



April 22-24, 2026



35TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

35 Years Strong: Advancing Care, Inspiring the Future

Marriott St. Louis Grand | 800 Washington Ave. | St. Louis, MO

CONFERENCE INVITATION



APSNA 35th Annual

Scientific Conference

35 Years Strong: Advancing Care, Inspiring Futures

INTENSIVE WORKSHOP & WELCOME: April 22, 2026

Day 1: April 23, 2026
Day 2: April 24, 2026

**Connect, learn, and grow at
APSNA's 35th Annual Conference!**

Marriott St. Louis Grand | St. Louis, MO

YOU'RE INVITED

We are excited to invite you to the 35th Annual Scientific Conference “35 Years Strong: Advancing Care, Inspiring the Future” of the American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc. (APSNA), where we will join together to advance our field, share insights and enhance the care we provide our patients.

At the 35th Annual Scientific Conference, the Program Committee will showcase the growth and future state of pediatric surgical nursing. The conference is intended for a dynamic, growing body of members representing various roles including bedside nurses, operating room nurses, clinic nurses, advanced practice nurses, nurse managers, nurse educators, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and student nurses seeking valuable skills to advance their careers in pediatric surgery.

Attendees will benefit from a wide range of topics and faculty presenting original evidence-based research findings as well as innovative ideas for successful approaches to clinical application of pediatric surgical nursing. The first day of the conference, immersive and collaborative workshops are available, including a Clinical Pathways Bootcamp to strengthen your knowledge in creating clinical pathways, and a Trauma Pre-Conference with hands on skills stations.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

This conference program has been developed through a call for abstracts and peer review process informed by past conference evaluations, forum discussions, strategic initiatives and learning outcomes below.

By the end of the conference, the learner will be better able to:

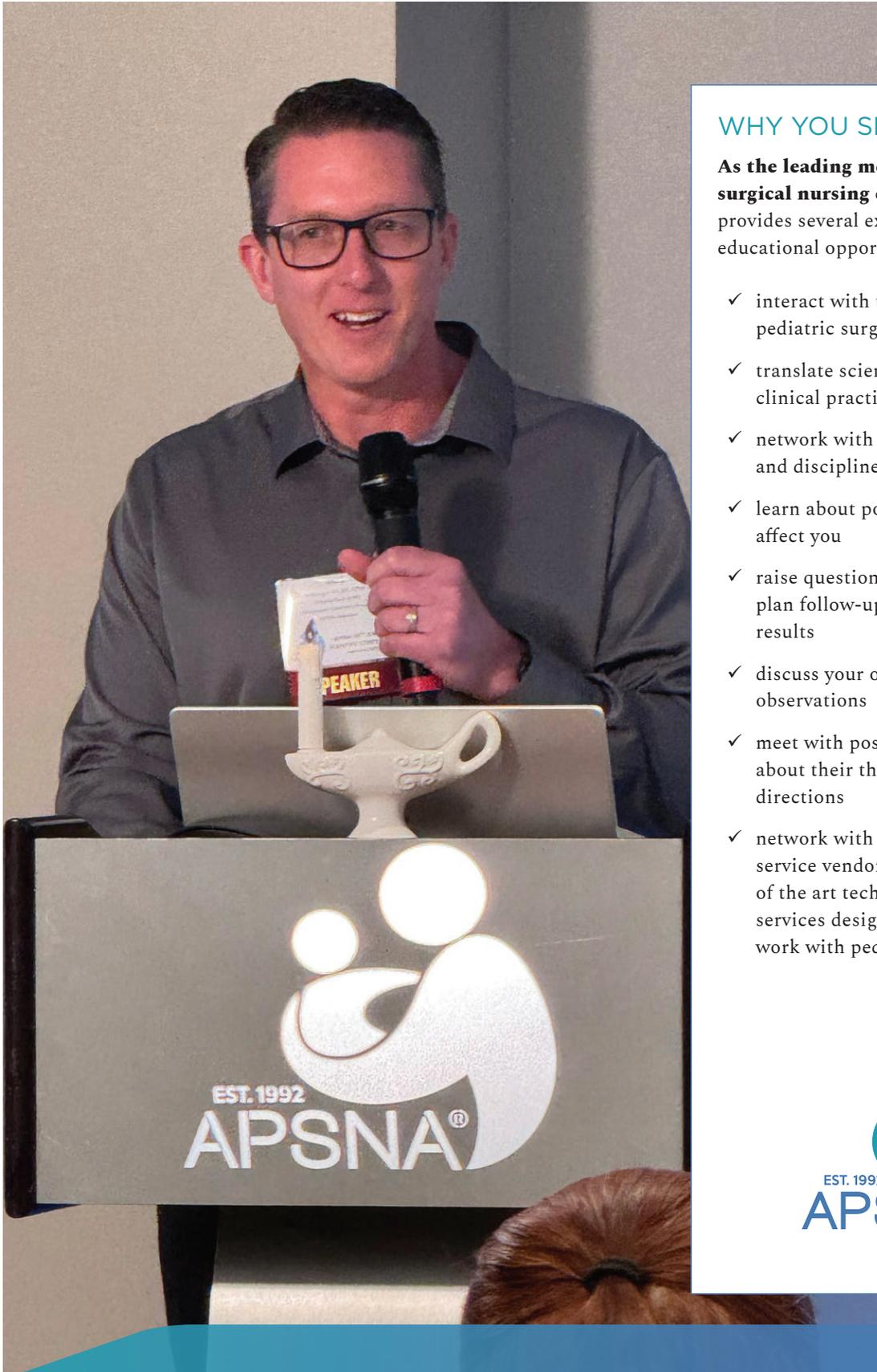
- Explore opportunities for pediatric surgical nurses to infuse theoretical and clinical knowledge into administration, education, practice, research and policy.
- Provide opportunities to promote the advancement of pediatric surgical nursing.
- Create avenues for networking and mentoring among pediatric surgical nursing colleagues.
- Optimize patient care through exposure to innovative research and leading evidence-based practice.
- Acknowledge the importance of collaborative and inclusive pediatric surgical subspecialty practice.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The 35th Annual Scientific Conference is designed for health care leaders and professionals working in pediatric surgical settings, including:

