

# 50<sup>th</sup> MNRS ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

March 30<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

## REGISTRATION BROCHURE





# ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Greetings Colleagues,

On behalf of the Midwest Nursing Research Society Board of Directors, we are thrilled for the 50th MNRS Annual Research Conference to be held in St. Louis, MO. I am genuinely excited about the 2026 conference and the invited speakers, scientific and scholarly presentations, and networking opportunities we all so enjoy. I am deeply grateful to our 1,400+ dedicated members for ensuring that MNRS remains the premiere regional nursing research society. In 2025, MNRS hosted our annual conference in Indianapolis, IN, where we heard from our brilliant keynote speakers, Drs. Karen Dunn Lopez and Sarah Rosetti who inspired us with their science and views on nursing research and AI, including data, education and outcomes. They addressed leading needs for our nation and essential opportunities for nursing to lead in science and practice.

We welcomed 848 participants in person from 30 states across the United States and 4 international sites. We look to continue the momentum in 2026 with the latest in nursing science conduct and implementation at a state-of-the-art facility in St. Louis.

MNRS comprises frontline healthcare workers, faculty, students, nursing scientists, and clinical scholars devoted to the conduct and implementation of science that supports and enhances nursing practice and the overall discipline. Our Annual Research Conference offers a venue to present your scientific work in multiple formats, including paper presentations, poster discussions, and poster presentations covering all eighteen (18) of the MNRS Research & Implementation Interest Groups (RIIGs). As another prominent benefit of the conference, you will have multiple opportunities to NETWORK with leaders, new and mid-career faculty, and students, in nursing research, practice, and education from the nation and beyond.

This year's conference theme is *50 Years of Nursing Science: Innovating and Inspiring the Future*. We have outstanding keynote speakers joining us. Dr. Dominique Tobbell, of University of Virginia, School of Nursing will open our conference, and remarkable panel of Drs. Kitty Buckwalter, Richard Fehring, and Sally Lusk to close. They will reflect back on the last 50 years and forward to the next 50 years of Nursing's development as a science and practice discipline.

As with each year, I am eager to learn about the research and scholarship our members share for the conduct and implementation of science and scholarship. As an important emphasis in our strategic plan, we know how vital dissemination and implementation are for the future of nursing science and practice. We cordially invite you to join us in 2026 in St. Louis, MO, for the 50th MNRS Annual Research Conference. The conference will take place from March 30 to April 2, 2026. We thank our Missouri hosts and organizations participating as sponsors, advertisers, and exhibitors. The conference would not be possible without their generous support.

I want to thank the Program Planning Committee and volunteers who contribute countless hours to ensure the conference's success. Under the leadership of Dr. Jennifer Heck, the Program Planning Committee has organized a stimulating conference that will provide opportunities for attendees to hear about cutting-edge research and evidence-based practice, engage in thoughtful discussions, network with fellow nursing scholars, learn about emerging research methods, and maybe enjoy some of the Indianapolis food and entertainment.

**Jennifer Doering, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
**President, Midwest Nursing Research Society**



# ABOUT MNRS

The **Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS)** originally began to provide a place for nurses to collaborate, and collaborate they did! Over time, the founding members realized the benefits of having an organization dedicated to nursing research. With careful attention and hard work, we have grown into the organization it is today. We're a society where scientists, innovators, and drivers of clinical practice across the career trajectory come together to share ideas and grow our field through innovative research.

Each year, we host a state-of-the-art conference that draws attendees from all over the United States and Internationally. But we're much more than the annual conference alone! We provide a vast array of networking and learning opportunities every day to help our members advance their careers in nursing science. We've been making an impact for 50 years, and we're still going strong. We're going places, and if you haven't joined us on this journey, we invite you to come along!

## Our Mission

The mission of the Midwest Nursing Research Society is to generate knowledge, translate evidence into practice, and enhance careers through collaborative engagement, implementation, and dissemination among diverse scholars.

## Our Vision

The vision of the Midwest Nursing Research Society is to be the premier society that advances science, fosters leadership, and drives dissemination to improve health equity for all people.





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# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## Return on Investment

Financial partners of the conference receive high visibility throughout the conference via slide presentations, on-site signage, digital materials, webpages, communications and face-to-face interaction.

## Demographic Information

MNRS attendees include all areas of nursing science and practice:

- Top-Level Nurse Executives
- Nursing Researchers & Scientists
- Deans
- Faculty
- Practicing Nurses
- Students
- Community Partners



**96% WORTH THE INVESTMENT**

2025 conference goers reported it was worth the time they invested to attend.



