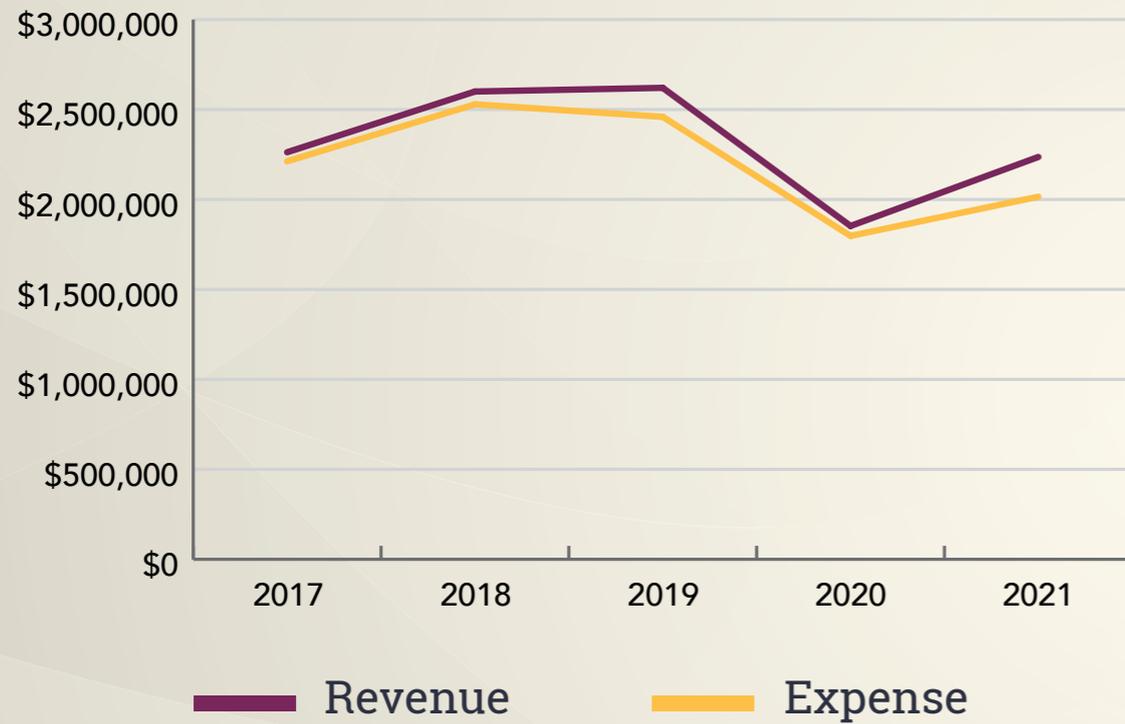
Provide dynamic, relevant educational experiences.