- Advance Practice Nurses
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Bedside nurses, clinic nurses, operating room nurses, neonatal nurses, nurse managers, nurse educators and student nurses
- Physician Assistants
- Pediatric Surgical Subspecialty professionals
- Behavioral health professionals
- Home care professionals

The content of the conference is designed to meet the needs of health care leaders and professionals from a variety of practice settings, from the novice to more experienced veterans in the field.



WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

As the leading meeting of the pediatric surgical nursing community, this meeting provides several exceptional and engaging educational opportunities for you to:

- ✓ interact with the best and brightest in pediatric surgical nursing care
- ✓ translate scientific discoveries into clinical practice
- ✓ network with colleagues across settings and disciplines
- ✓ learn about policy issues that directly affect you
- ✓ raise questions, debate the implications, plan follow-up studies, and discuss results
- ✓ discuss your own research and clinical observations
- ✓ meet with poster presenters to learn about their thinking and future research directions
- ✓ network with a number of health care service vendors to learn the latest state of the art technologies, products and services designed for professionals who work with pediatric surgical patients



CONFERENCE INVITATION



JOIN US IN ST. LOUIS – THE GATEWAY TO THE WEST!

Experience the energy, history, and hospitality of St. Louis, Missouri, a vibrant city where iconic landmarks and modern attractions come together. Just steps from the shimmering Gateway Arch, St. Louis offers a rich blend of culture, culinary favorites, and must-see destinations—from world-class museums and live music to charming neighborhoods and riverfront views.

Your conference home base, the Marriott St. Louis Grand, puts you in the heart of downtown with contemporary style, spacious guest rooms, and exceptional amenities. Enjoy easy access to dining, entertainment, and historic sites, all while relaxing in a hotel designed for comfort and convenience. With its elegant meeting spaces and warm Midwestern welcome, the Marriott St. Louis Grand is the perfect setting for learning, connecting, and exploring all that St. Louis has to offer.

For those staying a bit longer, St. Louis delivers even more to explore. Spend time wandering through the Saint Louis Art Museum or the expansive Forest Park, home to the Saint Louis Zoo, the Science Center, and picturesque walking paths. Visit the historic Anheuser-Busch Brewery, explore the vibrant Delmar Loop, or take in a show at the Fox Theatre. Families will also love the City Museum, a one-of-a-kind immersive playground unlike any other in the country.

Your stay at the Marriott St. Louis Grand places you in the heart of it all, with modern accommodations, exceptional amenities, and easy access to the city's top attractions. With its elegant event spaces and warm hospitality, it's the perfect home base for learning, networking, and discovering the very best of St. Louis.

Learn more about the St. Louis Missouri area and all it has to offer, including links to area attractions, shopping and how to plan your visit, by visiting: <https://explorestlouis.com>

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** **Educational Sessions:** Dive into lectures covering critical topics such as neonatal care, Preop care, Postop care, trauma management, ethical issues in pediatric surgery, and more!
- 2** **Clinical Pathways Bootcamp:** The Clinical Pathways Bootcamp aims to develop champions with knowledge to develop standards of care and improve clinical outcomes using clinical pathway and evidence-based practice methodologies.
- 3** **Trauma Pre-Conference:** Join us for an engaging workshop on April 22 where we will review case studies, current research, and evidence-based practice of various trauma focused topics.
- 4** **Skills Stations:** Sharpen your hands-on skills in our pediatric surgical nursing stations—featuring chest tube management, cervical collar application, pelvic binders and tourniquets, wound and burn care, and the critical steps of a thorough tertiary exam.
- 5** **Poster Presentations:** Explore innovative pediatric surgical nursing research through dynamic poster presentations that showcase real-world solutions, emerging evidence, and frontline insights.
- 6** **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with peers, mentors and industry leaders to forge professional relationships and collaborations.
- 7** **Exhibit Hall:** Explore cutting-edge products, services and innovations from vendors specializing in pediatric surgical care.
- 8** **Awards and Recognition:** Celebrate the achievements of APSNA members through various awards.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Clinical Pathways Bootcamp Registration:

