

CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
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NURSES



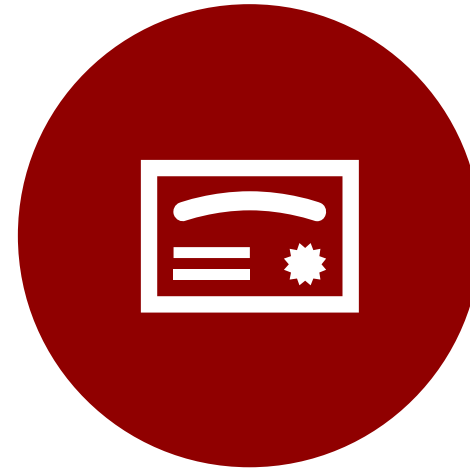
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CACCN AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

Congratulations



AWARD RECIPIENTS



NOMINEES AND APPLICANTS



AWARD SPONSORS

Thank you for your support

Award Reviews

Applicants must meet the overall and award specific criteria to quality for review.

Awards are blind reviewed by a minimum of three CACCN Members using a review rubric.

The **Graduate Bursary** is determined by the Merit Points application submitted by the applicant.



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BBraun Sharing Expertise Award

Ashleigh A, Christine F & Nicole D

Chasing Excellence Award

Marley G, Oliver DL & Sarah C

CICU Week Spotlight Challenge

Mary AK, Marianne R & Pat R

Research Grant

Martha M, Michelle HK & Katherine K

Spacelabs Innovative Project Awards

Gabrielle D, Susan C, & Vini B

Award Reviewers

Thank you for your time
and expertise



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SHARING EXPERTISE AWARD

Tuition, Travel
Hotel for the
Canadian Critical Care
Nursing Conference

Presented to an individual who exhibits stellar leadership and mentoring abilities in critical care.



Chelsea Simpkin

Lethbridge, AB

...I can confidently say that Chelsea is a natural leader with exceptional communication, collaboration, and advocacy skills...

...Chelsea clearly strives for excellence no matter the objective. She has successfully completed two bachelor's degrees (BSc and BN) and is currently pursuing her Master of Nursing- Nurse Practitioner, demonstrating her passion for lifelong learning...

B | BRAUN
SHARING EXPERTISE

... She has mentored and precepted staff at varying stages in their career and has fostered a safe clinical learning environment...

...Chelsea's dedication to her career has led her to assume leadership roles at the frontline level such as being a Charge Nurse in the ICU and working in an outpatient Heart Function Clinic...

Chelsea Simpkin

Lethbridge, AB

...I am expressing my heartfelt gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the 2026 CACCN BBraun Sharing Expertise Award.

Receiving this recognition from the CACCN and BBraun of Canada is a profound honour.



Accolades like these play a vital role in critical care nursing by elevating the visibility of essential research, encouraging clinical leadership, and fostering an environment of shared knowledge.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT AWARDS

Presented to a critical care nurse or group of critical care nurses who develop a project that will enhance their professional development.



SPACE LABS
HEALTHCARE

Welcome

**Greg Kalonomos, General Manager
and colleagues
Spacelabs Healthcare (Canada) Inc**



1st Place
\$ 1,000

Chelsea Simpkin

Joseph Harrigan

Diana Lemieux

Sarah K Anderson

Sadie Deschenes

Edmonton, AB

This project is a scoping review that synthesizes the literature on factors influencing moral distress in end-of-life (EOL) care from the perspective of critical care nurses. The project was undertaken to better understand how ICU nurses experience moral distress in the context of providing care to critically ill patients at the end of life, and to identify contributing and protective factors that may inform future practice, education, and system level improvements.



**End-of-life
in the ICU:
A scoping review of
factors associated
with moral distress in
critical care nurses**

The findings have direct implications for clinical practice, education, leadership, and quality improvement. They support strengthening palliative care integration, improving communication processes, enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration, and fostering psychologically safe environments where nurses are supported in ethical decision-making and advocacy.