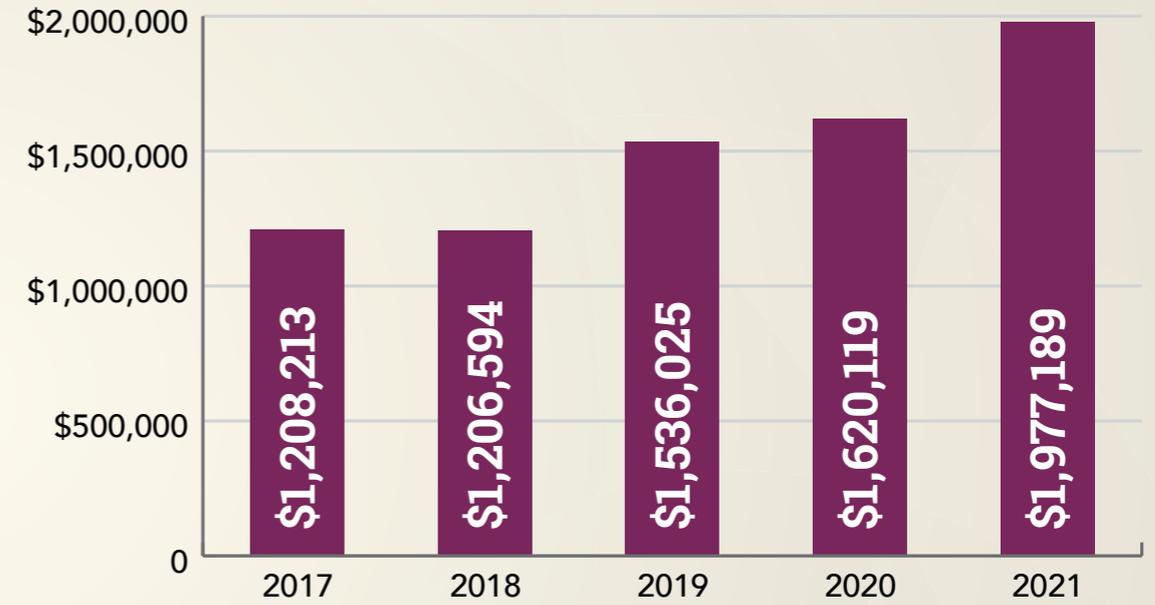
## **Advocacy:**

Represent and advocate for neuroscience health.

