



2025 Annual Report

Presented jointly by

the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses,
the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing,
and the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation





The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN), and the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation (AMWF) present the 2025 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 Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN®) and Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN®) certification programs; and AMWF is the foundation that supports neuroscience education by offering certification, research, education, and conference grants. Together, AANN, ABNN, and AMWF are the three pillars driving neuroscience nursing excellence.

This report highlights the tri-board's accomplishments from March 2025 through March 2026 and looks at its goals for the duration of 2026.

The tri-board continues to collaborate on the Tri-Board Mentorship Program, which provides neuroscience professionals mentoring in clinical, research, and educator pathways and career development. Last year we made 11 matches of mentors and mentees.

"As a DNP/MBA student, wife, mom, and neurosurgery APP, I entered the AANN/ABNN/AMWF mentorship program knowing that balancing these roles would require strong support. What I found through this program has been invaluable. My mentor, Megan, has provided both academic guidance for my scholarly project and practical insight into navigating the realities of advanced practice in a complex neurosurgery environment."

April Dela Cruz, MSN RN FNP-BC



"This mentorship opportunity has provided me with the confidence to pursue a literature review for an evidence-based research and quality improvement project. With guidance and motivation, my mentor has also helped me network within the neuroscience nursing chapter. She has supported my passion for neuroscience when I passed my CNRN exam this year. We have frequent check-ins to reorient my project goals and future possibilities within AANN! This is a great experience for new-to-neuro nurses and nurses passionate about contributing to the research in neuroscience specialty!"

Emma Schweizer, BSN RN CNRN





Each organization launched an online store where you can purchase branded merchandise for yourself or as a gift for a nursing colleague. A variety of products are offered, including t-shirts, cups, tote bags, pens, and more! Check out the [AANN](#), [ABNN](#), or [AMWF](#) merchandise store to get your branded gear.

AANN and ABNN partner on key initiatives to benefit neuroscience nurses. The organizations currently offer two certificate programs: the [Certificate Program for the Seizure and Epilepsy Healthcare Professional](#) and the [Certificate Program for the Spine Healthcare Professional](#). They are also working on a [neuroscience advanced practice provider \(neuro-APP\)](#) certificate that will be available in summer 2026. The certificate will be for newer APPs or APPs new to neuroscience seeking a broad neuroscience curriculum covering topics across the continuum of care.



Over the past year, **AANN** kept its mission and strategic plan in mind and focused on membership and engagement, education, and advocacy. AANN offered several opportunities to earn CE contact hours in person and virtually throughout the year.

- The final Advances in Stroke Care Conference was held in Phoenix, AZ, in August 2025. Moving forward stroke education will be incorporated into the Annual Conference content as an educational track.
- The AANN Amplify: A Virtual Symposium on anatomy and assessment and seizure and epilepsy was held for the third time in September 2025.
- The Virtual International Neuroscience Nursing Research Symposium (INNRS) was held in January 2026, with 13 countries represented.
- The Annual Conference was held in March 2026 in Dallas, TX.

The format for the 2026 Annual Conference was reimagined with the sunset of the Stroke Conference and Neuro-APP Symposium as separate events. The Neuro-APP Symposium, Annual Conference, and Stroke Conference were combined into one super event, the AANN Annual Conference: *Uniting Expertise, Elevating Care*. The conference included educational tracks in general neuro, content for advanced practice providers, stroke content, and much more. Attendees liked the new conference format, especially the networking opportunities.



The Clinical Practice Guidelines Editorial Board appointed a new editor, Deborah Tran, DNP RN NE-BC CNRN SCRNP, and released guidelines on [subarachnoid hemorrhage](#) in May and [brain tumor](#) in December of 2025. The Clinical Practice Guidelines are evidence-based reviews and, moving forward, will be referred to as *Practice Parameters* to better describe their purpose.

