51ST MNRS

ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

March 31st - April 3rd, 2027

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

Grand Rapids, Michigan

2027



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Midwest Nursing Research Society

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Greetings Colleagues,



On behalf of the Midwest Nursing Research Society Board of Directors, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 51st MNRS Annual Research Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This year's conference theme, Bridging Healthcare Access through Nursing Scholarship, Partnership, Policy, and Practice, reflects the critical role nursing science plays in improving health outcomes for all.

The 2027 conference promises to be an exceptional gathering, featuring distinguished keynote speakers, innovative scientific and scholarly presentations, and countless opportunities for networking, collaboration, and professional growth. I am profoundly grateful to our more than 1,400 dedicated members whose passion, expertise, and commitment continue to make MNRS the premier regional nursing research society in the United States.

As we build upon the momentum of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we now turn our focus toward the future. This year marks the launch of MNRS's new Strategic Plan (2027-2030), a roadmap developed through a thoughtful, collaborative process that engaged members, volunteer leaders, committees, Research and Implementation Interest Groups (RIIGs), and other stakeholders. The plan reflects our shared vision for the future of nursing scholarship and our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of nursing scientists at every career stage. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Strategic Planning Task Force for their dedication, insight, and leadership in shaping this important work.

Our Mission: The mission of the Midwest Nursing Research Society is to generate and translate nursing science to promote health for all.

Our Vision: To be the leading nursing research society shaping the future of innovative science, evidence-based practice, and influential leadership to advance health.

Guided by this mission and vision, we are embarking on an exciting new chapter for MNRS. Over the next several years, we will focus on strengthening the member experience by creating more opportunities for year-round engagement, learning, collaboration, and connection beyond the annual conference. We are committed to enhancing member onboarding and developing membership pathways that better support individuals across diverse roles, settings, career stages, and professional transitions. We will also strategically invest in mentorship and research support by expanding opportunities for research mentoring, professional development, and research skill-building throughout the career continuum.

In addition, MNRS will elevate the recognition of member achievements through strengthened awards and recognition programs that celebrate excellence in research,
scholarship, leadership, and service. We will streamline the RIIG awards structure to create a more consistent and meaningful recognition experience across the Society, while also enhancing RIIG engagement through clearer communication, greater year-round connectivity via our Hivebrite platform, and expanded opportunities for collaboration, dissemination, mentorship, and professional development. Beyond our membership, we will work to increase the visibility and influence of nursing science by amplifying member research and fostering strategic partnerships with regional and national organizations. Throughout these efforts, we will ensure that our programs, investments, and resources remain aligned with our mission, provide value to our members, and support the long-term sustainability and impact of the Society.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Program Planning Committee and the many volunteers whose dedication and countless hours of service make this conference possible. Under the leadership of Dr. Claire Shaw, the committee has developed an outstanding program that showcases cutting-edge research, evidence-based practice innovations, and emerging methodologies while providing meaningful opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and networking. I encourage you to take full advantage of all that the conference has to offer, as well as the vibrant culture and hospitality of Grand Rapids.

It is truly an honor to serve as President of MNRS during this exciting time in our Society's history. Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing nursing science and improving health through research, scholarship, and leadership. Together, we will build on our strong foundation and shape an even brighter future for nursing science and the communities we serve.

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

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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 51 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!

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Return on Investment

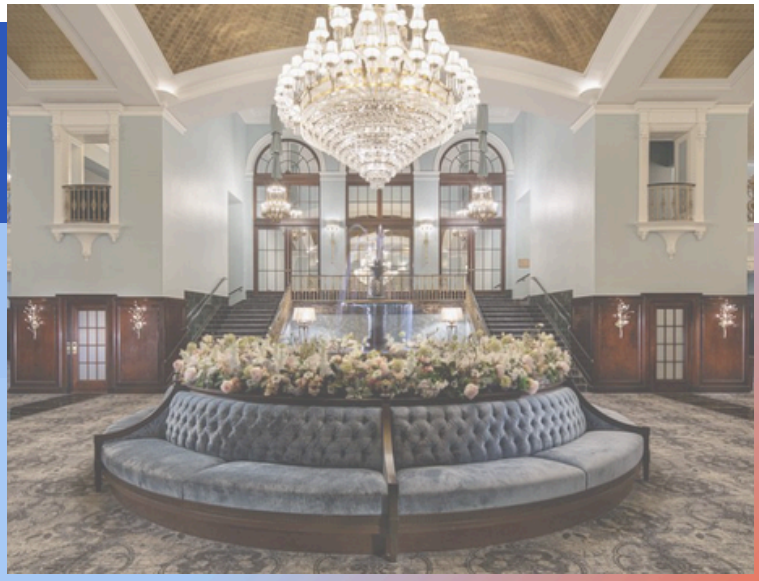
Financial partners of the conference receive high visibility throughout the conference via slide presentations, on-site signage, digital materials, webpages, communications and face-to-face interaction.