- Access to Bootcamp sessions on Wednesday, April 22 from 9am – 12pm
- Limited to 50 registrants
- Lunch is provided
- 2.5 contact hours

Pre-Conference Registration:

- Entrance into the Pre-Conference sessions on Wednesday, April 22 from 1 – 3:45 pm
- 2.75 contact hours

Hands-On Skills Stations:

- Entrance into the Skills sessions on Wednesday, April 22 from 3:45 – 5:15 pm
- Limited to 40 registrants
- Registrants will rotate between four skills stations focused on 1) chest tube management, 2) cervical collar, pelvic binder and tourniquet use, 3) wound and burn management and 4) tertiary exams.
- 1.5 contact hours

Full Conference Registration:

- Welcome Reception April 22
- Educational sessions April 23 and 24
- 12.0 Contact Hours
- 1 Breakfast, 2 Lunches
- One ticket to the APSNA Awards Luncheon (Thursday)
- Giveaways

NOTES

- Registration for the American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association (APSNA) Conference is non-transferable.

REGISTRATION FEES

Boot Camp, Trauma Pre-Conference Workshops and Skills Stations are separate. Welcome Reception included in Full Conference Registration Fees

Early-bird Pricing – available until March 15

Full Conference

- \$400.00 APSNA Member
- \$600.00 Non Member
- \$200.00 Undergrad Student

After March 15

Full Conference

- \$450.00 APSNA Member
- \$650.00 Non Member
- \$250.00 Undergrad Student

Add these bonus activities to your full conference registration:

BOOTCAMP	\$75 – Limited to first 50 registrants; lunch included
PRE-CONFERENCE	\$75 – Lunch included
SKILLS STATIONS	\$50 – Limited to first 40 registrants

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 6, 2026

ADDITIONAL/OPTIONAL FEES:

- CME Certificate \$55
- Awards Luncheon Guest Ticket \$100

CANCELLATION:

Registration fees, less a \$50 administrative fee, are refundable to registrants who notify APSNA office in writing of their cancellation before **March 15, 2026**. No refunds will be made after **March 15, 2026**. If you cannot attend, you may choose to send someone in your place; however, discounted member rates cannot be transferred to non-members. Registrations cannot be shared or split. You must contact sara@vtls.org with any attendee changes.

GROUP DISCOUNT

Groups of 5 or more will receive an additional \$20.00 off per person. Please contact Sara in the APSNA Office for a discount code before registering.

PRE-CONFERENCE AGENDA

PRE-CONFERENCE • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

- 8:00 AM **Registration Opens**
- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Clinical Pathways Bootcamp**
Presenters: Dana Noffsinger, RN, MS, CPNP-AC/PC & Jennifer Weiner, DNP, APRN-CNP, CPNP-AC/PC, EBP-C
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM **Luncheon – provided for Bootcamp & Pre-Conference registrants**
- 1:00 PM **Exhibitor Setup (Ends at 5:00 PM)**
- 1:00 – 3:45 PM **Trauma Pre-Conference Workshops**
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM **Growing Pains: Shifts and Surprises in Pediatric Trauma**
Presenter: Tiffany Taylor, MSN, MBA, RN
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM **Optimizing VTE Prophylaxis in Pediatric Trauma: Evidence, Guidelines, and Gaps**
Presenter: Mary Maginas, MSN, BSN, CPNP-PC, TCRN
- 2:30 – 2:45 PM **Networking Break**
- 2:45 – 3:45 PM **Trauma Case Studies**
Presenters: Dana Noffsinger, RN, MS, CPNP-AC/PC & Jennifer Weiner, DNP, APRN-CNP, CPNP-AC/PC, EBP-C
- 3:45 – 5:15 PM **Skills Stations**
- **Care of the Trauma Patient: Chest Tube Management (30 mins)**
Glenna Hare, MSN, RN, CPNP, WCC
 - **Trauma Skills: Cervical Collar, Pelvic Binder and Tourniquet Use (15 mins)**
Mary Maginas, MSN, BSN, CPNP-PC, TCRN
 - **Hands on Healing: Practical Skills for Trauma, Wound & Burn Management (15 mins)**
Presenter: Julie Berninger, RN, CPNP, WCC & Jennifer Seigel RN, CPNP, CWCN
 - **Trauma Assessment: The Importance of a Tertiary Exam (30 mins)**
Presenter: Elizabeth Hartbeck, RN, CPNP, WCC
- 5:30 PM **Welcome from APSNA Leadership**
Jennifer Berkgigler, APSNA Director of Program & Maryellen Sheridan, APSNA President
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM **Welcome Reception – hors d'oeuvres and cash bar available**
Exhibits Open

