

Candidate for Nominating Committee

Heather Przybyl, DNP, APRN, ACCNS-AG, CCRN
RN Certified Specialist - Critical Care
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Phoenix, AZ



Experience and Activities

AACN Commitment and Involvement, 2021-present

Includes ways in which the candidate integrated the mission and work of AACN into their current role and practice. Local and national volunteer activities are listed, if applicable.

- Chapter Advisory Team, 2024-present
- Member, Greater Phoenix Area Chapter, 2007-present
 - President, 2022-present
 - President-elect, 2021-2022
 - Webmaster, 2020-2021
- Chapter reviewer and author, “AACN Procedure Manual for High Acuity, Progressive and Critical Care,” 8th edition, 2022-2023
- National Teaching Institute (NTI)
 - Podium presenter, 2025, 2023 (and 2021 Virtual NTI)
 - Poster presentation, 2024, 2023, 2021
- ACCNS-AG Score Evaluation Committee, 2024, 2023
- ACCNS Virtual Pool Review Committee, 2023
- Beacon Review Panel, 2021-2023
- Chapter Awards Review Panel, 2021-2022
- Chapters in AACN publications
 - “AACN Procedure Manual for High Acuity, Progressive and Critical Care,” 8th edition, 2023
 - Przybyl H, Tracheostomy Cuff and Tube Care, chapter 11
 - Przybyl H, Golino A, Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy, chapter 106
 - Przybyl H, Golino A, Hemodialysis, chapter 107
 - Przybyl H, Golino A, Peritoneal Dialysis, chapter 108
 - *Critical Care Nurse*
 - Przybyl H, Boyle E. Creation of an escape room to improve outcomes with CRRT. *Crit Care Nurse*. 2023;43(3):68-71.
 - *AACN Advanced Critical Care*
 - Przybyl H, Grindler J, Lauer D. Unfreezing what’s hot in liver transplantation: a review of current trends. *AACN Adv Crit Care*. 2022;33(1):56-67.

Key Professional Activities Outside AACN, 2021-present

Includes involvement with other professional organizations, teaching and/or speaking engagements

- *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*
 - Przybyl H, Messman L, Lauer D. Latest Advances in the Treatment of Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). (Anticipated publication September 2025)
 - Przybyl H, Kulikowski E, Lauer D. Technology to Reduce Pressure Injuries in the ICU. (Anticipated publication April 2025)
- Podium presentation, "The Journey to Zero Pressure Injuries: Implementing an EBP Project Utilizing Advanced Technology to Reduce HAPIs," National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS), New Orleans, March 10-13, 2024
- Podium presentation, "Creation of an Escape Room to Enhance Hemodynamic Learning: A Method to Improve Patient Outcomes," Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 25-27, 2023
- Poster presentations at various national conferences
 - NACNS, 2025, 2024

Issues Statement

One key issue affecting acute and critical care nursing today is nurse burnout. Nurse burnout is a state of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion caused by prolonged and excessive stress. This condition is particularly prevalent in acute and critical care settings due to the high-stakes, fast-paced nature of the work, long shifts and the emotional toll of caring for critically ill patients.

Efforts need to be made to alleviate nurse burnout, because it negatively impacts patient care, staff retention and recruitment, the mental and physical health of healthcare providers, and ultimately the efficiency of the healthcare system. The AACN and/or AACN Certification Corporation play a pivotal role in setting standards and advocating for practices in acute and critical care nursing.

Championing the issue of nurse burnout aligns with the mission to support and advance the profession. AACN can enhance education and training programs to include strategies for managing stress and building resilience. This can help nurses better cope with the demands of their roles. Finally, the AACN Certification Corporation can incorporate burnout-related competencies into their certification and recertification processes. This ensures that certified nurses are not only skilled in clinical care but also in self-care and stress management.

By addressing nurse burnout, AACN and the AACN Certification Corporation can improve patient care, enhance the well-being of nurses, and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the healthcare system. This focus would demonstrate a commitment to both the profession and the quality of care provided to patients.