AANN had several exciting product releases this past year. It officially launched the [Spine Certificate Program](#), redesigned the CNRN Review Course as the [CNRN Study Session: Recorded Review and Prep](#), updated the [CNRN Self-Assessment Exam](#), published the [Seizure and Epilepsy Certificate Program Workbook](#), and offered individual chapters of the digital [Core Curriculum, 7th Edition](#), for sale.

To meet the education needs of our members, AANN also offered quarterly webinars on a variety of topics.

- Food for Thought: The Science of Food and the Brain | May 12, 2025
- AANN and PAME Webinar: Seeing the Whole Patient—Suicide, Screening, and Mental Health in Epilepsy | September 26, 2025
- AI in Action: Advancing the Neurosciences | December 5, 2025
- Little Lives, Big Impact: What Makes Pediatric Stroke Different Series
 - Part One | January 14, 2026
 - Part Two | February 18, 2026
 - Part Three | March 11, 2026

The [webinars](#) were recorded and are available on the website to view and claim CE contact hours.

Our volunteer-led committees were hard at work, including the reenergized Advocacy Committee. The committee has begun creating monthly social media posts that highlight key neuroscience nursing themes and generate awareness for various disease state-focused months. In March 2026, to support Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month, the committee chair interviewed Dr. Edie Zusman, trauma neurosurgeon and founder of Safe Living Spaces, to shed light on the alarming number of domestic and intimate partner violence cases that go unrecognized as traumatic brain injuries. The committee continues to actively engage in monthly coalition meetings with AANN’s partner organizations and participate in American Nurses Association’s Hill Day, advocating for nurse-related issues. The Clinical Science Committee updated their research priorities, conducted an APP role survey, completed a scoping review on nursing interventions in adults hospitalized with ischemic stroke, presented at the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN) Congress in Darwin, Australia, and the 2026 AANN Annual Conference, and published their findings in the *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing (JNN)*.

JNN



AANN



ABNN



The *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing* received a 2 impact factor, up from last year. Tiffany Sheehan, PhD RN SCRNP ASC-BC FAHA, was appointed as *JNN* social media editor and regularly shared content on [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [BlueSky](#). The journal received 224 manuscript submissions and published 51 articles.



AANN represented the neuroscience nursing community by exhibiting at other nursing conferences including the International Stroke Conference (ISC), National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet, American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN), North American Spine Society (NASS), and WFNN. AANN Executive Director Leah Zamora, CAE, presented on *Empowering Nurse Leaders: Integrating Neuroscience and Leadership for Optimal Team Performance* at the WFNN Congress in Darwin, Australia. Our presence at other conferences is a great way to promote AANN membership, share our educational offerings, and spread the word about our certificate programs.

Through meaningful collaborations and new partnerships, 2025 marked another impactful year for **ABNN** and its ongoing commitment to advancing certification. In addition to the exhibits mentioned above, ABNN had an exhibit booth for the first time at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition from May 19 to 21, 2025, in New Orleans. ABNN also entered an agreement with the Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses to support and encourage Canadian nurses to take the CNRN and SCRN examinations.

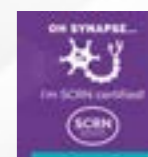
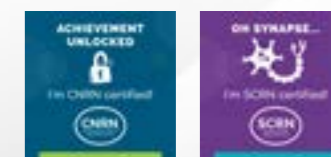
Phase two of the Perceived Value of Certification study [Evaluating the Value of Certification Among Noncertified Neuroscience Nurses](#) was published in the *JNN*. The study concluded that support for certification among neuroscience nurses cannot rely upon one source. Although hospitals and professional organizations play a significant role, peer support from certified neuroscience nurses is

needed for fostering the value of certification. Further research using open-ended questions to provide detail regarding noncertificant responses to the 8 value statements may provide additional insight needed to strategize certification achievement.

Key members of the ABNN Board of Trustees wrote a reflection article in the *JNN* titled [Embracing Certification, Elevating Care: A Call to Action for Neuroscience Nursing](#). The article shares insights into the importance of neuroscience and stroke certification and how to celebrate and recognize certified nurses, as well as outlines the actions needed to support ABNN's vision for certification.

