



Scholar-Con 2026

"Breaking Barriers to Empower Change" Conference Proceedings

Scholar-Con 2026



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Terry Fulmer, *PhD, RN, FAAN*, is the President Emerita, The John A. Hartford Foundation in New York City, an organization dedicated to improving the care of older adults. Established in 1929, the Foundation has a current endowment of over \$560 million and is world-renowned for philanthropy devoted exclusively to the health of older adults. Fulmer serves as the chief strategist for Foundation giving and is also the chief spokesperson for advancing the Foundation's mission. Fulmer is nationally and internationally recognized as a leading expert in geriatrics and is best known for conceptualization and development of the national Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders program and research on the topic of elder abuse and neglect, work that has been funded by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Nursing Research. Her recent effort with the Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative, in partnership with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, is a potential game changer for how we think about care for older adults.

TRACK 1 SPEAKERS:



Sanjit Misra, *MBA*, is a Principal Technical Product Manager at Amazon Web Services leading enterprise AI products. At Stanford Health Care, he managed a 40+ person analytics and ML team that built clinical prediction models, operational dashboards, and quality reporting systems — including the sepsis bundle compliance work featured in this presentation. Previously, he held product leadership roles at Navigating Cancer (oncology platforms serving 1M+ patients), McKesson, and Epic Systems. He has published peer-reviewed research on cardiovascular disease risk factors and mobile health technology. Sanjit holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and dual degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Aerial Petty, *DO*, is a family medicine doctor in Washington, District of Columbia. She is a dedicated family medicine physician with a passion for patient care and health policy. She graduated from the New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Family Medicine Residency Program in 2024 and has been recognized for her leadership and community involvement. Dr. Petty's research interests include health disparities, housing equity, and language concordance in healthcare settings. She is also involved in the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association, contributing to the field of family medicine and health policy.



TRACK 2 SPEAKERS:



Margaret McNeill, PhD, RN, APRN CNS, CCRN K, CCNS, TCRN, CPAN, NE BC, NHDP BC, FCNS, FAAN, is currently the Director of Nursing Quality and Professional Practice and the Nurse Scientist at Frederick Health. She retired from the U. S. Air Force, with the rank of Colonel after 28 years of service, and has led in various roles including Clinical Nurse Specialist, administrator, and nurse scientist. She has a background in trauma, critical care, and perianesthesia, and her research focused on military patient care, transport, disaster and emergency response, and organizational transformation. She has been recognized for contributions to the Department of Defense with awards including the Bronze Star Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. She has been inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists.



Lauren Donovan, PhD, RN, CCRN serves as the Nurse Scientist at Meritus Medical Center, offering specialized guidance and educational resources to facilitate Registered Nurses' application of evidence-based practices in patient care. In addition to her leadership duties, she maintains clinical involvement in the Intensive Care Unit and holds certifications in both Critical Care Nursing and Nursing Education. As an Associate Professor at the Shepherd University School of Nursing, Dr. Donovan instructs both undergraduate and graduate students in areas such as critical care concepts, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and leadership. Her scholarly portfolio encompasses numerous publications, including work on nursing students' clinical practice needs, simulation methodologies, alarm fatigue among students, and faculty experiences in accelerated programs. In 2022, she was honored with the Shepherd University Annual Scholarly Award for her academic contributions. Further, Dr. Donovan has served as Principal Investigator for three HEPC grants, totaling \$1.5 million, which have supported innovative projects and enhanced resources within the School of Nursing. Prior to these positions, she completed a distinguished 23-year career in the United States Air Force, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



SCHOLAR-CON 2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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**Denotes co-chairs*

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SCHOLAR-CON 2026 POSTER ASSESSMENT PANEL

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Maxim Crasta, *PhD, MSc*
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Tim Shipley, *PhD*
Heather Theibert, *DO*
Jeff Small, *DO*



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | Scholar-Con 2026

8:00-8:30 A.M.	Registration & Networking	Coffee, tea, and light breakfast
8:30-8:45 A.M.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Kessler, <i>DO, DHA, MS, FACOFP dist., Dean, MSOM</i> • Heather Markell, <i>MSN, RN, CNO, Meritus Medical Center</i> • Jamie White, <i>PhD, RN, Vice President - Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer Frederick Health</i> • Chanté Richardson, <i>PhD, MBA, Associate Dean of Student Services and Community Outreach</i> • Audrey A. Vasauskas, <i>PhD, Associate Dean of Research, MSOM</i>
8:45 - 10:00 AM Plenary Session		
8:45-9:45 A.M.	"The Growing Body of Scholarship for Age-Friendly Health Systems"	Keynote Speaker: Terry Fulmer, <i>PhD, RN, FAAN, President Emerita of The John A. Hartford Foundation</i>
9:45-10:00 A.M.	Break	
10:00-11:30 A.M. Concurrent Education Tracks and Workshops		
Track 1: Health Equity & Population Health Research – Health Systems Science		
10:00-10:45 A.M.	The State of Equitable Health Systems in the U.S.	Aerial Petty, <i>DO, Health Policy Research Fellow at the American Board of Family Medicine and George Washington University</i>
10:45-11:30 A.M.	Analytics to reduce Sepsis at Stanford	Sanjit Misra, <i>MBA</i>