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



98% WORTH THE INVESTMENT

2026 conference goers reported it was worth the time they invested to attend.

Hotel Information

Amway Grand Plaza
187 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

The hotel cutoff date is Friday, February 26, 2027

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MNRS 2026 CONFERENCE NUMBERS

922 attendees
The total number of attendees of the 2026 Conference.



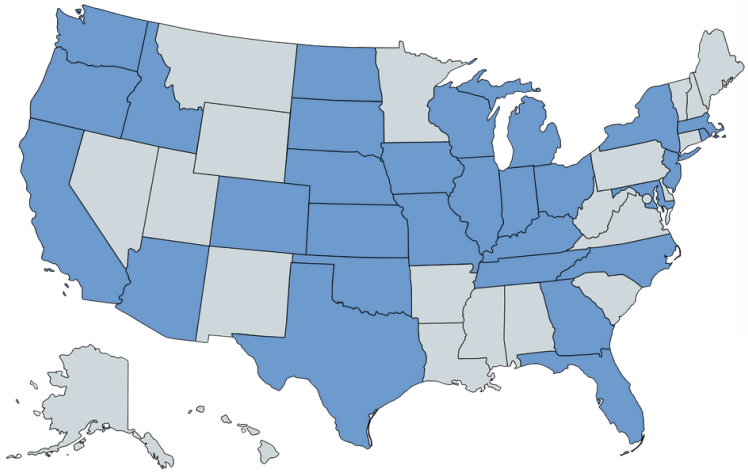
428 Students & Competitive Poster Presenters



- **63** DNP
- **6** EdD
- **44** Enrolled in a DNP Program
- **189** Enrolled in a PhD Program
- **149** Not Specified
- **471** PhD

32 States Represented





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OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Karen L. Weis
PhD, RNC-OB, FAAN
University of Kansas School of Nursing

About

Karen L. Weis is the Dean of the University of Kansas School of Nursing, Salina Campus, and holds the Christine A. Hartley Rural Nursing Professorship, in addition to being the Associate Director of Research for the Kansas Center for Rural Health. She is a 29-year veteran of the United States Air Force. She culminated her military career with two pivotal leadership positions, Dean of the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and Dean of the Joint Services, Medical Education and Training Campus. Her clinical experiences led to her research interests focused on perinatal mental health, birth outcomes and the associated maternal-fetal physiologic responses. This work led to the development of the Mentors Offering Maternal Support (M-O-M-S) program and biopsychosocial models of the intervention's effectiveness. Dr. Weis co-authored the Access to Maternity Care in Kansas report in 2025 and currently directs the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program for Kansas. Dr. Weis earned her BSN from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas, her MSN in high-risk, acute care obstetrics from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, and her PhD in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC.

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CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Deb Bakerjian

PhD, APRN, FAAN, FAANP, FGSA
Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis

About

Deb Bakerjian, PhD, APRN, FAANP, FGSA, FAAN, is Professor of Clinical Nursing and Associate Dean for Practice at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, where she directs the APP Primary Care Fellowship and co-directs the UC Davis Healthy Aging Initiative. Her recent work centers on building the rural and underserved health workforce in Northern California. She leads EMPOWERS, a CAPP-accredited APP fellowship; BRIDGE, a community outreach and referral program expanding access to behavioral healthcare; and co-leads SAGE, a rural geriatric workforce initiative, alongside a HRSA-funded nurse-led mobile clinic and RETAIN, a Department of Labor funded nurse faculty residency. Drawing on two decades leading a geriatric NP–physician nursing home practice, she has shaped health policy through the American Academy of Nursing, including its Expert Panel on Aging and Edge Runners NAC, authoring position papers that advanced care for older adults in nursing homes. She is Editor-in-Chief of Geriatric Nursing and a Fellow of American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and Gerontological Society of America.