Chelsea Simpkin

Joseph Harrigan

Diana Lemieux

Sarah K Anderson

Sadie Deschenes

Edmonton, AB

We are expressing our heartfelt gratitude for being selected as the first-place 2026 CACCN Spacelabs Innovative Project Award.

Receiving this recognition from the CACCN and Spacelabs Healthcare Canada is a profound honour.



**End-of-life
in the ICU:
A scoping review of
factors associated
with moral distress in
critical care nurses**

Being recognized for our work on "End of Life in the ICU: A Scoping Review of Factors Associated with Moral Distress in Critical Care Nurses" reinforces the critical importance of addressing moral distress in our field.

2nd Place
\$ 500

Martyna Rembisz

Maria Damian

**Catherine
LeBlanc**

Montreal, QC

Undergraduate nursing students entering critical care practicums often report feeling unprepared for the realities of caring for critically ill patients and their families. To address this theory-to-practice gap, the McGill Ingram School of Nursing developed and implemented a formative day-long critical care simulation experience for final-year nursing students.



**Jumping in the
shallow end:
Simulation-based
training prior to
critical care practicum**

This project has had a significant positive impact on undergraduate nursing students' preparedness, confidence, communication, and reflective practice skills prior to entering critical care clinical placements.



**Martyna
Rembisz**



**Maria
Damian**



**Catherine
LeBlanc**

We are honoured to have been selected as the second-place recipient of the Spacelabs Innovative Project Award.

We truly enjoy the work we do in simulation-based nursing education in critical care and are very proud of the collaborative effort that went into this project.



**Jumping in the
shallow end:
Simulation-based
training prior to
critical care practicum**

We are grateful for the opportunity to have our work recognized and to contribute to the continued advancement of simulation in nursing education

RESEARCH GRANT

Awarded to a critical care nurse who is the investigator of a research study that is relevant to the practice of critical care nursing

\$ 2,500



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Sarah Crowe

Langley, BC

The purpose of this study is to examine how teamwork is enacted, experienced, and sustained in the day-to-day practice of critical care, and to identify strategies that strengthen teamwork.

**Exploring and
strengthening
day-to-day teamwork
in critical care:
A qualitative study**

To support rapid uptake, accessible knowledge products, including infographics, practice briefs, & executive summaries, will be developed for clinicians, educators, & decision-makers.

A key KT objective will be the development of a national clinical policy or practice guideline.

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Sarah Crowe

Langley, BC

As Sarah's doctoral supervisor at UBC, School of Nursing, and longstanding research mentor, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the exceptional calibre of her scholarship, her steadfast commitment to practice-embedded inquiry, and her remarkable ability to translate evidence directly into meaningful practice and policy change.

**Exploring and
strengthening
day-to-day teamwork
in critical care:
A qualitative study**

What distinguishes Sarah from many researchers is that her scholarly work does not exist apart from clinical care, but rather, emerges directly from it. With 25 years of healthcare experience, including 17 years as an RN and 8 years as an NP in ICU, Sarah brings an authenticity and depth to her research that is rare.

Fuschia Howard

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GRADUATE BURSARY

Presented to assist critical care nurses to pursue Master's or Doctoral education with a focus on critical care nursing.

\$1,000



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Mélanie Gauthier

Brossard, QC

Pursuing doctoral studies is an extension of my 15-year commitment to the critical care community and to the Association.

My research will focus on undergraduate education in vascular access and infusion therapy, an essential competency that directly impacts patient safety and outcomes in critical care yet remains inconsistently taught across Canadian nursing programs

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Health Sciences Education (Thesis) PhD Program

McGill University

Presentation

The Vascular Access Student Club (VASC): Creating enthusiasm for vascular access and infusion nursing in a Canadian university

Publication

COVID-19 pandemic: the impact on Canada's intensive care units

CHASING EXCELLENCE

Presented to a critical care nurse who consistently demonstrates excellence in critical care nursing practice.