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

36th Annual APSNA Scientific Conference

April/May 2027

Location to be determined

DAY 1 • THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

6:45 – 7:30 AM	<p>Registration Open Breakfast – <i>provided</i> Exhibits Open</p>
7:30 – 7:45 AM	<p>Welcome/Announcements <i>Presenter: Jennifer Berkbigler, APSNA Director of Program</i></p>
7:45 – 8:00 AM	<p>Introductions <i>Presenter: Mary Ellen Sheridan, APSNA President</i></p>
8:00 – 9:15 AM	<p>The Power of People: Fueling Culture from Within <i>Presenter: Cathleen Opperman, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, EBP-CH, NEA-BC, CPN</i></p>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<p>Surgical Complications & Sepsis in Pediatric Surgical Patients <i>Presenter: Colin Martin, MD</i></p>
10:15 – 11:00 AM	<p>Networking Break Visit Exhibits</p>
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Rehabilitation in the Acute Trauma Patient <i>Presenter: Amy Hiller, DO</i></p>
12:00 – 1:15 PM	<p>APSNA Awards Luncheon – <i>provided</i> Awards/Raffle/Prizes Visit Exhibits</p>
1:15 – 2:15 PM	<p>Exhibits & Poster Viewing Session Posters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Education for Nurses to Improve Care of Patients and Families Undergoing NAT Evaluation Utilizing Trauma Informed Care Principles <i>Mary Kay Hasenkamp, BSN, RN Heather Cassill Courtney Kren Michelle Roark</i> • Implementing a Multimodal Pain Management Best Practice Alert for Pediatric Orthopedic Injury Patients in an Adolescent Medical Surgical Unit <i>Cassie Crabtree, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC Katheryne Amba Katherine Newnam</i> • Improving Confidence in Escalation of Care Through Reflective Rapid Response Reviews on a Pediatric Surgical/Trauma Unit <i>Alana Umbrecht, BSN, RN, CPN Jacquelyn Scarberry, RN</i> • Type of Maintenance IVF in Pediatric General Surgery Patients <i>Marketa Rejtar, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC Kathryn Bell, NP Megan Gilday, NP Nicole Lesanto NP Kara Migausky, NP Pamela Morrison, NP Maureen Pimentel, PNP Megan Rabe, MSN-RN, CPNP Victoria Scott NP Abigail Sutcliffe, NP</i> • Utility of Preoperative Magnetic Resonance Venography (MRV) in Pediatric Patients Undergoing Central Venous Access <i>Julie McKee, CPNP</i>
2:15 – 3:00 PM	<p>Power of Networking: It Takes a Village – Build Yours! <i>Presenter: Robyn Huey Lao, DNP, CPNP-AC</i></p>

Continued on next page ▶

AGENDA - DAY 1 (CONTINUED) & DAY 2

DAY 1 • THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 (continued)

- 3:00 – 3:45 PM **A Day in the Life of a Pediatric Surgical Nurse Practitioner: Integrating Clinical Expertise and Surgical Skill as a First Assistant**
Presenter: Khadijah Walker, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, RNFA
- 3:45 – 4:00 PM **Networking Break**
Visit Exhibits – last break with exhibitors
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM **Catastrophic Until Proven Otherwise: Surgical Emergencies in the NICU**
Presenters: Kristen Clark, RN, MSN, NNP-BC & Alissa MacDonald DNP, NNP-BC
- 5:00 PM **Exhibits Close**
- 5:00 – 6:00 PM **SIG Meetings**
Held in Landmark Ballroom 1-3, Landmark Ballroom 4-7 and Pershing/Lindell
- 6:00 PM **Evening on your own** – see dinner options in the area

DAY 2 • FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

- AM **Breakfast on your own**
- 8:00 – 9:00 AM **Gallbladder Disease**
Presenters: Justin T. Huntington, MD, MS & Carolyn Davis APRN-CNP
- 9:00 – 9:45 AM **Beyond Laxatives: Surgical and Multidisciplinary Approaches to Pediatric Constipation**
Presenters: Elke Zani-Ruttenstock, MD, CPCC & Carrie Wilson, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC, CPNP-AC, WCC
- 9:45 – 10:45 AM **Congenital Colorectal Transitional Care**
Presenter: Alessandra Gasior, DO, FACS, FASCRS
- 10:45 – 11:00 AM **Networking Break**
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Navigating the Ethical Challenges in Pediatric Surgery**
Presenter: Kathryn Rowland, MD, MPHS
- 12:00 – 12:45 PM **Protecting our Future with ERAS - Pediatric Opioid Reduction**
Presenter: Elizabeth (Betsy) Diep, MSN, RN
- 12:45 – 1:30 PM **What do I do with THAT? Wound & GT Care**
Presenter: Danielle Buker, RN, BSN, CWOCN
- 1:30 – 1:45 PM **Closing Remarks**
Presenter: Mary Ellen Sheridan, APSNA President
- 1:45 PM **Lunch** – provided
Grab lunch to go before heading out for sightseeing in St. Louis or head to Landmark 4-7 to mingle with colleagues

NOTE: Session titles, speakers and timings are subject to change



Julie T. Berninger
RN, CPNP, WCC
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Washington University, St. Louis, MO



Danielle Buker
RN, BSN, CWOCN
Wound Ostomy Nurse Clinician, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH



Kristen Clark
RN, MSN, NNP-BC
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis MO



Carolyn Davis
APRN-CNP
Pediatric Surgery Colorectal Nurse Practitioner, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, OH



Elizabeth (Betsy) Diep
MSN, RN
Surgical Quality and Safety Consultant, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Pasadena, CA