ABNN continued to issue digital badges for the CNRN and SCRN certifications and the certificate programs through a partnership with Credly. Benefits of the digital badge include easily sharing your achievement on social media like LinkedIn, plus being able to securely verify your achievement and print a copy of your certificate. If you earned certification or completed a certificate program, make sure you broadcast your accomplishment!

You can also share your accomplishment using ABNN's updated [Celebration Tool Kit](#). It includes resources for celebrating those who earned CNRN or SCRN certification and for those who completed the epilepsy or spine certificate programs. The tool kit includes congratulatory cards, social media images and sample messages, ways to celebrate certification, and resources for supporting nurses in earning certification.





ABNN's [Hospital Registration Program](#) now has 61 hospitals participating. It is an employer program designed to help nurses earn certification for the neuroscience and stroke specialties. If you don't see your hospital on the list, contact us to sign up!

The updated [Certification Toolkit](#) is another great resource for hospitals. It provides education about the benefits of certification and justification for investment of budget dollars to support the development of nurses through certification.

AMWF awards [grants](#) for research, leadership, and educational pursuits. Grant recipients use the funds toward research, professional development, or certification to promote excellence in patient care.

The certification, certificate programs, new chapter, and nurses in the media grants are accepted on a rolling basis. AMWF also offers grants to assist with the registration fee or travel expenses to AANN conferences. Additionally, AMWF offers two research grants. The AMWF Research Grant is awarded to a neuroscience nurse to provide financial assistance for neuroscience nursing research projects that address the clinical practice, educational, certification, or administrative dimensions of neuroscience nursing. The collaborative AMWF and Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Research Grant is awarded to those who advance rehabilitation nursing practice by promoting and developing educational activities and scientific research to improve the quality of health care to individuals. The Linda Littlejohns Neuro Education Grant accepts

applications in July each year. The Steven Goins and Catherine Nelson grant is for neuroscience nurses from the Pacific Northwest to provide financial assistance to attend the AANN Annual Conference or any American Nurses Credentialing Center-accredited educational program. And the recertification grant is accepted each June to assist those due to renew their CNRN or SCRN certification. The foundation thanks everyone who donated this past year. Your support helps make the grant program possible. AMWF is proud to have granted nearly \$400,000 to more than 600 nurses over the past 13 years, thanks to your generosity!

The foundation raises funds to award grants throughout the year. Every year on June 30, Agnes's birthday, AMWF holds a day of giving. AMWF encourages everyone to celebrate Agnes each June 30 with a donation.

Thank you for your continued support of AANN, ABNN, and AMWF. You can further support these organizations by serving on a committee or task force; visit the NeuroNetwork [volunteer page](#) to explore current openings.

Erin Fecske,
DNP APRN CNRN CPNP-PC FAES
AANN President

Rebecca A. Banat,
MSN/Ed RN ONC CNRN CWC FACHE
ABNN President

Kyna Seale,
BSN RN CNRN SCRN
AMWF President

2024-2027 AANN, ABNN, and AMWF Enterprise Strategic Plan



The strategic plan focuses on three main goal areas:



Community

Engage social media influencers, define and publicize the role of neuro nurses, and organize virtual events.



Organizational Development

Conduct a performance and gap analysis, enhance processes, standardize operations, and increase knowledge sharing.



Advocacy and Advancement

Diversify and communicate content, increase engagement, promote certification and grants, and develop advocacy partners.