## Hotel Information

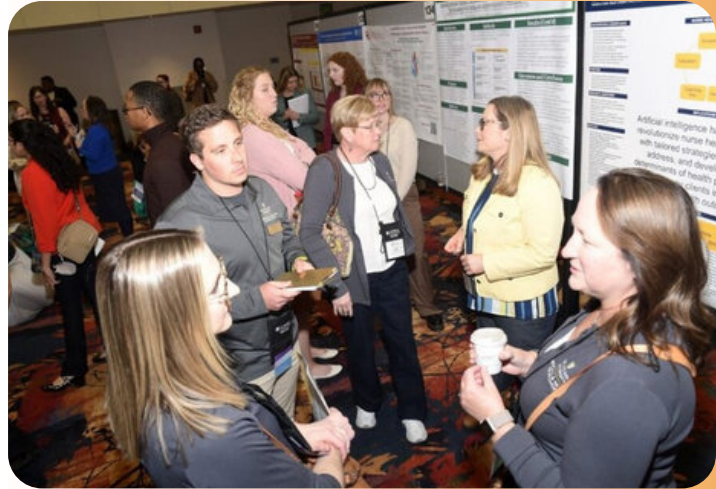
**St. Louis Union Station Hotel**  
1820 Market St  
St. Louis, MO 63103

The hotel cutoff date is  
February 26, 2026

# MNRS 2025 CONFERENCE NUMBERS

**848 attendees**  
The total number of attendees of the 2025 Conference.

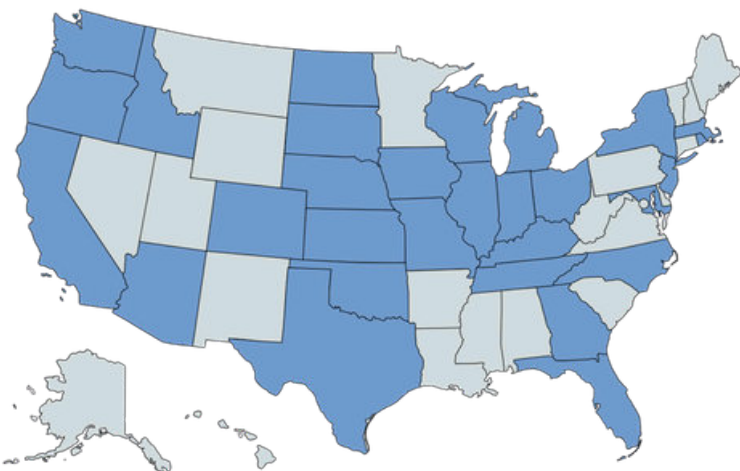
**382 Students & Competitive Poster Presenters**



**65 DNP**  
**5 EdD**  
**45 Enrolled in a DNP Program**  
**166 Enrolled in a PhD Program**  
**141 Not Specified**  
**424 PhD**



**30 States Represented**



A photograph of two women standing outdoors in front of a green mobile market truck. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing glasses and a black t-shirt with a logo. The woman on the right has short reddish-brown hair and is wearing glasses and a purple sweater. The truck behind them is decorated with images of fruits and vegetables and has the text 'TWIN CITIES MOBILE MARKET' on its side. The background shows a grassy area and a building.

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# OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## **Dominique Tobbell**

PhD

University of Virginia, School of Nursing

### **About**

Dominique Tobbell, PhD, is Centennial Distinguished Professor of Nursing and director of the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing History of Inquiry at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Tobbell's research examines the complex political, economic, and social relationships that developed among academic institutions, governments, and the health care industry in the decades after World War II and assesses the implications of those relationships for the current health care system.

Dr. Tobbell's latest book, *Dr. Nurse: Science, Politics, and the Transformation of American Nursing* (University of Chicago Press, 2022), analyzes the knowledge claims, strategies, and politics involved in the work of American nurses as they negotiated new roles and nursing's place within universities and academic health centers in the decades after World War II. *Dr. Nurse* was awarded the 2023 Lavinia L. Dock Award by the American Association of the History of Nursing. Dr. Tobbell is also the author of *Pills, Power, and Policy: The Struggle for Drug Reform in Cold War America and its Consequences* (University of California Press, 2012), *Health Informatics at Minnesota: The First Fifty Years* (Minneapolis: Tasora Books, 2015), and co-editor of *Troubling Access: Global Health and Pharmacology* (Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA, 2021).