Alessandra Gasior
DO, FACS, FASCRS
Surgeon/Associate Professor, The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH



Glenna M. Hare
MSN, RN, CPNP, WCC
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO



Elizabeth Hartbeck
RN, CPNP, WCC
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO



Amy Hiller
DO
Assistant Professor-Clinical, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

SPEAKERS



Robyn Huey Lao

DNP, CPNP-AC

Pediatric Surgery Nurse Practitioner, University of California – Davis, Davis, CA

Justin T Huntington

MD, MS

Pediatric Surgeon, Akron Children's Hospital, OH



Alissa MacDonald

DNP, NNP-BC

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis MO

Mary Maginas

MSN, BSN, CPNP-PC, TCRN

*Trauma Program Manager & Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Trauma Services,
Rady Children's Health Orange County, San Diego, CA*



Colin Martin

MD

*Professor of Surgery, Division Chief, and Surgeon in Chief, Washington University and Saint Louis Children's Hospital,
St. Louis, MO*

Dana Noffsinger

RN, MS, CPNP-AC/PC

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Surgery, Trauma and Burn Care, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH



Cathleen Opperman

DNP, RN, NPD-BC, EBP-CH, NEA-BC, CPN

Professional Development Nurse Specialist, Center for Nursing Excellence, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

Kathryn Rowland

MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Surgery, Washington University, St. Louis, MO



Elke Zani-Ruttenstock

MD, CPCC

*Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Washington University and Director of Pediatric Colorectal
Program, St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO*



Jennifer Seigel
RN, CPNP, CWCN
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Surgery/PAWS, Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO



Tiffany Taylor
MSN, MBA, RN
Trauma Program Manager, Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO



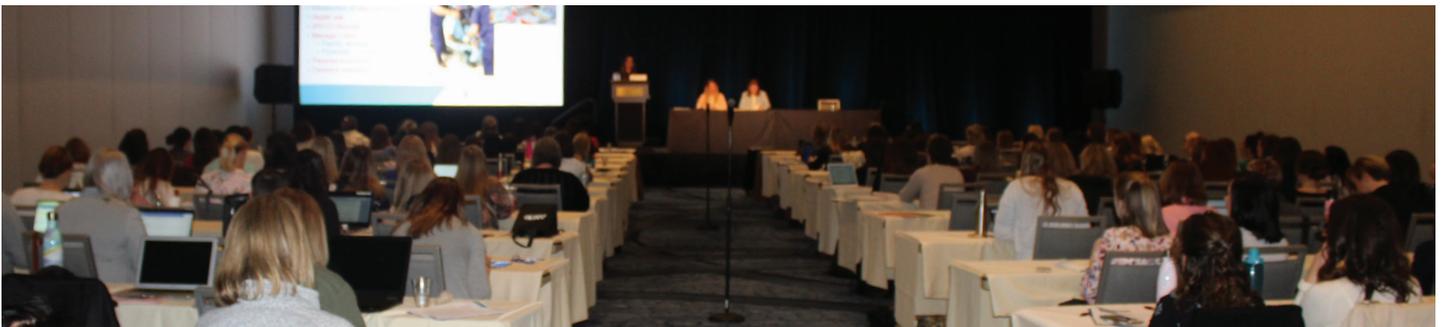
Khadijah Ann Walker
MSN, RN, FNP-BC, RNFA
Pediatric Surgical Nurse Practitioner, Valley health System, New Rochelle, NY



Jennifer Weiner
DNP, APRN-CNP, CPNP-AC/PC, EBP-C
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH



Carrie Wilson
MSN, RN, CPNP-PC, CPNP-AC, WCC
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Washington University, St. Louis, MO



WHAT PAST CONFERENCE ATTENDEES HAVE SHARED

”

Overall, another great conference from an educational perspective.

”

I took a lot away that proved to improve patient care

”

There were topics relevant to both the bedside RN and the NP.

POSTER PRESENTERS



Cassie Crabtree, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC

Registered Nurse, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO

Co-Authors: Katherine Newnam & Katheryne Amba



Mary Kay Hasenkamp, BSN, RN

Clinical Leader, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Ohio

Co-Authors: Heather Cassill, Courtney Kren and Michelle Roark



Julie McKee, CPNP

Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery / Department of Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR



Marketa Rejtar, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC

Inpatient General Surgery PNP and PNP Program Director/ Associate Clinical Professor, Boston Children's Hospital and Northeastern University

Co-Authors: Kathryn Bell, NP; Megan Gilday, NP; Nicole Lesanto, NP; Kara Migausky, NP; Pamela Morrison, NP; Maureen Pimentel, PNP; Megan Rabe, MSN-RN, CPNP; Victoria Scott, NP; Abigail Sutcliffe, NP



Alana Umbrecht, BSN, RN, CPN

Registered Nurse, Children's Hospital of Colorado

Co-Authors: Jacquelyn Scarberry, RN



CONFERENCE VENUE

Marriott St. Louis Grand | 800 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63101 | [Marriott St. Louis Grand Website](#)

Located in the heart of downtown St. Louis, the Marriott St. Louis Grand offers a compelling blend of historic grandeur and modern amenities, making it an ideal setting for conferences, meetings, and special events. Housed in the landmark former Statler Hotel — an iconic part of the city’s skyline since 1917 — the property has been thoughtfully reimaged to provide contemporary comfort while honoring its rich architectural heritage.