# AANN's 2021 Financial Activity

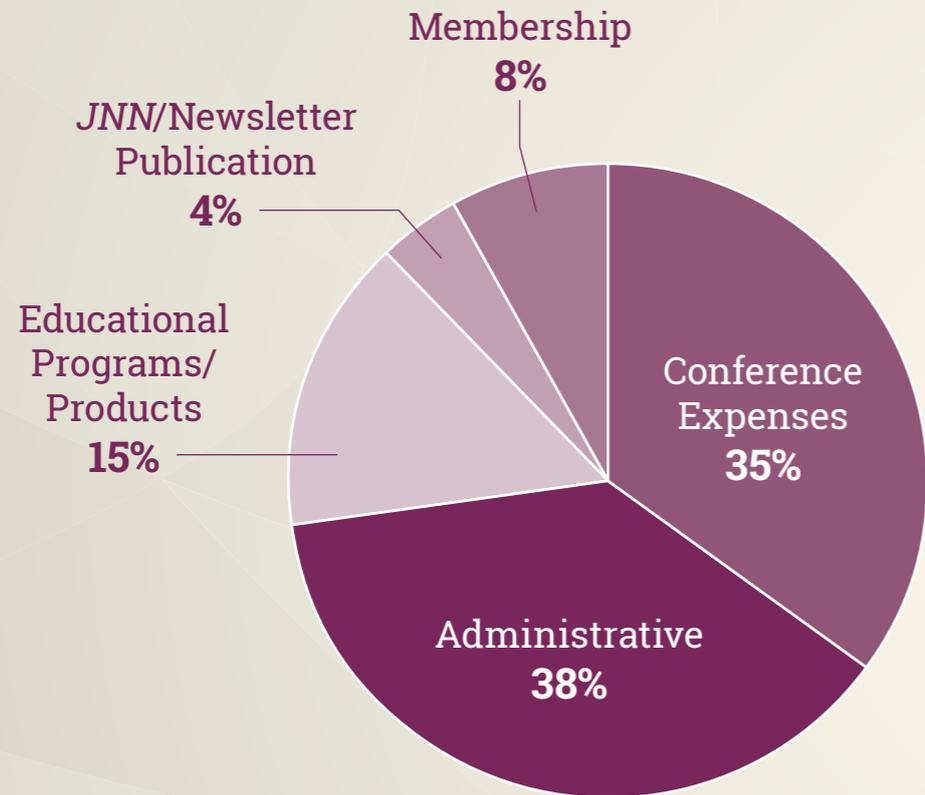


2021 Operating Trends

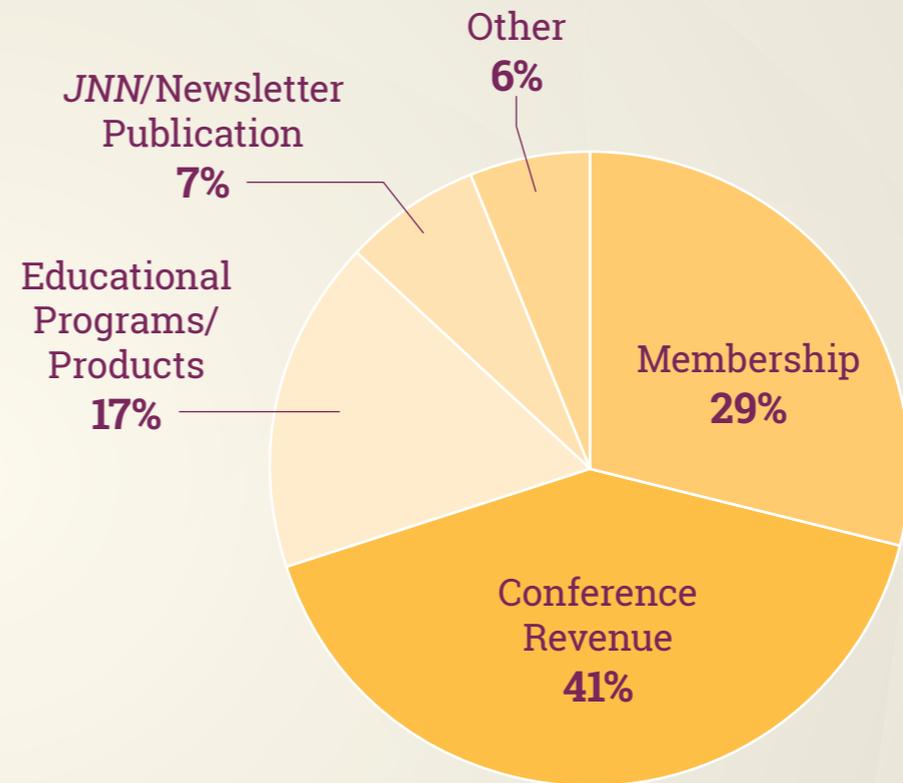


2021 Net Assets

# AANN's 2021 Financial Activity



2021 Operating Expenses



2021 Operating Revenue



# American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)

## 2021-2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



### **PRESIDENT**

Sarah Beam, APRN  
MSN ACNP-BC  
CCRN CNRN



### **TRUSTEE**

Tracey Anderson,  
MSN CNRN FNP-BC  
ACNP-BC



### **ANN BOARD LIAISON**

Jennifer Sulanke,  
MS RN CNS CNRN



### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

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PhD APRN FNP-BC  
CCRN



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Jamie Helt



### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

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CCRN SCR N



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MSN RN SCR N



### **BOARD MENTEE**

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RN CCRN SCR N



### **SECRETARY/ TREASURER**

Marianne Beare Vyas,  
PhD RN ANP-BC  
CCRN



### **TRUSTEE**

Sarah Strzalka,  
DNP MSN BSN  
RN ASC-BC SCR N



### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Leah Zamora, CAE

## ABNN MISSION

To promote and advance the practice of neuroscience nursing through specialty certification.

## ABNN VISION

Every person with neurological health needs will receive care from ABNN-certified registered nurses.

### ABNN'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUSES ON THREE MAIN GOAL AREAS:



**Provide certification services.**



**Identify and promote the value of ABNN certification and certificate programs.**



**Promote a strategic and sustainable organizational structure.**

## 2021 CNRN Data

**456**  
applicants

**180**  
new CNRNs

**4,153**  
total  
certificants

**64%**  
recertification  
rate

**CNRN**

Certified Neuroscience  
Registered Nurse

## 2021 SCRN Data

**1,501**  
applicants

**912**  
new SCRNs

**6,268**  
total  
certificants

**50%**  
recertification  
rate

**SCRN**

Stroke Certified  
Registered Nurse



# Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation (AMWF)