American Association of Neuroscience Nurses 2025-2026 Board of Directors



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Healthcare Professional



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CAE



Mission

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

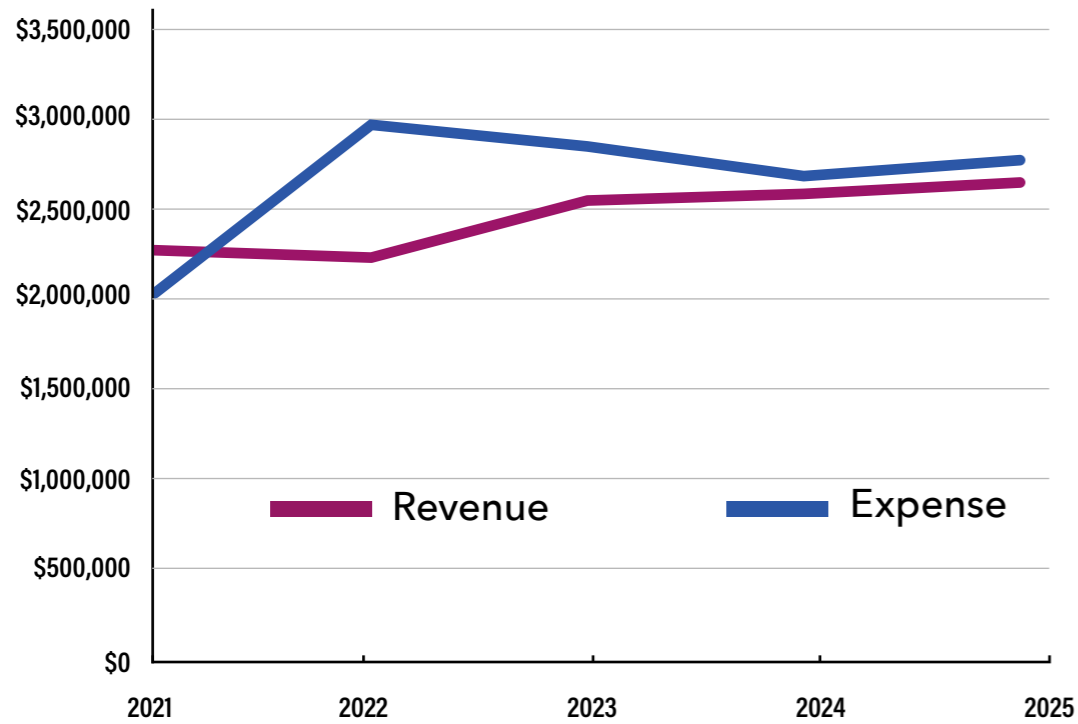
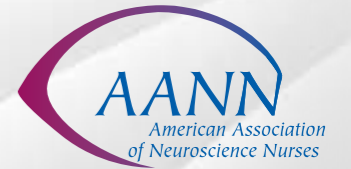
Vision

AANN is indispensable to nurses and neuroscience health care.