Situated near major St. Louis attractions — from Busch Stadium and Ballpark Village to the Gateway Arch and City Museum — the Marriott St. Louis Grand offers both convenience and character, providing an engaging hub for the 2026 APSNA Annual Conference.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Sleeping rooms have been blocked for the American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association at the Marriott St. Louis Grand for April 22-25 at a rate of \$219.00 plus taxes and fees for single or double occupancy. Check-in time is 4:00 pm and check-out time is 11:00 am.

Sleeping rooms can be reserved online by visiting [Marriott St. Louis Grand - APSNA Room Block](#). Reservations must be made on or before **March 24, 2026**. Reserve your room today!

For more information about the hotel, amenities, or travel, please visit the Marriott St. Louis Grand website: [Marriott St. Louis Grand](#)

ATTENDEE CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION

Attendee check-in will open Wednesday, April 22 at 8:00 am. A check-in/help area will remain open throughout the conference.

WHAT TO WEAR

Casual, business professional clothing is the suggested attire for the conference. Please also remember that meeting rooms are typically colder than a normal business environment, so we recommend dressing in layers.

PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE

APSNA and/or its business associates will take many digital photographs at numerous events throughout the conference. The photographs may be used for our newsletters, publications, media releases, brochures and our website. We do not intend to use these photographs in any manner other than for the purposes stated above. By registering for the conference, you grant permission for APSNA to use your photograph in this manner. Please contact us at info@apsna.org if you have any questions.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

SPECIAL NEEDS

If any special disability/dietary arrangements are needed, please contact us at: (855) 984.1609.

EXHIBITS

The APSNA Annual Scientific Conference will feature exhibitor booths that display products and services specifically designed for leaders in the field of pediatric surgical nursing. We encourage you to visit all exhibitors in attendance and thank them for their support. Exhibit booths will be on display Wednesday during the welcome reception and all day Thursday during the conference providing ample time for networking. By visiting the Exhibit Hall, you will experience the technology, products, and services that can help you manage your professional goals, strategic objectives, and keep you and your organization at the forefront of pediatric surgical care delivery.

For more information about exhibiting at or sponsoring the conference, please visit the [APSNA Exhibit/Sponsorship page](#).

POSTERS

The 35th APSNA Annual Scientific Conference will feature posters displaying innovation and research in the study and treatment of pediatric surgical patients as well as informative case studies. Poster Authors will be displaying their posters during the Poster Viewing Session on April 23 from 1:15 – 2:15 pm. A PDF of the posters will also be available for viewing in the event app during the conference. Conference attendees will be able to vote for the posters they deem most influential to their practice. Prizes will be awarded. Winners will be announced on April 24. Winning posters will be included in a future edition of the Journal of Pediatric Surgical Nursing, the official journal of APSNA.

CONFERENCE RAFFLE

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to support APSNA Education and Research Scholarships through our annual raffle. Don't miss your opportunity to support APSNA and a chance to win one of our fabulous raffle items! All items will be on display throughout the conference.

Tickets will be available for purchase throughout the conference, from Wednesday, April 22 during registration until the last educational session on Thursday, April 23. Raffle winners will be announced on Thursday, April 23. Please note some raffle items may incur additional shipping fees. This will be noted on individual raffle items.

Please consider contributing through a donation of a gift or service. Please remember that our conference attendees need to travel home with their items! If you would like to make a donation for the conference raffle, please contact Emily Ellis, Director of Development at info@apsna.org to make arrangements.

EXPLORE ST. LOUIS

The Marriott St. Louis Grand is located near a number of St. Louis area attractions, such as the St. Louis Zoo, City Museum, Busch Stadium, Ballpark Village, Energizer Park and the Gateway Arch. We hope you plan to get out and explore the city during your stay in St. Louis!

Friday, April 24, upon adjournment of the conference, the APSNA Board will be heading to the Gateway Arch for a tour and we would love it if you would join us!

Towering 630 feet above the Mississippi River, the Gateway Arch is more than a stunning architectural landmark — it's a symbol of American ambition, innovation, and the spirit of exploration that defines this region. Designed by visionary architect Eero Saarinen and completed in 1965, this gleaming stainless-steel monument celebrates St. Louis's pivotal role as the historic "Gateway to the West."

Located in the vibrant Gateway Arch National Park, the Arch offers an unforgettable experience for every visitor. Ride the unique tram car to the top for breathtaking panoramic views of the city, the mighty Mississippi River, and the rolling landscapes beyond. Explore the world-class Museum at the Gateway Arch, where immersive exhibits bring the rich stories of American westward expansion to life — all set against beautifully landscaped park grounds that connect downtown to the riverfront.

Whether you're interested in history, awe-inspiring views, or simply an unforgettable photo opportunity, the Gateway Arch stands as a must-see highlight of St. Louis and a perfect centerpiece for your conference experience.