Dr. Tobbell has been the recipient of several fellowships, grants, and awards. She has taught a variety of courses on the history of 20th-century American healthcare, with an emphasis on the ways that race, gender, class, sexuality, and disability determine Americans' experiences with and access to healthcare.

Dr. Tobbell earned an undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Manchester, and both a Master of Art and a PhD in the history and sociology of science from the University of Pennsylvania.

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**Todd Rupp, PhD, RN, FAHA,  
FAAN**  
Professor and Associate Dean for  
Research and Scholarly Innovation



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# CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## **Kitty Buckwalter**

PhD, RN, FAAN

Professor and Interim Dean Emerita,  
College of Nursing, University of Iowa

### **About**

Dr. Buckwalter is recognized for her research in geropsychiatric nursing, caregiving and long-term care. She has a sustained record of private and federal support related to the evaluation of nursing interventions for geropsychiatric populations from NIMH, NINR, NIA and AOA. Her particular interest is in behavioral management strategies for dementia caregivers and the effectiveness of community programs to prevent, minimize, and treat psychiatric problems in the rural elderly.

She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly IOM) and founding editor of *Research in Gerontological Nursing* and former editor of the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*.

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Dr. Buckwalter serves on many review committees, editorial boards, and advisory groups. She has authored over 400 articles, 90 book chapters, 10 health policy and commissioned papers, 50 monographs/videos/media, over 100 editorials/reviews/commentaries, and has edited eight books.

# JOIN US IN OUR MISSION.

**Tomorrow Will Look Like What We Start Building Today.  
Together, We Will Create a Brilliant Future for Nursing Research!**

The MNRS Foundation Board of Trustees works diligently to support MNRS members and ensure nursing research has funding available to support developing nursing scientists. Their passionate pursuit of funding and their innovative approach when developing initiatives to raise funds is evident. Because of their dedication, we are able to offer grants and help further the research of MNRS members.



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# CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## **Richard Fehring**

PhD, RN, FAAN

Marquette University

### **About**

Richard J. Fehring, PhD, RN, FAAN, is a Professor Emeritus at Marquette University College of Nursing, a research scientist at the Institute for Natural Family Planning, a developer of the Marquette Method of NFP, a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, and a former Captain in the US Army Nurse Corp. He received his master's and doctorate in nursing from The Catholic University of America and baccalaureate degrees in biology and nursing from Marquette University. He has published over 210 articles and book chapters, and co-edited three books on Human Fertility. His most recent book is "Learning to Live with Your Fertility" (Summer, 2023)

Professor Fehring taught all levels of nursing research courses for over forty years and held the research director position at Marquette for several years. His research interests include effectiveness of family planning methods, religious and spiritual influences on human sexuality, and hormonal monitoring of the menstrual cycle. He generated over 10.5 million dollars in external grant funding and is listed as one of the top 2% of worldwide scientists for citations. He has been a member of MNRS since 1981.

# CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## **Sally Lusk**

PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAOHN  
University of Michigan

### **About**

Dr. Lusk's research speaks for itself. Her innovative behavioral approach to increasing workers' protective behavior served as the basis for the internal program of research at the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety. She conducted the country's - and potentially the world's - first large-scale, randomized clinical trials of interventions to promote the use of hearing protection. During her career, she received more than \$6.5 million in total funding from federal and foundation sources to support research and training project. Further, she has been appointed to federal review groups, coordinating committees, task forces, and served as an AAN Senior Scholar at AHRQ. Publishing nine book chapters and over seventy articles in refereed journals, she was a natural mentor to her younger colleagues, facilitating a number of them in obtaining their own research funding.

Over her long career, Dr. Lusk taught courses and advised students in all program levels and guided numerous master's degree theses and projects, and doctoral degree students through program planning to dissertation. In addition to working directly with students, Dr. Lusk also developed and administered several innovative educational programs such as the off-campus BSN completion programs in Flint, Kalamazoo, and Traverse City; the Occupational Health Nursing (OHN) MS degree program; the OHN specialization in the U-M School of Nursing's PhD program; and the offering of the OHN MS program in an On-Job/On Campus format through collaboration with the School of Public Health and the College of Engineering. Dr. Lusk has also been active in the larger national and international nursing community through guiding faculty in research design and implementation as well as presenting keynotes, papers, and posters at numerous nursing and multidisciplinary conferences.

