

Candidate for Director

Jennifer Hayakawa, DNP, CNS, CNRN, CCRN

Director of Nursing Research and Innovation

*Children's Hospital of Orange County, part of Rady Children's Health
Orange, CA*



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.

- Greater Long Beach Orange County Chapter
 - Director at large, 2015-present
 - Member, 2007-present
 - President, 2013-2014
- Advisor, Hospital unit's Beacon application, 2015-present
- Participant, AACN's Charting the Future Together, 2024
- AACN - AACN Certification Corporation Nominating Committee, 2023-2024
- Research Poster Award, NTI 2022
- Chapter Advisory Team, 2020-2022
- Reviewer, AACN Beacon Award, 2010-2021

Key Professional Activities Outside AACN, 2020-present

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

- Co-author, Multiple peer-reviewed publications, 2021-2025
- Presenter, Multiple podium and poster presentations at national conferences, 2021-2025
- The DAISY Foundation, J. Patrick Barnes Research Grant Award, 2024
- #FirstRespondersFirst in collaboration with ALL IN: WellBeing First for Healthcare, Grant award, 2022

Issues Statement

In critical care nursing, the rapid advancement of technology and increasing complexity of care have inadvertently overshadowed a foundational element of nursing: human connection. While technological innovations have enhanced our ability to treat patients, they have also contributed to a more fragmented healthcare environment where interpersonal relationships and emotional bonds are often neglected.

As a nurse deeply committed to improving the healthcare environment, I have observed how this shift affects organizational culture and performance. The absence of strong human connections among staff leads to reduced collaboration, decreased engagement and higher turnover rates. These issues erode trust and stifle innovation, ultimately hindering the delivery of high-quality patient care.

When healthcare professionals feel isolated and disconnected from their peers and organizational values, job satisfaction plummets. This fosters poor communication and teamwork, compromising patient safety and care quality. High turnover rates also pose a financial burden and disrupt continuity of care, affecting patient outcomes.

Addressing this issue requires a renewed focus on fostering deep connections and a sense of belonging among healthcare professionals. By cultivating an environment where staff feel valued, understood and connected to the organizational mission, we can enhance job satisfaction, improve retention and create a more resilient workforce. AACN can help create a more collaborative, engaged and innovative healthcare community, ultimately improving patient care and outcomes on a national scale.