## 2021-2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



### **PRESIDENT**

Linda Littlejohns, MSN  
RN SCR N CNRN FAAN



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Erin Fecske, DNP APRN  
CNRN CPNP-PC FAES



### **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Michele Grigaitis-Reyes,  
DNP FNP-BC CNRN FAAN



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Kyna Seale, BSN RN CNRN SCR N



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Rebecca A. Banat, MSN-Ed  
BSN RN ONC CNRN FACHE



### **PUBLIC MEMBER**

Michael Salvo



### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Megan Clark, BSN RN CNRN



### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Leah Zamora, CAE

# Thank you to everyone who donated to AMWF in 2021.

*We appreciate your generous support of neuroscience education.*

## AMWF MISSION

Supporting neuroscience nursing through education, research, professional development, and certification to promote excellence in patient care.

### PLATINUM (\$1,000+)

Michele Grigaitis-Reyes  
Janice L. Hinkle

Northern Nevada Chapter  
of AANN

DaiWai Olson

### GOLD (\$500-\$999)

Donation made by Carrie A.  
Fountain and the MoKan Blues  
Chapter of AANN in honor of  
Agnes Marshall Walker

Linda Littlejohns  
Flora and Michael Salvo  
Mona Stecker

Donation made by Bobbie  
Stewart in memory of Agnes  
Marshall Walker and Robert  
Edward Stewart  
Triangle Chapter of AANN

### SILVER (\$200-\$499)

Bay Area Chapter of AANN  
Susan B. Fowler  
Greater Boston Chapter of AANN

Donation made by Lynn Hundley  
in honor of Debbie Summers  
Lourdes Januszewicz

Donation made by Pat Lane in  
honor of neuroscience nurses  
Andrea Strayer

# Thank you to everyone who donated to AMWF in 2021.

*We appreciate your generous support of neuroscience education.*

## BRONZE (\$50-\$199)

Donation made anonymously  
in honor of Bri Poorman

Donation made anonymously in  
memory of Marilyn Ricci Borski

Rebecca Banat

Donation made by  
Cynthia A. Bautista in honor  
of neuroscience nurses

Sarah B. Beam

Suzanne Byczynski

Susan M. Chioffi

Miranda Durst

Beverly A. Gish

Ann Leonhardt-Caprio

Darin Life

Heidi W. Maloni

Nursing Brains, LLC

Kelly Podkowa

Carolyn D. Poulakos

Sue B. Pugh

Lori Rhudy

Rose City Chapter of AANN

Sarah S. Spencer

Deborah Summers

Jennifer M. Woods

## SUPPORTERS (\$1-\$49)

Donation made by  
Colleen Armstrong in  
honor of Anne Foley

Meridith Avalos

Tiffany Bogart

Gladys B. Campbell

Lynne E. Capretto

Annalee Avis Coy

Erna Edejer-Lacebal

Donation made by  
Sandra G. Egnor in  
honor of Debbie Toney

Debra B. Elmer

Ann R. Finck

Ebonye Green

Donation made by  
Mary Guanci in honor  
of Tom Brady

Ellen Harvey

Judy Hayes

Huntington Francesca Hill

Donation made by  
Aimee Kulsrisombart  
in honor of neuroscience  
education and research

Rachel D. Malloy

Marti McCart Silvidi

Jean Pruitt

Teresa Lorena Ramos

Katherine Robertson

Toni Rougeou

Evan C. Smith

Eun H. Song

Heidi Stanhope

Donation made by  
Debbie Summers  
in honor of Mary Guanci

Tonia Swensen Brendel

Maria Coreena V. Velasco

Allisandra Viera

Cynthia West

Jennifer Wilson

# Awards

## JNN WRITING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Megan T. Moyer,  
MSN ACNP-BC CNRN



*JNN Editor DaiWai M. Olson,  
PhD RN CCRN FNCS and  
Megan T. Moyer, MSN ACNP-BC CNRN*