For more information on the Gateway Arch and to purchase tickets, please visit [Gateway Arch](#).

NETWORKING

The APSNA Annual Scientific Conference is a wonderful opportunity to engage with your colleagues in the pediatric surgical nursing community. Nurse leaders representing hospitals, clinics, universities, and healthcare organizations from across the country will come together at the conference.

SPECIAL NETWORKING EVENTS

Welcome Reception

- Please join us for the welcome reception, an annual APSNA tradition, to kick off the start of the Annual Scientific Conference
- Network with exhibitors participating. Without their support the conference would not be possible
- Meet up with old APSNA friends and make new APSNA friends!
- *Event date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 5:30 – 7:00 PM*

APSNA Awards Luncheon

- Celebrate all of our 2026 Award Recipients with us; recipients will be announced during the conference!
- A wonderful buffet meal is planned.
- One ticket is included with the full conference registration. Additional event tickets can be purchased for \$100.
- *Event date: Thursday, April 23, 2026, 12:00 – 1:15 PM*

Gateway Arch Tour

- Please plan to join APSNA Board members for a tour of the Gateway Arch at the conclusion of the Annual Scientific Conference
- Walk or Uber to Arch and experience the awe-inspiring, national monument, an icon symbolizing America's westward expansion
- Tickets may be purchased online at <https://www.gatewayarch.com/buy-tickets/>
- *Event date: Friday, April 24, 2026, 2:30 PM*



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Conference attendees must complete the electronic conference evaluation within the conference event app in order to receive a certificate of completion per accreditation guidelines. Attendees may complete the evaluation during the conference or upon completion of the event. A link to access the online evaluation through the event app will be emailed at the completion of the conference.

Access to the individual session evaluations and the overall conference evaluation will be available **until 11:59 pm on May 25, 2026.**

APSNA appreciates your feedback! Evaluation data received guides APSNA in the planning of future conferences.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education is offered as CE contact hours and CME credit. CE contact hours approved by NAPNAP are most commonly a requirement for Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Nurses. The price for CE is included in registration.

CME is most commonly a requirement of physicians and Physician Assistants. Attendees requiring an additional CME certificate to be issued will be assessed a \$55.00 additional fee. This fee is non-refundable. If you need a CME certificate, be sure to add this to your conference registration before finalizing!



NURSES

This program is accredited for 18.75 NAPNAP CE contact hours for the full Annual Conference per the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Continuing Education Guidelines. CE Provider #27: The breakdown of pharmacology, psychopharmacology and trauma hours has not yet been determined. Bootcamp: 2.75 CE; Pre-Conference: 2.5 CE; Skills Sessions: 1.5 CE; April 23: 6.75 CE; April 24: 5.25 CE



PHYSICIANS

This program is not yet approved for CME credit. Conference organizers have applied for **AAPA Category 1 CME credits from the AAPA Review Panel. The total number of approved credits is yet to be determined.



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

This program is not yet approved for CME credit. Conference organizers requested AAPA Category 1 CME credits from the American Academy of Physician Assistants - Physician Assistant Review Panel. Total number of approved credits yet to be determined.

Credits are subject to final approval and may be adjusted.



LEARN MORE
apsna.org



MISSION

APSNA's mission is to be the voice that shapes pediatric surgical nursing through advocacy, collaboration, mentorship and leadership. Based on a foundation of research, education and innovation, we will transform care delivery for pediatric surgical patients.

The American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc. (APSNA) is a non-profit 501c3 founded in 1992. Our membership of over 600 consists of Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physician Assistants and other Allied Health Professionals. Our diverse membership includes roles of academia, administration, clinician, researcher, coordinator, collaborator, working in various settings such as at the bedside, in the operating room, and both inpatient and ambulatory environments. Our members specialize in all aspects of care of the pediatric surgical infant and child, through young adulthood. We are the primary and only nursing organization devoted exclusively to the care of the pediatric surgical patient in urban and rural communities.

We invite APSNA members and non-members to join us for the Annual Scientific Conference to network with your peers. Non-Members, we hope you will consider becoming an APSNA Member. Join APSNA today and you can save on conference registration fees.

Become involved with the leading authority for the nursing care of pediatric surgical patients today!

For more information about membership and to join online please visit – <https://members.apsna.org/join>

For additional information contact: American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association | Info@apsna.org

VISION

APSNA will be the leading authority for the nursing care of pediatric surgical patients.

CORE VALUES

Diversity and Inclusion - Act according to a strong code of ethics demonstrating acceptance, cooperation, flexibility, compromise and mutual respect.

Excellence - Establish and sustain professional competencies that promote pediatric surgical nursing to key stakeholders.

Integrity - Model and uphold transparency, accountability and honesty through actions, communication, and caring behaviors.

Innovation - Encourage inquiry and creativity to promote proactive, interactive, professional deliberations.

Scientific Inquiry - Commit to lifelong learning by actively contributing to an evolving body of scientific surgical nursing knowledge through research, publication, and dissemination.

Volunteerism - Provide members the ability to freely interact, discuss trends, and share knowledge.

