



BOD Nomination for Director @ Large (any region)

Oliver Nicola De Laurentiis, MN, RN, CNCC(C)

Toronto, ON

Nominated by Allison Somers, Toronto, ON

Tell us why you are seeking a Board of Director position

I'm seeking a Director-at-Large role with CACCN to give back to the community that shaped my career. As a leader in critical care education and professional practice, I'm passionate about building spaces where nurses feel seen, supported, and inspired. My work—from mentoring educators to collaborating internationally with the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration—reflects a belief in nursing as a global force for change. I want to help CACCN grow as a hub for connection, scholarship, and advocacy, and to ensure every member feels empowered to lead, learn, and elevate the future of critical care nursing.

CACCN / Volunteer Involvement

My involvement with CACCN began through the Central Ontario Chapter, where I participated in local activities and events. Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID-19 and personal family responsibilities, I was unable to continue in that capacity. However, my commitment to the Association remained strong. I have contributed to the CACCN Conference Review Committee, supporting the evaluation of abstracts and helping shape

the educational content offered to members. I also serve on the Canadian Journal of Critical Care Nursing Editorial Advisory Board and work as a peer reviewer, helping uphold the journal's scholarly standards and promote critical care nursing research.

Beyond CACCN, I volunteer with the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC), contributing to curriculum development for critical care nursing in Ethiopia. I also serve as a language advisor and peer reviewer for the Italian Journal of Critical Care Nursing.

While I do not yet have formal board or chapter leadership experience within CACCN, I bring strong leadership and strategic skills from my current role as Manager of Professional Practice, where I support nursing teams across acute and critical care programs. I am confident that my diverse experience and passion for advancing nursing will be valuable to the Board and the CACCN community.

Personal Statement

I am an internationally educated nurse, originally from Italy, where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Perugia and began my career in the ICU. In 2018, I moved to Canada with the goal of continuing my nursing journey. It took two years to obtain my license—years filled with resilience and growth—during which I worked as a PSW in an ICU while completing my Master of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Shortly after receiving my license, I joined the Medical-Surgical ICU at Toronto General Hospital during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic—a defining moment that deepened my commitment to critical care and the nursing profession. Since then, I've embraced a variety of roles: bedside nurse, resource nurse, ICU supervisor, and educator. I briefly transitioned to perioperative services in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit to broaden my clinical experience, before returning to MSICU as an Advanced Practice Nurse Educator. My passion for professional practice and standards led me to my current role as Manager of Professional Practice, where I support diverse portfolios across acute and critical care programs. I am also pursuing an Executive MBA, with graduation expected in 2027, to further strengthen my leadership and strategic capabilities.

I am standing for election to the CACCN Board because I truly love being a nurse. It is the best decision I've ever made. I believe in the profound impact nurses have—not only on patient outcomes but also on shaping healthcare systems. I want to ensure nurses recognize the power of their voice and feel empowered to speak up, advocate, and lead. I especially want to support frontline nurses who choose to remain at the bedside, helping

them feel heard, valued, and involved in shaping the future of our profession. As a leader, I know that meaningful change is only possible when we stand shoulder to shoulder with those delivering care every day.

My involvement with CACCN has grown steadily. I've attended conferences, participated in general meetings, and contributed to the Canadian Journal of Critical Care Nursing as a peer reviewer and now as a member of the editorial advisory board. I am inspired by the passion and dedication of the CACCN community and want to be part of this vibrant, forward-thinking group. As a Director, I hope to represent internationally educated nurses and demonstrate that success is possible through perseverance, mentorship, and community. I want to collaborate on developing high-quality educational resources and infrastructure for critical care nurses, foster the community of practice CACCN has built, and explore opportunities for micro credentialing in subspecialties—potentially in partnership with AACN or CNA. I also hope to explore formal partnerships with the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC) and the Italian Journal of Critical Care Nursing, co-creating webinars and sharing experiences across borders to elevate global nursing practice. Above all, I want to show others that if I can do it, they can too.