## JNN NOVICE WRITER AWARD

Kristin R. Hall,  
APRN



*JNN Editor DaiWai M. Olson,  
PhD RN CCRN FNCS and  
Kristin R. Hall, APRN*

## EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING AWARD

Carole C. Atkinson,  
MS PPCNP-BC CNRN



*AANN President Mary McKenna Guanci,  
MSN RN CNRN SCR N FNCS and  
Carole C. Atkinson, MS PPCNP-BC CNRN*

## EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL PATIENT CARE AWARD

Pamela Newland,  
PhD RN CMSRN



## RISING STAR IN CLINICAL PRACTICE AWARD

Ashley Beltran,  
ADN SCR N



## MARY DECKER MENTORSHIP AWARD

Amelia M. Sperber,  
MSN RN CPNP-PC CNS



*AANN President Mary McKenna Guanci,  
MSN RN CNRN SCR N FNCS and  
Amelia M. Sperber, MSN RN CPNP-PC CNS*

## ABNN CERTIFICANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lisa Cohen,  
MS RN ACNS-BC CCRN-K CNRN



*ABNN President-Elect Suzy Walter,  
PhD APRN FNP-BC CNRN and Lisa Cohen,  
MS RN ACNS-BC CCRN-K CNRN*

# AMWF Grant Recipients

More than \$42,000 in grants were awarded by AMWF between March 2021 and March 2022. Since 2014, AMWF has granted more than \$189,000 to 259 nurses!

## 2021 GRANTS

### CNRN OR SCRN CERTIFICATION GRANT

Rebecca Griffin  
Jennifer Harris  
Theresa Hoppe  
Amy Knefel  
Tracy Maxwell  
Kimberley Ott  
Rachael Viale

### CNRN EXAM AND PREP PACKAGE GRANT FOR NURSES FROM TANZANIA

Donatila Emmanuel Kwelukilwa  
Dorcas Gidion Magawa  
Sylvia Leon Massawe  
Hadija Hallid Mndeme  
Moses Athanasio Moses

### NEW CHAPTER GRANT

Northeast Florida Chapter

### RECERTIFICATION GRANT

Rebecca Roeber

### VIRTUAL ADVANCES IN STROKE CARE CONFERENCE GRANT

Serena Doyle  
Sue Fowler  
Kyleigh Jenkins  
Brienne Poorman  
Robin Sibert

### VIRTUAL NEURO-APP CONFERENCE GRANT

Kristen Dobbin  
Meaghan Hart-Williams  
Megan Moore

### RESEARCH GRANT

Wendy Cohen  
Ayushi Vashisht

### MEMBERSHIP GRANT

Rebecca Cooley-Schauer  
Grace Eckels  
Cathryn Guina  
Elizabeth Hartwig  
Priscilla Medeiros  
Kristine Perez  
Sheena Ramazanu  
Sarah Rueda  
Grayson Smith  
Martina Sprague  
Jerina Tinsley

# AMWF Grant Recipients

More than \$42,000 in grants were awarded by AMWF between March 2021 and March 2022. Since 2014, AMWF has granted more than \$189,000 to 259 nurses!

## 2022 GRANTS

### HYBRID NEURO-APP CONFERENCE GRANT

Ranbir Atwal  
Sarah Brown  
Alysia Campbell  
Angela Gnanadurai  
Taneicie Sabb  
Tracy Youngston-Baptiste

### MEMBERSHIP GRANT

Dana Davis  
Werayuth Srithumusk

### NEW CHAPTER GRANT

10,000 Lakes Minnesota

### RESEARCH GRANT

Karl Cristie Figuracion  
Thomas Lawson  
Sarah Martha

### HYBRID NEUROSCIENCE NURSING ANNUAL CONFERENCE GRANT

Jennifer Barfield  
Sarah Christie  
Caitlyn DiCola  
Brenda Everett  
Jackie Feyereisen  
Denelle Hebert  
Anna Helms  
Mona Jackson  
Michelle Jensen  
Anna Moore  
Anna Podgorski  
Jan Riepenhoff  
Barbara Warren-Bloms  
Erika Watts  
Carissa Wilberg



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