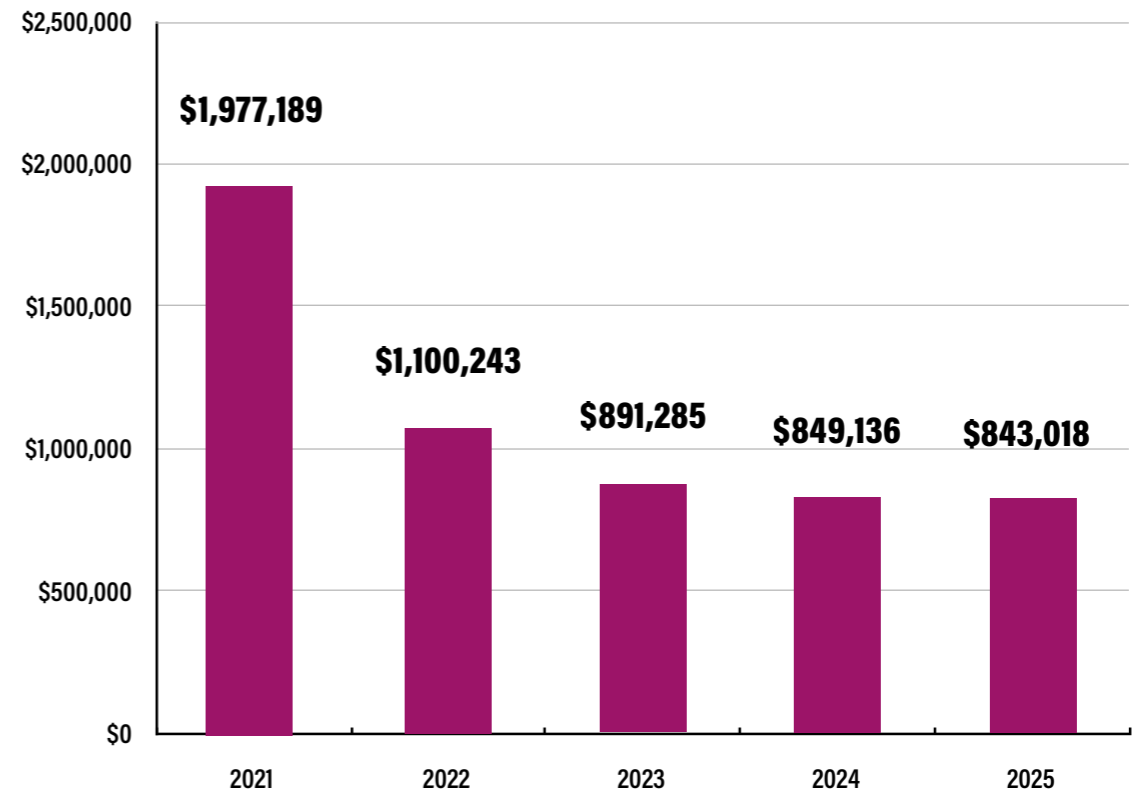
Diversity and Inclusion Statement

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.

