

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

Shelly Orr, PhD, RN, CCRP

Director of Clinical Research Operations

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System
Richmond, VA



Experience and Activities

AACN Commitment and Involvement, 2022-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 Richmond Area Chapter (GRAC)
 - Member and leader
 - Past-president mentor, 2020-present
 - Website manager, 2019-present
 - Community service
 - Volunteer, 2019-present
 - Chair, 2020-2024
 - Merit Point Chair, 2025
 - Writer, Circle of Excellence award, 2024, 2022
- Nurses in Leadership Community, 2023-present
- Ambassador, 2018-present
- Member, AACN – AACN Certification Corporation Nominating Committee, 2024
- Co-principal Investigator, “The Feasibility and Acceptability of Using Weighted Blankets to Prevent and/or Mitigate Delirium in Adult Critical Care Patients in Urban and Rural Settings,” 2023-present
- Co-principal investigator, “ICU Terminal Wean/Extubation Practices,” 2019-2025
- Co-investigator, “Pulmonary Focused Verticalization Therapy in Patients Experiencing Respiratory Distress,” 2021-2024
- Co-principal investigator, “Prevalence and Characteristics of Patients Who Die Following Ventilator Withdrawal in the Medical ICU,” 2019-2022
- Co-principal investigator, “Giving Voice to Those Who Are Silent: A Pilot Study Examining the Use of Biomarkers for Assessing Pain in the ICU,” 2019-2022
- Published articles, 2022-2025
 - Intensive care clinicians’ experiences of palliative withdrawal of mechanical ventilation: A qualitative study. *BMJ*. Accepted

- Pulmonary-focused verticalization therapy in patients experiencing respiratory failure. *Am J Crit Care*. 2025;34(2):145–149.
- ICU clinicians' experiences of terminal weaning and extubation. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2022;63(5):e521–e528.

Key Professional Activities outside AACN, 2022-present

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

- Professional Certifications
 - Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP), 2024-present
 - Certified Nurse Educator (CNE), 2015-2023
- Member, Hospital-Based Nursing Committees, 2020-present
 - Council on Clinical Inquiry & Innovation
 - Clinical Translation & Nursing Excellence
 - Nursing & Health Professions Protocol Review Oversight Committee
 - Member, 2021-present
 - Chair, 2021-2022
 - Epic EHR Implementation and Optimization Council
- Chapter 18 (Gas Exchange), *Concepts for Nursing Practice* (4th edition), 2023
- Accepted for the VCU Health Legacy Leaders Mentorship Program
- Doctoral Student Supervision
 - “Nurse-Driven Palliative Care Trigger Tool in the Trauma Intensive Care Unit,” University of Virginia School of Nursing, 2023
 - “Exploring the Lived Experience of Healthcare Providers During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Phenomenological Study of Intensive Care Unit Nurses and Physicians,” Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing, 2022

Issues Statement

Addressing nurse staffing shortages is paramount to the quality and safety of care provided to acute and critical care patients, and the health of the nurses caring for them. With safe staffing standards in place, our patients experience less risk for errors, infections, and mortality. With safe staffing standards in place, nurses experience less burnout, job dissatisfaction, and desire to leave the profession.

AACN is uniquely positioned to advocate for safe nurse staffing standards and has a reputation for bringing key stakeholders to the table. With over 130,000 nurses strong, we have the voice needed to drive change. We can collaborate with other healthcare organizations and policymakers to establish

and enforce safe staffing benchmarks. We can support research and the development of evidence-based tools that highlight safe staffing standards. We can promote nursing certification that demonstrates nursing's expertise needed for safe patient care. We must advocate for healthy work environments with adequate staffing where we can care for our patients without fear of emotional or physical abuse, where we are able to leave work on time and perform self-care, and where we are a valued member of the healthcare team and are recognized for the knowledge and compassion we bring to the care of our patients.

Nurses are, and will always be, the backbone of healthcare. AACN can champion safe nurse staffing standards through advocacy. Collectively, our voice is powerful and can drive change that ensures better outcomes for acute and critical care patients and the nurses caring for them.