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Research & Implementation Interest Groups Symposia

Competitive Symposia

- Adolescent Transformation - Rethinking Autonomy, Development, and Advocacy for our Youth
- Advancing Healthcare Access through Health Systems, Informatics, and Policy Research
- Blueprint for Change in Action: Research Innovations in Acute and Critical Care
- Building Bridges to Better Health for People with Disabilities and Multiple Chronic Conditions
- Family Science from Discovery to Delivery in the Real World: Translation, Prevention, and Implementation
- Integrating Research Evidence into Practice Through Learning, Implementation Strategies, and Leadership
- The Many Dimensions of Self-Care: Chronic Disease, Prevention, Behavioral Health, and Workforce Well-Being

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JUNE
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Guaranteed Symposia

- Advancing Sexual, Reproductive, and Perinatal Health Across Diverse Populations and Care Settings
- Connecting Communities and Care: The Role of Nursing Partnerships in Bridging Healthcare Access Gaps
- Dissemination and Implementation Science in Nursing Research: Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Culturally Relevant Processes
- Empowering Mid-Career Growth: Navigating the Funding Landscape
- Faculty Workforce Shortages, the Nursing Education Pipeline and Students' Preparation in the Age of AI
- Improving Access to Quality Palliative and End-Of-Life Care through Nursing Scholarship and Practice
- Navigating the Translational Science Spectrum: Bridging Discovery and Practice in Nursing Research
- Scaling Interprofessional Education from Classroom to Clinical Practice

Special Sessions

- Cultivating Inclusive Research Communities: Interdisciplinary Faculty Roles in Colleges of Nursing
- ESN Luncheon
- From Recruitment to Readiness: Cultivating Future Academic Leaders
- Navigating AI in Nursing Scholarship: Balancing Innovation and Authenticity
- NINR/NIH Updates
- NINR Early-Stafe Investigator Panel

Pre-Conference Workshops

- Leveraging Public National Secondary Data to Address Healthcare Access: A Practical Guide to NHANES and All of Us
- Developing Your Nursing Home Research: Practical Strategies across the Research Continuum
- Photovoice Studio: Designing Rigorous Community-Engaged Nursing Research

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2027 MNRS Annual Research Conference Registration Rates

	Regular Member	Student Member	Retired & Int'l Member	Non-Member
Early Bird Rate ends February 12, 2027				
Full Conference	$545	$335	$335	$845
Standard Rate After February 12, 2027				
Full Conference	$645	$435	$435	$955
Pre-Conference Workshops				
Leveraging Public National Secondary Data to Address Healthcare Access: A Practical Guide to NHANES and All of Us Wednesday, March 31, 2027 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	$125	$85	$85	$125
Developing Your Nursing Home Research: Practical Strategies Across the Research Continuum Wednesday, March 31, 2027 | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	$125	$85	$85	$125
Photovoice Studio: Designing Rigorous Community-Engaged Nursing Research Wednesday, March 31, 2027 | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	$125	$85	$85	$125

Registration Cancellation Policy

A partial refund will be honored before February 12, 2027, less a $50 service fee. No refunds after February 12, 2027. 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 or call (615) 432-0098.

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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 Workshops are an additional fee and are 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



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New Member/First-Time Attendees



New members and first-time attendees are invited to an **MNRS Orientation on Wednesday, March 31, 2027**. The time will be announced with the schedule. Registration is free! There is an option to select the orientation during the registration process.

Click Here to Register Now

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We feature Research Interest Groups (RIGs) where students and faculty incubate and advance nursing science through our nursing pillars; Oncology, Health equity, population and community health, Mental health and health promotion, Patient safety and systems, and Innovations in nursing education.

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THANK YOU

MNRS is very grateful for your partnership and looks forward to your participation at the 51st 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

MNRS invites you to connect and join the online conversation. Please follow/like the MNRS Social Media pages today! Updates are posted regularly. Click the icons below to connect!

Don't forget to use the hashtag #MNRS2027 if you post pictures or comments about the 2027 MNRS Annual Research Conference! We'll see you in Grand Rapids!

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