Financials

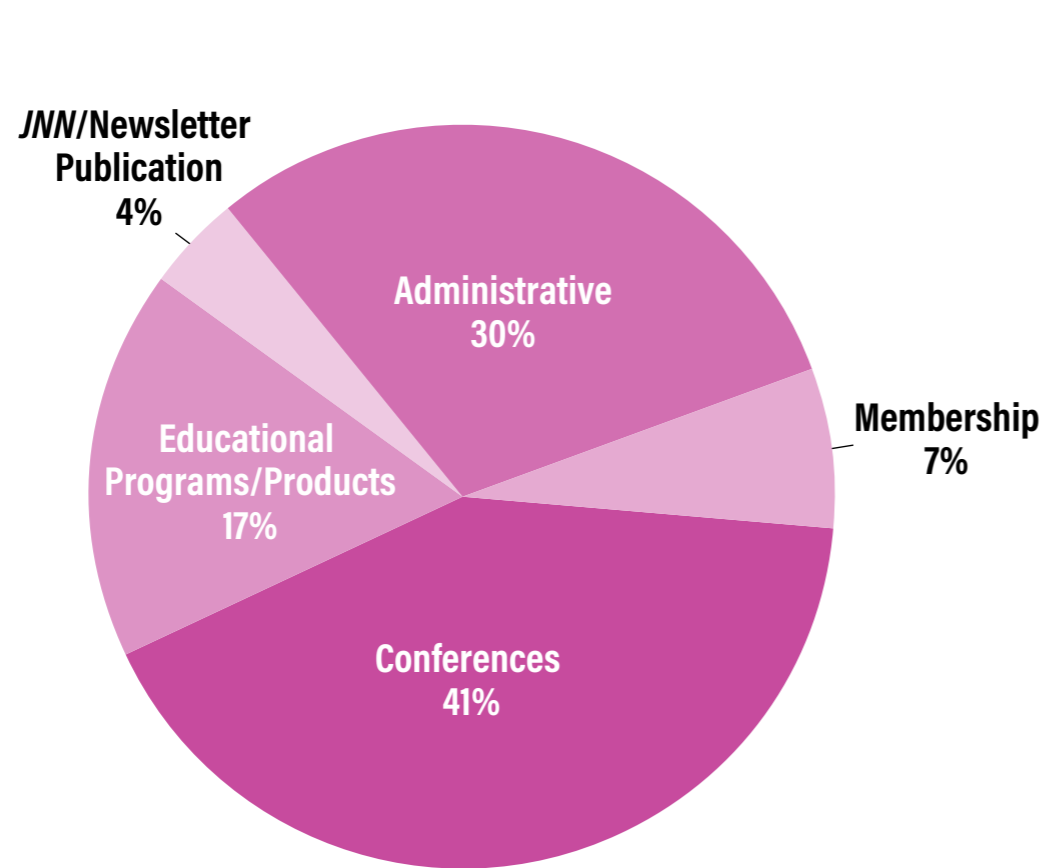


2025 Operating Trends

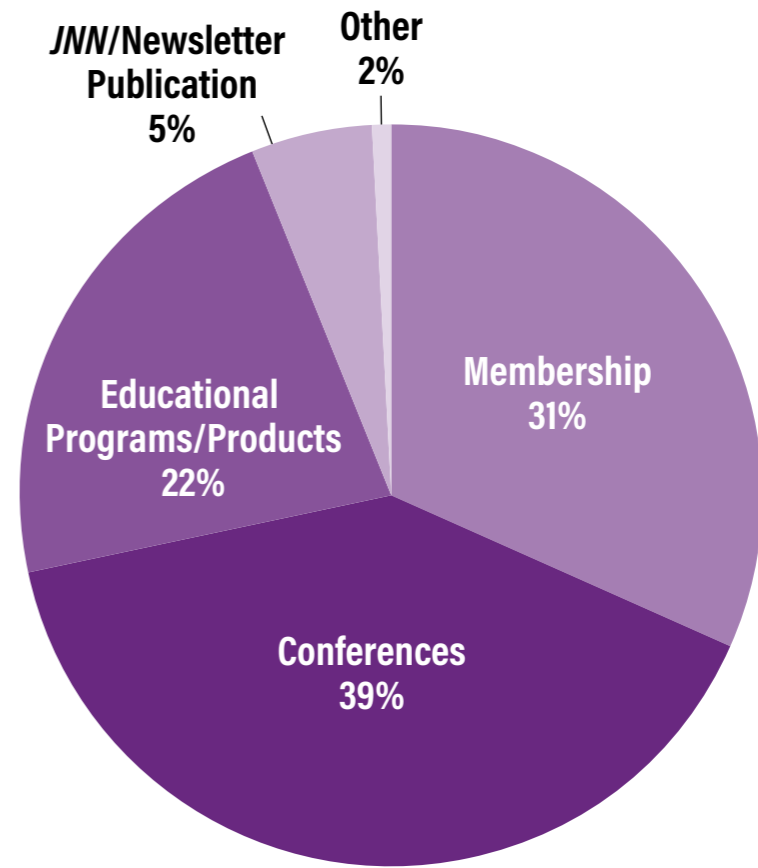


2025 Net Assets

Financials



2025 Operating Expenses



2025 Operating Revenue

American Board of Neuroscience Nursing 2025-2026 Board of Trustees



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Rebecca A. Banat
MSN/Ed RN ONC CNRN CWC
FACHE



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BSN RN CCRN CNRN SCR N
Seizure and Epilepsy Healthcare
Professional



Executive Director
Leah Zamora
CAE



Mission

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

Vision

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



2025 CNRN Data



154
new
CNRN

468
recertified
CNRN

3,498
total certificants

374
applicants

16
alumnus CNRN

60%
recertification
rate

72
retired CNRN



2025 SCRIN Data

803
recertified
SCRNs

SCRIN
Stroke Certified
Registered Nurse

1,866
applicants

1,109
new SCRNs

7,526
total
certificants

18
retired
SCRNs

53%
recertification
rate

25
alumnus
SCRNs



2025 Seizure and Epilepsy Certificate Program Data

2025 Spine Certificate Program Data

397
8-module
program
completions

1,975
total 8-module
certificate holders

122
total 6-module
certificate holders

37
6-module
program
completions

31
program
completions

Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation

2025-2026 Board of Directors



President
Kyna Seale
BSN RN CNRN SCRN



Director at Large and
AANN Board Liaison
Julie Smith
MSN CNRN



Director at Large
(March 2025-January 2026)
Gwen Anderson
MSN RN SCRN NE-BC



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ABNN Board Liaison
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AGNES
MARSHALL WALKER
FOUNDATION



