



CACCN Board of Director Nominee Central Region

**Brandi Vanderspank-Wright, PhD RN CNCC(C)
Professor
Faculty of Nursing, University of Ottawa**

Nominated by Mat Wenger

Personal Statement

I have been a critical care nurse since 2003. Following a consolidation experience as part of the fourth year of my BScN program at the University of Ottawa, critical care nursing has been without a doubt, my professional passion. Shortly thereafter, I began working in the ICU General Campus of The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) and remained at TOH until 2019.

In 2005, I began working on my MSc Nursing at the University of Ottawa. My thesis work explored the experiences of critical care nurses who care for patients and families during the process of withdrawal of life-sustaining measures. This work was largely influenced by my personal experiences of end-of-life care in the ICU. My MScN work was published in 2011 in special issue on End-of-Life Care in Dynamics and subsequently received a first place editorial award from CACCN.

I have maintained CNA Certification in Adult Critical Care since 2007. Achieving CNA Certification marked a pivotal moment in my nursing career and it solidified my critical care nursing identity.

I began my PhD studies in 2009 (completed 2014). My doctoral work explored the development of critical care nursing in Canada. I used historical perspectives to understand how Canadian ICU nurses shaped their identity. I had the privilege of interviewing nurses who, collectively, had worked in over 40 units across the country between 1960 and 2002. This work was the first of its kind in Canada. I am currently an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa. My program of research focuses on end-of-life care in the ICU and the experiences of nurses who provide care to patients and their families as well as supporting critical care nurses (incl. new graduates) as they transition into specialty practice. In my academic role, I am privileged to supervise graduate students who are doing research related to critical care nursing practice using a variety of methods and from multiple perspectives.

I maintain my involvement with the ICU at TOH through participation in their Nursing Journal Club and ICU Nursing Education Committee.

I am proud to have been a member of the CACCN since 2007. In 2013, I joined the Ottawa Chapter Executive. Nationally, I have attended the CACCN National Conference as a representative of the Ottawa Chapter. I have been a member of the Professional

Development Committee since 2016. I have served as a reviewer for various award opportunities. I have presented at the CACCN Dynamics Conference and published in the Canadian Journal of Critical Care Nursing. I am a past recipient of the Research Grant and a nominee for the Brenda Morgan Leadership Excellence Award. In 2018 I was elected to the Board as a Director for Central Region. Since 2018, I have actively engaged with my responsibilities as a Board member

Tell us why you are seeking a Board of Director position

My motivation for seeking re-election for a Board of Directors position is to continue to actively contribute to building capacity for critical care nurses across Canada. I consider Board services (current and future) to be both a privileged and voluntary position. Contributions that I hope to make during my second mandate on the BOD include a continued focus on professional development; critical care nursing knowledge development (i.e. Standards of Practice, Certification); scholarship (i.e. research and quality improvement); and, service through committee work within the association and supporting nurses at the chapter level.

CACCN Involvement

I have been a member of CACCN since 2007. My CACCN involvement has been twofold – engaging with CACCN at a chapter level as well as at a national level, as a Board Member since 2018. At a chapter level I have maintained my membership with the Ottawa Regional Chapter since 2007. In 2013, I joined the Ottawa Chapter Executive as the Membership Chair. I have been actively engaged at the chapter level through participation in activities such as helping to organize Annual Education Days as well as presenting at these events. From a national perspective, I have been a board member since April 2018. I have attended the CACCN National Conference (including Chapter Connections Day) as a representative of the Ottawa Chapter. I have been a member of the Professional Development Committee since 2015. Additionally, I have served as a reviewer for the following: Chasing Excellence Award, Sage Products Poster Bursary and the Spacelabs Healthcare Award. I have also presented at the CACCN Dynamics Conference on several occasions. I am a past recipient of the CACCN Research Grant and have received a nomination for the Brenda Morgan Leadership Excellence Award. Most recently, I represented the CACCN at a joint meeting between Canadian Blood Services and the Canadian Critical Care Society.

Volunteer Experience (outside of CACCN)

My volunteer work outside of the CACCN, has primarily focused on involvement with the Canadian Cancer Society. During my teenage years I regularly canvassed during the month of April. From 2005-2015, I organized and hosted a Curl for Cancer event at the Cornwall (ON) Curling Club in junction with the S.D.G. & Prescott-Russell Community Office. This event raised approximately \$20,000 in support of Cancer Research. Since 2015, other volunteer work has included participating in events with my son's school (e.g. bookfairs, healthy lunches, annual school trips) and volunteer work regarding minor sports activities. I am actively involved with service at the University of Ottawa by serving on various committee at the undergraduate and graduate levels. My service also extends to committees at The Ottawa Hospital including the ICU Nursing Education Committee and corporately, the Nursing Research Working Group. In the past, I sat on the executive of the Seaway Chapter of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and served for a brief period of time as President of the Chapter.