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 **Derek Lankford,**  
[dlankford@unmc.edu](mailto:dlankford@unmc.edu)



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## Research & Implementation Interests Groups Symposia Competitive Symposia

- Advancing Nursing Science, Education, and Practice at the Intersection of Disability and Multiple Chronic Conditions: A Call to Collaboration, Innovation, and Inclusion
- Forging the Future: Transformative Nursing Research Through Academic-Clinical Synergy
- From Frameworks to Frontlines: Implementation Strategies in Diverse Settings
- Health Promotion Innovations Across the Lifespan
- Innovating for Impact: Informatics, Policy, and Systems Science to Drive the Future of Nursing Research
- Innovative and Community-Driven Strategies for Advancing Population and Community Health
- Involving Adolescents in the Research Enterprise: Building Skills and Partnership
- State of the Science: 50 Years of Perinatal, Sexual, and Reproductive Health Nursing Research and Implementation



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Clinical Nursing Science  
Health Systems



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## Guaranteed Symposia

- Advancing the Science: Capturing Nursing Contributions in Acute and Critical Care Beyond Harm Prevention
- Family Nursing Research: Pathways to Thriving Across the Lifespan
- Innovations in Cognitive and Chronic Care: Biological, Technological, and Community Strategies Across the Aging Continuum
- Nursing Leadership in Times of Change
- Pioneering Change: Innovations in Nursing Education for the Next Generation
- Stepping Into Your Power at Mid-Career
- The Future of Nursing: Advancing Self-Care Research and Practice for Better Outcomes
- Transforming Symptom Science: Insights, Innovations, and Impact