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | Scholar-Con 2026

Track 2: Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) & Quality Improvement (QI) Expert Panel: publishing

10:00-10:45 A.M.	Dissemination: Steps and Stumbling Blocks to Sharing your Work	Laureen Donovan, <i>PhD, RN, CCRN, CNE</i>
10:45-11:30 A.M.	Advancing Integrity and Impact in Healthcare Publication (Ethics of Dissemination)	Margaret M. McNeill, <i>PhD, RN, APRN-CNS</i>

11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Networking Lunch & Poster Session

1:30-3:30 P.M. Podium Presentations

BTS.302: Leveraging NQO1 Bioactivatable Drugs for Tumor-selective Use of Poly (Adribose) Polymerase Inhibitors	Naveen Singh, <i>PhD</i>
CCR.401: Idiopathic Osteoporosis and Recurrent Hip Pain in a 14-year-old Athlete	Grace M. Perry, <i>Oms-IV</i> ; Geoffrey N. Sanyi, <i>DO</i> ; Ashika Chaluvadi, <i>DO</i>
CRQ.110: Changing ICU Culture: Striving for an Awake and Walking ICU	Jill Storer, <i>MSN, RN, CCRN, CNE(CL)</i> ; Aleah Aaron, <i>BSN, RN</i>
EBP.601: Be in the Room, Know the Code Status!	Abigail Kinnaird, <i>BSN, RN</i> ; Lauren Weber, <i>RN</i> ; Melissa Goldman, <i>LPN</i> ; Mindy Vaughn, <i>LPN</i>
TAD.702: Implementing Technology To Monitor And Cue Patient Repositioning To Decrease Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPIS)	Alexandra Browne, <i>MSN, RN, CCRN</i> ; Cynthia K. Russell, <i>DNP, RN, NI-BC, EBP-CH</i> ; Margaret M. McNeill, <i>Phd, RN, APRN-CNS, CCNS, EBP-C, CCRN, TCRN, CPAN, NEA-BC, NHDP-BC, FASPAN, FCNS, FAAN</i>

3:30 -4:00 P.M. Poster Awards & Closing Remarks



BIOMEDICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

BTS.302 | Leveraging NQO1 Bioactivatable Drugs for Tumor-selective Use of Poly (Adribose) Polymerase Inhibitors

Naveen Singh, PhD

BTS.303 | Non-thermal Plasma-Mediated Irreversible Electroporation for Targeted Elimination of Residual Breast Cancer Cells at Surgical Margins

Saravana R.K. Murthy, PhD; Taisen Zhuang, MS; Olivia Z. Jones, BS; Yasmine S. Dakak; Michael Keidar, Ph; Aviram Nissan, MD; Jerome Canady, MD, FACS

BTS.304 | Mapping Seizure-driving Inputs in a Mouse Model of Focal Cortical Dysplasia

Yasmine S. Dakak; Anup Srivastava, PhD; Robert F. Keating, MD; Kazue Hashimoto-Torii, PhD; Masaaki Torii, PhD

CLINICAL RESEARCH, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, AND HEALTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE

CRQ.101 | Enhancing Breastfeeding Exclusivity Through A Bedside Nursing Quality Initiative

Victoria Norton, BSN, RN, IBCLC

CRQ.102 | Standardizing Downtime And Uptime Workflows To Strengthen Clinical Documentation Continuity

Claire Floyd, MSN, RN, NI-BC; Alexandra Browne, MSN, RN, CCRN; Cynthia Russell, DNP, RN, NI-BC, EBP; Sarah Gleason, MSN-ED, RN, CEN

CRQ.103 | The Impact Of Utilizing The Epic Deterioration Index Tool On Rapid Response And Code Blue Events On Medical-surgical Units

Amy Nyswaner, Doctoral Candidate, MA, BSN, RN

CRQ.104 | Improving Inpatient Hypoglycemia Safety Through Standardized Workflow And Automated Rechecks

Claire Floyd, MSN, RN, NI-BC; Alexandra Browne, MSN, RN, CCRN



CRQ.105 | Improving Efficiency And Effectiveness Of Nursing Orientation

Patricia Abate, BSN, NPD-BC, CMSRN; Karen Coghill, BSN, RN, NPD-BC; Ida Meizanis, MSN, RN, CAPA