APSNA'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING STATEMENT

APSNA respects, values, and celebrates the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that make each person who they are. We believe our strength lies in the diversity of the people and professional experiences we represent. APSNA recognizes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) as drivers of organizational excellence and is committed to fostering diversity of participation, thought, and action. It is our aim that our members, partners, and key stakeholders reflect and embrace these core values.

APSNA INFORMATION

COMMITTEES / SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Please consider attending an APSNA Committee Meeting or joining a Special Interest Group (SIG). *Participate in one of the SIG meetings on April 23 to learn more!*

APSNA Committees support the work of the organization. Joining an APSNA Committee is a great way to meet others and move forward the work of the organization.

Committee Meetings will be arranged by the Directors:

- Program
- Education
- Development

During the conference, APSNA Committees are welcome to meet on April 23, 2026 from 5:00 – 6:00 PM.

APSNA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) allow members to share common interests in an organized, formal manner. The SIGs APSNA offers are:

- Chest Wall Deformity
- Colorectal
- Trauma

Interested in joining a SIG? Visit <https://www.apsna.org/page/SIG>

During the conference, APSNA SIGs will meet on April 23, 2026 from 5:00 – 6:00 PM

APSNA 2026 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEES

EDUCATIONAL CONTENT ADVISORY GROUP

- **Jennifer Berkbigler, MSN, PNP-AC, Director of Program**
Nationwide Children's, Columbus, OH
- **Lori Lynch, DNP, APRN, PNP-BC, CBN, Immediate Past President**
New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, Columbia School of Nursing, New York, NY
- **Ashley Noboa, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CPNP-AC, Director of Education**
Dell Children's Medical Center, Austin, TX
- **Rachael Reif, RN, C.B.C. C.L.C, Secretary**
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- **Cherie Rothaupt, DNP, RN, CPN, Director of Practice and Quality**
PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center, Springfield OR

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- **Elizabeth Diep, MSN, RN**
Kaiser Permanente, Pasadena, CA
- **Sarah Driesbach, MS, FNP**
Nationwide Children's, Columbus OH
- **Meghan Fisher RN, BSN, CWON**
Nationwide Children's, Columbus, OH
- **Nicole Jenkins, MSN, CFNP**
Nationwide Children's, Columbus, OH
- **Megan Kroger, PA-C**
Nationwide Children's, Columbus, OH
- **Michael Lamb, CPNP**
New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley

- **Alicia McIntire, CPNP**
Oregon Health and Science University, Portland OR.
- **Robyn Huey Lao, DNP, MS, BSN, RN, CNL, CPNP-AC**
University of California Davis Children's Hospital, Sacramento, CA
- **Kathryn O'Connell, APRN, PNP-C**
Inova Health Systems
- **Jessica Pech, MSN, APN, CPNP-PC**
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- **Tomara Price, MSN, CPNP-AC**
Nationwide Children's, Columbus, OH

APSNA BOARD

- **Mary Ellen Sheridan, MSN, RN, CNS**
President
- **Lori Lynch, DNP, APRN, PNP-BC, CBN**
Immediate Past President
- **Marketa Rejtar, DNP APRN CPNP-AC/PC**
Treasurer
- **Rachael Reif, RN, C.B.C. C.L.C**
Secretary
- **Jennifer Berkbigler, MSN, PNP-AC**
Director of Program
- **Ashley Noboa, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CPNP-AC**
Director of Education
- **Emily Ellis, MSN-L, RN, CNOR, CPN**
Director of Development
- **Cherie Rothaupt, DNP, RN, CPN**
Director of Practice and Quality



STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2028

THEME 1



NURSES SHOULD PRACTICE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR APSNA, INC.?

Nurses working in pediatric surgical settings must be able to practice to the full extent of their education regardless of whether they are working as a registered nurse (RN) or an advanced practice nurse (APN) and regardless of the setting.

GOALS

- Promote the application and integration of the Pediatric Surgery NP & RN Competencies into education, preceptorship, membership, and orientation to the organization and within Pediatric Surgical practices nationally.

THEME 2



NURSES SHOULD ACHIEVE HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING THROUGH AN IMPROVED EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT PROMOTES SEAMLESS ACADEMIC PROGRESS.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR APSNA, INC.?

Nurses should achieve a higher level of specialized education and training through an innovative education process that promotes pediatric surgical nursing.

GOALS

- Maintain robust and diverse educational offerings for Pediatric Surgery Clinicians.

THEME 3



NURSES SHOULD BE FULL PARTNERS WITH PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN REDESIGNING HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR APSNA, INC.?

APSNA should be the resource in decision making about how to improve the delivery of care within the pediatric surgical arena.

GOALS

- Identify ways of advanced problem solving among different pediatric surgical multidisciplinary groups, and industry that foster professional relationships, and discern innovative methods to deliver exceptional ethical patient care.

THEME 4



EFFECTIVE WORK FORCE PLANNING AND POLICY MAKING REQUIRE BETTER DATA COLLECTION AND AN IMPROVED INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR APSNA, INC.?

Members will be provided with opportunities to advance professionally as well as advance the care of pediatric surgical patients.

GOALS

- Increase membership diversity and engagement within APSNA, Inc.
- Increase opportunities for professional development



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