\$1,000



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Winston Bui

Edmonton, AB



Winston has consistently distinguished himself as a clinician, educator, and advocate. As a staff nurse, he delivers outstanding patient care and is a vital member of the interdisciplinary team. He is a trusted voice on the unit, a dedicated patient and family advocate, a committed and frequent preceptor for nursing both with the faculty of nursing students, as well as with our newly hired staff.

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He is comfortable communicating with patients, families, and colleagues about ongoing studies, and he has contributed to national and international randomized controlled trials poised to shape the future of critical care medicine. He is a shining example of what a critical care nurse can achieve.



**Winston
Bui**

Edmonton, AB

I am deeply honoured to receive this award. I see excellence in nursing as something that extends beyond the bedside. Through leadership, education, research, and advocacy. While remaining grounded in humility, compassion, and a genuine dedication to others. To me, this award represents much more than individual achievement. It reflects the importance of continually striving to provide better care, to support colleagues

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and students, to contribute to research and education, and to advocate.

My journey from critical care nursing to pursuing my NP education has allowed me to continually grow and challenge myself.

I am grateful for those who have shaped that journey, and I hope to continue using what I learn to make a meaningful impact.

CICU Week Spotlight Challenge

\$500

Presented to a group of critical care nurses who develop an activity and/or event to profile their local Critical Care Team during Canadian Intensive Care Week held annually in October.



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Laura Freeman

Waterloo, ON

This bursary will fund an ICU open house during Canadian Intensive Care Week with a dual purpose: to celebrate the amazing work done in the critical care program over the last year and to share information about the critical care program, including our Critical Care Response Team (CCRT), with staff from other areas of the hospital.

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Beyond closed doors: An ICU open House for Canadian Intensive Care Week

This activity encompasses the spirit of Canadian Intensive Care Week: promoting the work we do, acknowledging our co-workers, and celebrating critical care practice.

Laura Freeman

Waterloo, ON

Thank you so much
for this bursary!

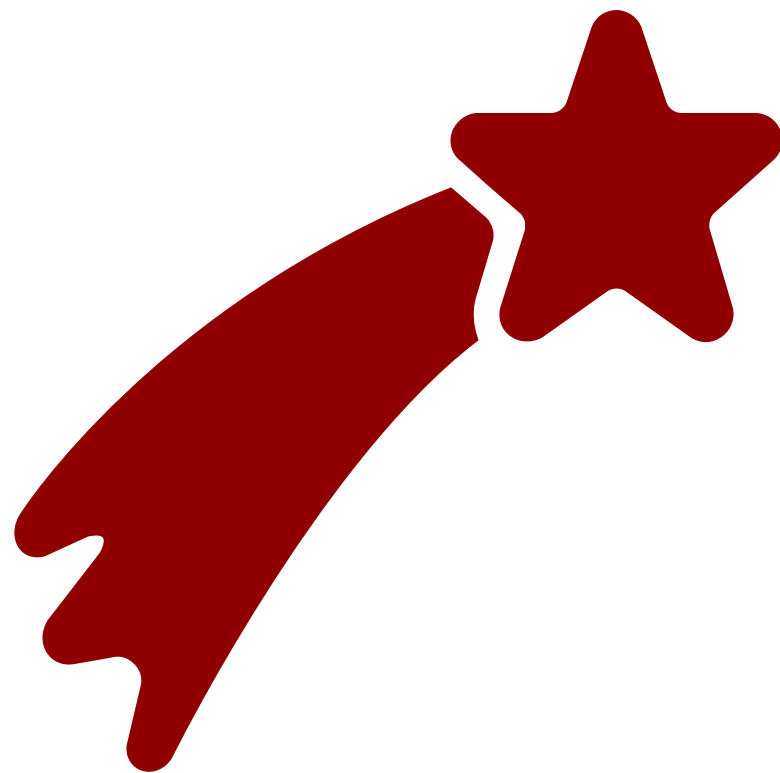
**Beyond
closed doors:**
An ICU open House for
Canadian Intensive
Care Week

I am looking forward to
using this with my team
as we highlight the
work that we do.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECIPIENTS,
NOMINEES AND APPLICANTS