

2026

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



AACN Pioneering Spirit Award

Mary Kay Bader

Mary Kay Bader, MSN, RN, CCNS, CNRN, CCRN, SCRN, FNCS, FAHA, FCCM, has over 47 years of nursing experience and is a leading nursing expert in neuroscience and critical care. As a neuroscience critical care clinical nurse specialist, she partners with interprofessional teams to develop clinical protocols and integrate technology into the care of critically ill patients with neurologic disorders and

stroke at Providence Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, California.

Bader's leadership has resulted in Providence Mission Hospital receiving two Ernest A. Codman Awards from The Joint Commission. She led the successful development and implementation of hospital-based brain injury guidelines from the Brain Trauma Foundation, and implemented the Rapid Response Program, for which she remains the current clinical lead.

Bader has lectured nationally and internationally on brain/spine injury, cerebral multimodality monitoring, stroke, post-cardiac arrest care and seizures. She has over 70 publications, including four books. She was a member of the Neurocritical Care Society (NCS) 2014 Multimodality Monitoring guideline group and the AHA/NCS 2023 "Critical Care Management of Patients after Cardiac Arrest" scientific statement. She is also a past president of NCS and the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, and on the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses.

AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
of CRITICAL-CARE
NURSES