Mission

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

Thank You to Everyone Who Donated to AMWF in 2025



We extend our sincere gratitude to the generous donors and dedicated supporters of the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation. Your commitment to advancing neuroscience nursing empowers critical work in education, research, professional development, and certification. Because of your support, we are able to promote excellence in patient care and strengthen the impact of neuroscience nurses across the field. Thank you for helping us advance our mission and invest in the future of patient-centered care.



"Receiving the grant was such an unexpected surprise and joy to my nursing career. This was my first conference, and I was overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge I received. Some of my favorite take-aways were the importance of keeping up with my practice, staying up to date with EBP, and endeavoring to start my own research projects. A neuro-geek (if you will), I even learned a few things about brain health that I will implement in my own personal life. Thank you all so much again for this opportunity!"

Lynzie Wylie, ADN RN CPN CNRN

AMWF Grant Recipients



Congratulations to the Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation grant recipients on their well-deserved recognition. Your commitment to advancing neuroscience nursing through education, research, professional development, and certification reflects the very heart of our mission. We are proud to support you in your work to promote excellence in patient care and drive meaningful progress in the field. We look forward to the continued impact of your efforts.



"Receiving the grant from AMWF was a key step in my growth as a neuroscience/stroke ICU nurse. A year ago, I started as a new nurse in the neuro-stroke ICU at a comprehensive stroke center in Chicago. Preparing for the SCRNP exam gave me a deeper understanding of stroke mechanisms, improved my neuro assessments, and strengthened my critical thinking in high-pressure situations. Earning my SCRNP has boosted my confidence and clinical skills, allowing me to provide safer, more informed care to my patients. I'm incredibly thankful for the support that helped me reach this milestone and advance in my career."

Aqeel Adnan C. Al-Mahdaly, MSN RN CCRN PCCN CV-BC SCRNP

"Attending INNRS has been an invaluable experience. It allowed me to engage with experts and neuroscience nurses from around the world, sharing knowledge and experiences related to bedside care for patients with neurological conditions—whether in acute, long-term, or continuing care. The knowledge and experiences I gained from the conference have truly empowered me in my professional practice. I have come to appreciate the vital role of neuroscience nurses in early detection and early management of complications."

Natchaya Puemgul, BSN RN



Award Winners



JNN Writing Excellence Award

MARY KAY BADER

RN MSN CCNS FNCS FAHA FCCM



JNN Novice Writer Award

CHEN-CHEN TU

DNP APRN-CNS ACNS-BC CNRN
SCRN NPD-BC CPAHA MedSurg-BC



Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing Award

ABBI HEATER

MSN RN AGACNP-BC ANVP-BC SCRNM



Excellence in Neuroscience Education Award

TRISHA STOCKTON

MSN RN CPN CNRN PHN



Mary Decker Mentorship Award

VIRGINIA PRENDERGAST

PhD NP-C FAAN CNRN



Rising Star in Clinical Practice Award

CLAIRE SINAI

DNP RN CPNP



Outstanding Chapter Award

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER

of AANN



ABNN Certificant of the Year Award

KIM APURADO

PhD BSN RN CCRN CNRN SCRNM



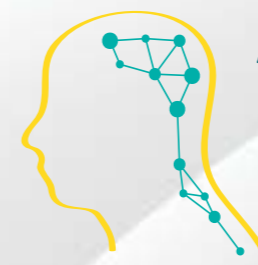
Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers

8 Mandell - Inpatient Neuroscience Unit

Team Harmony Award

8 MANDELL | Boston Children's Hospital Inpatient Neuroscience Unit



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