CRQ.106 | Invasive Infections Involving Rare Campylobacter Species: Experience with 11 Cases From a Rural Hospital

Krupesh Patel, OMS-IV, BS; Justin Nguyen, OMS-III, BS; Kendyl Carlisle, MD; S. Gona, MSHA, MS, BS.PHARM; Stephen Kavic, MD; Aaron George, DO; Hjr Bonatti, MD

CRQ.107 | Genetic Causes Of Severe, Early Onset Obesity in a Clinically Referred Adult Case Series

Milay, Luis Lam, MD, FTOS; Anja Fernandez Placencia, MD; Sarah Martin, MS; Valeria Monge Valqui, MS; Gabriela Vilchez, MS

CRQ.108 | Workplace Violence As A Workforce Safety And Retention Challenge: A Quality Improvement Approach

Caroline Magno Ribeiro, MS, BSN, RN

CRQ.109 | Reducing Postoperative Respiratory Failure in Obstructive Sleep Apnea Patients Through a PACU Bipap Protocol

Mollie Radonovich, MBA, MSN, RN, APRN-CNS, AGCNS-BC, CPAN; Jennifer A. Scobie, MHA, BTPS, RRT; Christina Henryon, MSN, RN, CPHQ

CRQ.112 | Holistic Healing: The Role of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine in Palliative Care

Manal Faisal, MS; Chris A. Gauthier, DO; Heather P.M. Theibert, DO

CRQ.113 | Association of Early Vs Late Ed Re-admission and Mortality Among Patients Hospitalized for Sepsis

Suhani Patel, BS; Joseph McKinnerney, BS; Jason Yan, BA; Rahul Kashyap, MBBS, MBA, FCCM

CRQ.115 | Evolving Research Intake and Review Infrastructure to Support Scalable, Investigator-centered Scholarship

Brianna Golden, MPH; Christine Fornwalt; Audrey Vasauskas, PHD

CRQ.116 | Characterization of Ground Level Falls at a Rural Level 3 Trauma Center

Shivika Gaind; Aadam Mowery, OMS-I, BSN; Sadiq Syed, OMS-I, BS; Kyle N. Remick, MD, FACS



CRQ.117 | Improving HCAHPS Scores Through the Use of a Standardized Medication Education Tool

Debi Disbrow, DNP, RN; Stephanie Kline, BSN, RN; Victoria Mason, MSN, RN, PCCN; Hilary Rosenbloom, BSN, RN; Marie Sant'anna, BSN, RN

CRQ.118 | Meals That Heal: Implementing a Clinically Integrated "Food Pharmacy" for Chronic Disease Management

Elizabeth Fields Dowdell, DNP, CRNP, CEN; Miranda Ramsey, BASC

CLINICAL CASE REPORTS

CCR.401 | Idiopathic Osteoporosis and Recurrent Hip Pain in a 14-Year-Old Athlete

Ashika Chaluvadi, DO, FM-PGY2; Grace M. Perry, OMS-IV; Geoffrey N. Sanyi, DO, CAG-SM

CCR.402 | Refractory Obesity And T2DM in Adult Monozygotic Twins with Rare Genetic Variants

Milay Luis-Lam, MD, FTOS; Anja Fernandez-Placencia, MD; Valeria Monge Valqui, Medical Student; Tina Pham, PGY-1

CCR.403 | When Tsh Elevation Defies Explanation: Insights From a Patient with a TSH-OMA

Grace M. Perry, OMS-IV; Anja Fernandez-Placencia, MD; Milay Luis-Lam, MD, FTOS

CCR.405 | Perioperative Stemi Mimic After Cardiac Arrest: Inferior St-elevation, Nonobstructive Coronaries, and Anomalous RCA Origin

Abdullah Ghuman, MD; Maumita Das, MD; Mohammad Hamza, MD; Ahmed Abu-Haniyeh, MD

CCR.406 | Acute Stent Thrombosis After One-month Dapt Interruption For Time-sensitive Cancer Surgery

Abdullah Ghuman, MD; Maumita Das, MD; Mohammad Hamza, MD; Ahmed Abu-Haniyeh, MD

CCR.407 | Watchman Device Embolization in Cauliflower-Type Left Atrial Appendage

Mohammad Hamza, MD; Maumita Das, MD; Abdullah Ghuman, MD; Ahmed Abu-Haniyeh, MD



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

EBP.601 | Be In The Room,, Know the Code Status!

