

CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Alexander Menard, DNP, MS, AGACNP-BC

**Assistant Professor & Coordinator,
Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP Track**

UMass Chan Medical School
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing
Worcester, Massachusetts

Staff NP Surgical Critical Care

UMass Memorial Medical Center
Worcester, Massachusetts



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.

- Speaker, National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition, 2024
- Sepsis Micro-Credential Item Writing Committee, 2022-2024
- AACN Publications
 - Carpenter D, Menard A, Isenberger J, Stevens GA, LaRock L. Facing violence in the workplace: an integrative review of preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery strategies for acute and critical care nurses. *Crit Care Nurse*. 2025;45(5):28–45.
 - Carpenter D, Menard A, Isenberger J, Stevens GA, LaRock L. Acute and critical care nurses' roles in mass shootings: an integrative review. *Crit Care Nurse*. 2024;44(5):20–31.

Key Professional Activities outside AACN, 2022-present

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

- Presenter, “Mass Shootings and the Nurse Practitioner: From Bystander to Bedside,” American Association of Nurse Practitioners Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2025
- Presenter, “Mass Shootings & Healthcare Providers,” Empowering the Caregiver Conference, Worcester, MA, 2025
- Presenter, “Abdominal Trauma,” Nurse Practitioner Associate for Continuing Educations (NPACE) Conference, Boston, MA, 2024
- Co-editor, “Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certification Review”
- Co-editor, “Fast Facts for Trauma Nurses”

Issues Statement

One key issue affecting acute and critical care nursing today is the need to elevate the nursing profession through enhanced recognition, autonomy and leadership development. Nurses are the cornerstone of patient care in high-acuity settings, yet they often face systemic barriers that limit their influence in clinical decision-making, institutional policy development and strategic planning. This underrepresentation contributes to burnout, turnover and missed opportunities for innovation and quality improvement.

Elevating the profession requires more than acknowledgment, it demands intentional structural reform. This includes expanding advanced practice roles, embedding nurses in executive leadership and governance structures, and creating equitable access to professional development, mentorship and certification. It also means cultivating a culture where nurses are empowered to lead interdisciplinary teams, contribute to evidence-based practice, and shape the future of healthcare delivery.

AACN and AACN Certification Corporation are uniquely positioned to champion this issue. Through national reach and credibility, they can set standards that promote excellence and visibility for acute and critical care nurses. By investing in leadership development programs, policy advocacy and recognition initiatives, AACN can help shift the narrative, positioning nurses not just as caregivers, but as strategic leaders and innovators too.

Addressing this issue is essential for sustaining the nursing workforce, improving patient outcomes, and ensuring the resilience of healthcare systems. Elevating the profession is not just a matter of pride, it's a strategic imperative. AACN's leadership in this space can catalyze a transformation in how nurses are perceived, supported and empowered across all levels of care.