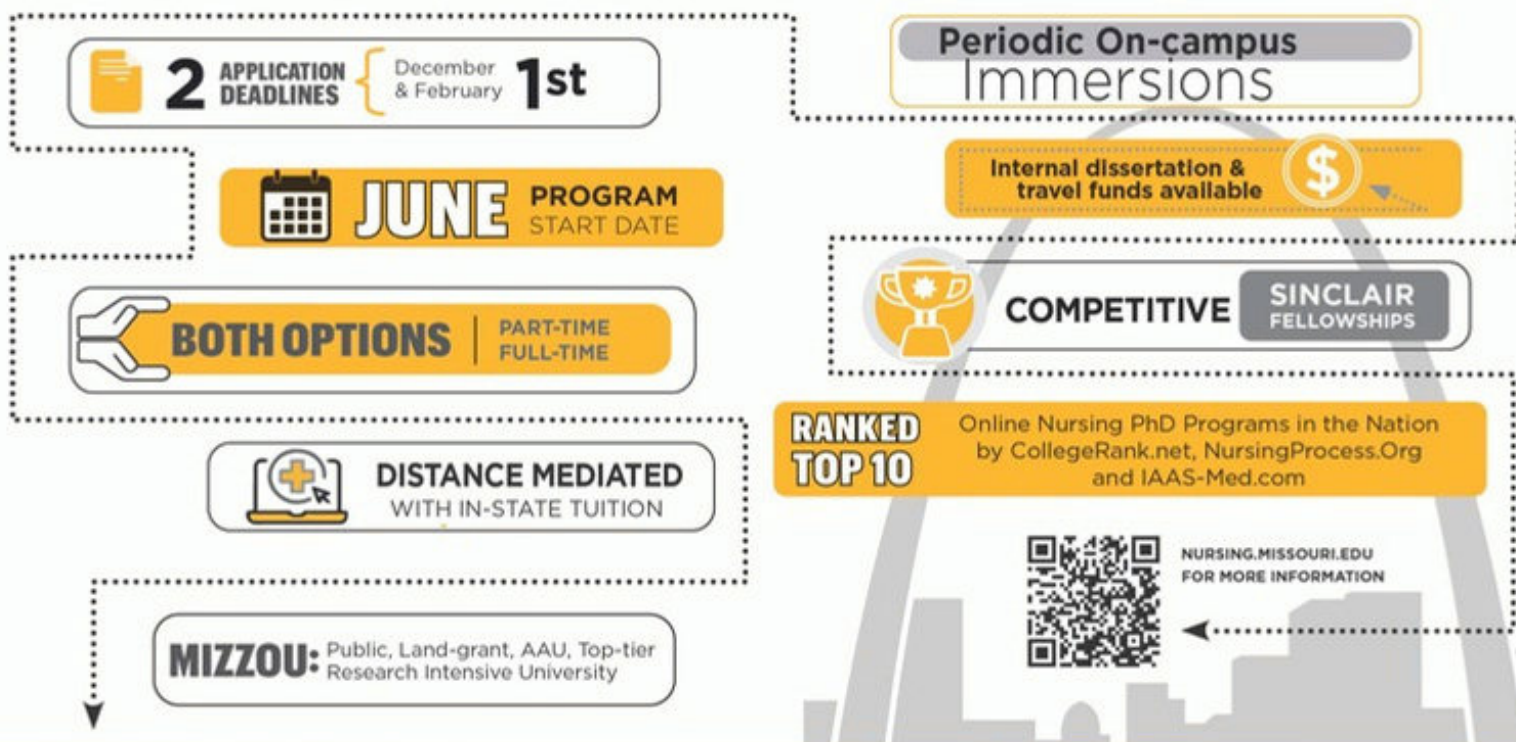
## Special Sessions

- Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Nursing Schools' Coalition to Increase Informatics Capacity
- MNRS Nurse Editors' Special Session: Manuscript Success: Choose the Right Journal, Choose the Right Topic, Choose the Right Format
- Nursing Research Now: Navigating Funding, Fostering Motivation, Communicating Science
- Pitch Perfect - How to Frame Your Research for Funders, Foundations, and the Public
- The Future of Nursing Science and Leadership Panel: The Next 50 Years
- The Next 50 Years: Supporting Emerging Leadership

## Pre-Conference Sessions

- Could Microlearning Be the Answer?
- Responsible AI in Health and Nursing Research Workshop

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# ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## 2026 MNRS Annual Research Conference Registration Rates

	Regular Member	Student Member	Retired & Int'l Member	Non Member
<b>Early Bird Rate ends February 13, 2026 - Extended to February 20, 2026!</b>				
Full Conference	\$520	\$310	\$310	\$820
One Day	\$385	\$260	\$260	\$435
<b>Standard Rate After February 13, 2026 - February 20, 2026</b>				
Full Conference	\$620	\$410	\$410	\$930
One Day	\$435	\$310	\$310	\$515
<b>Pre-Conference Workshop</b>				
Pre-Con #1	\$100	\$60	\$60	\$100
Pre-Con #2	\$100	\$60	\$60	\$100

## Registration Cancellation Policy

A partial refund will be honored before February 26, 2026, less a \$50 service fee. No refunds after February 26, 2026. Transfers to MNRS colleagues are allowed at any time. To cancel a registration or make a substitution, email the Executive Office at [info@mnrs.org](mailto:info@mnrs.org) or call (615) 432-0098.



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# ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## Conference Registration Details



All attendees must register for the meeting. The registration fees are listed on the conference website and registration page. Please note that the Pre-conference Workshop is an additional fee and is not included in the MNRS conference registration fee. All **non-member students** are required to provide proof of student status at the time of registration. (i.e., student ID, transcript, or a letter from a Dean).

## Registration Cancellations/Refunds



A partial refund will be honored **before February 26, 2026**, less a \$50 service fee. **No refunds after February 26, 2026**. Substitutions are allowed at any time. To cancel a registration or make a substitution, email the Executive Office at [info@mnrs.org](mailto:info@mnrs.org) or call (615) 432-0098.

## New Member/First-Time Attendees



New members and first-time attendees are invited to an **MNRS Orientation on Monday, March 30, 2026**. The time will be announced with the schedule. Registration is Free! There is an option to select the orientation during the registration process.

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- + Doctor of Nursing Practice
- + Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

As an MNRS member, the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing is committed to collaborating and innovating in the name of nursing research, and we are honored to take part in the 50th Annual Research Conference right here in St. Louis.



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To learn more about the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing's history, programs and faculty, visit [slu.edu/nursing](http://slu.edu/nursing) or scan the QR code.



# THANK YOU

MNRS is very grateful for your partnership and looks forward to your participation at the 50th MNRS Annual Research Conference. Your generous contribution to the conference helps make the MNRS mission and vision a reality and the meeting successful.

## Be Sure to Join the Conversation

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Don't forget to use the hashtag #MNRS2026 if you post pictures or comments about the 2026 MNRS Annual Research Conference! We'll see you in St. Louis!



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