Abigail Kinnaird, BSN, RN; Lauren Weber, RN; Melissa Goldman, LPN; Mindy Vaughn, LPN

HEALTH EQUITY, SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY, AND POPULATION HEALTH

SDOH.201 | Applying Advanced Primary Care to Address Social and Medical Needs in a Severely Underserved Community

Howard Haft, MD, MMM; Brandon Milligan, NP

SDOH.202 | Meritus Health Care Callers Report Positive Benefits for Themselves and Their Relationship to Community: Findings From a Cross-sectional Study

Elizabeth Fields-DowdellDNP, CRNP, CEN; Audrey Vasauskas, PhD

SDOH.203 | How Common Are Social Determinants Of Health? A Comparison of National Estimates and Health System-Reported Prevalence

Vignesh Prasad, MS; Remi Patel, MHA; Maulik Joshi, DR.PH

SDOH.204 | What Matters Most To You, Matters To Us: A Case Study on Leveraging the Electronic Health Record for Patient-centered Care

Carly Critchfield, MHA; Vignesh Prasad, MS; Maulik Joshi, DR.PH

SDOH.205 | Exploring the Association Between Antenatal Depression and Adverse Birth Outcomes Among a Diverse Urban Population

Juliana Isaac, BS, MPH

SDOH.206 | Characterizing Patients Who Utilize Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services in an Integrated Health System

Adam Mowery, OMS-I, BSN; Paul Saum, OMS-I; Zachary Lathan, OMS-I, MS; Sadiq Syed, OMS-I; Maulik Joshi, DR.PH



SDOH.207 | Public Knowledge Of Data Centers: Education Impact And Public Health Implications

Paul Gomez, Princess J. Barge, BA

MEDICAL AND INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTH AND SCIENCES EDUCATION

HSE.501 | Lifestyle Medicine Domains and Well-being Among Medical Students: A Pilot Assessment Using a Validated Survey Tool

Aaron George, DO; Jake Klauber, Anvi Gupta, Audrey Vasauskas, PhD

TECHNOLOGY, AI, AND DIGITAL HEALTH

TAD.701 | Leveraging Emar Clinical Decision Support to Improve Pain Management Safety and Compliance

Cynthia Russell, DNP, RN, NI-BC, EBP-CH; Annie Shanton, PHARMD, BCPS; Kasey Zern, MSN, RN, CEN

TAD.702 | Implementing Technology to Monitor And Cue Patient Repositioning to Decrease Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPIS)

Alexandra Browne, MSN, RN, CCRN; Cynthia K. Russell, DNP, RN, NI-BC, EBP-CH; Margaret M. McNeill, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CCNS, EBP-C, CCRN, TCRN, CPAN, NEA-BC, NHDP-BC, FASPAN, FCNS, FAAN

TAD.703 | Artificial Intelligence and Clinical Reasoning: Benefits, Limitations, and a Hybrid Framework for Musculoskeletal Injury Assessment

Ralph T. Salvagno, MD

TAD.705 | From Play to Profession: Recruiting The Next Generation of Social Workers Through Virtual Reality Career Exploration

Megan Gandy, MSW, PhD, LICSW; Heather Cole, MFA; Samantha Leggett-Bradley, PhD



THE FOUNDATION OF DISCOVERY

Welcome to the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine (MSOM) Student Research Proposal Poster Session. This session highlights the first phase of our students' multi-semester academic journey into scholarly inquiry.

THE RESEARCH JOURNEY

MSOM medical students participate in a longitudinal research curriculum over their first two years. The first semester coursework is designed to equip them with the background and tools necessary to understand diverse research study types and design, critically appraise evidence in the literature, and prepare them to explore their own research questions. Following their initial research coursework at the end of their first semester, students work in collaborative teams to identify a core research question. Under the dedicated mentorship of a faculty research advisor, these teams meet weekly to:

- Dive deeply into the literature to establish a strong evidence base for their project
- Develop a focused research question and a clear hypothesis or specific aims
- Design rigorous study methodologies to ensure high-quality data.
- Navigate complex compliance protocols and institutional review processes.
- Manage the logistical frameworks required to bring their projects to life.

CURRENT PHASE: FROM DESIGN TO IMPLEMENTATION

The posters presented today represent the student research teams' work on the design and development phase and are presented as research proposals. These teams are currently submitting applications for compliance review and approval (if applicable to their project). Once these approvals are secured, the teams will move forward into the data collection phase.

The work you see in this session today is the blueprint for future discovery. We invite you to follow these projects as they evolve; the finalized data, analysis, and conclusions will be showcased at next year's conference!

Please scan the QR code to fill out our Student Poster Feedback form.





WITH GRATITUDE: HONORING CHRISTINE FORNWALT

As she concludes a remarkable 16 years as IRB Coordinator at Meritus Health, we honor Chris for her steadfast dedication to human subjects protection and research excellence. Her guidance, institutional memory, and commitment to ethical scholarship have influenced countless projects and the hearts of many.

We are so grateful for her service, and we wish her continued joy in her next chapter.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Please complete the Scholar-Con 2026 Feedback Form. Your honest, anonymous input will be used to improve future conferences. Thank you for taking the time - we appreciate you.



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