

44th Annual Barrow Neuroscience Nursing Symposium

Local Roots, Global Reach

**\$10 discount if you register
on or before 10/6/2026**

[Register here](#)



Oct. 20-21, 2026

Barrow Neurological Institute
350 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ



Barrow
Neurological Institute

Minding What Matters Most®

Course Description

This symposium, “Local Roots, Global Reach,” explores the comprehensive care continuum for neuroscience patients. From initial presentation through long-term recovery, experts will dive into best practices, cutting-edge advancements, and persistent challenges in neuroscience nursing. Expect to gain actionable insights on fostering collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches to enhance patient outcomes at every stage of their journey.

Program Objectives

Attendees will be able to:

1. Apply evidence-based interventions for managing agitation in neurological patients.
2. Identify advancements in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) care across the continuum.
3. Describe the evolution and impact of Magnetoencephalography (MEG) technology in epilepsy diagnosis and management.
4. Summarize key surgical approaches used in contemporary neurosciences.
5. Discuss global health disparities and the impact of international neuro-consultations (e.g., Tanzania).
6. Analyze the neurological and ENT-specific risks and benefits of select ENT interventions, considering impacts on cranial nerve function and rehabilitation.
7. Evaluate the efficacy of medication management approaches for neurological conditions, incorporating evidence and expert opinions from various speakers.
8. Apply neuroimaging principles to analyze case studies of ischemic stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and subdural hematoma, using interactive digital platforms for enhanced advocacy and visibility.

Who Should Attend

Health care professionals specializing in the field of neurosciences, including all levels of nurses and other professionals involved in various outpatient and inpatient clinical settings.

Continuing Education

The hours obtained by attending this CE event can be used toward recertification for CNRN and SCR.N.

Conference Planning Committee

Jessica Adame, MSN-Ed, RN, SCR.N, CNRN

Neuroscience Nurse Educator

Michelle Belusic, MSN, APR.N, AGCNS-BC, CNRN, CCR.N

Neuroscience Clinical Nurse Specialist

Mackenzie Granitz, BSN, RN, CNRN, SCR.N

Neuroscience Nurse Educator

Elise Henling, BSN, RN, CRR.N

Neuroscience Nurse Educator

Ivana Marincic, BSN, RN, CNRN

Neuroscience Nurse Educator

Lisel McLellan, MSN, RN, CNOR, CNRN

Neuroscience OR Nurse Educator

Madona Plueger, MSN, APR.N, CNRN, ACNS-BC, FAES

Neuroscience Clinical Nurse Specialist

Virginia Prendergast, PhD, NP-C, CNRN, FAAN

Director, Advanced Practice Nursing

Ina Reynolds, BSN, RN, CCR.N, CNRN, SCR.N

Neuroscience Nurse Educator

Erin Tucker, BSN, RN, CNRN

Neuroscience Nurse Educator

AGENDA

Day 1 | Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026

7:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

7:50 a.m. Welcome

Virginia Prendergast, PhD, NP

8:05 a.m. **The Barrow Women's Board Keynote:** Nurses in the Media: A Digital Innovation for Advocacy and Visibility
Rachel Malloy, DNP, RN, CNRN, SCRNP

9:05 a.m. Knowledge Donor Program
Kayla Gray, MS, CCRP, PhD(c)

9:45 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Decoding Intent, Restoring Independence: The Translational Evolution of Invasive Brain-Computer Interfaces
Brandon Fox, MD, PhD

10:45 a.m. Servant Leadership in Barrow Clinical Research
Lori Wood RN, MSN-L, CPHN

11:15 a.m. On the Other Side of the Rail
Noland Arbaugh, Patient

11:45 a.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Spine Surgical Robotics: What You Need to Know
Laura Snyder, MD

1:15 p.m. Beyond Prone: Navigating Patient Positioning in Complex Spine Cases
Mollee Deason, BSN, RN

1:45 p.m. Spinal Surgery Patients - The Fundamentals of Postoperative Nursing Care
Tom Rowe, FNP-BC, CNRN

2 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Long Days. Short Years.
Cyrus Elahi, MD

3 p.m. Functional Neurological Disorder: Breaking the Stigma
Danielle Sweeney, Neurology Clinical Nurse Specialist

3:15 p.m. TBI Agitation Management
Cynthia Bautista, PhD, APRN, FNCS, FCNS

4 p.m. Closing Remarks



Day 2 | Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026

7:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

7:50 a.m. Welcome

Virginia Prendergast, PhD, NP

8:05 a.m. Warren & Mary Jane Crist Foundation Keynote: Using Humor to Enhance Care for Neuroscience Patients

Cynthia Bautista, PhD, APRN, FNCS, FCNS

9 a.m. From Scan to Strategy: Inside Barrow CNS Tumor Board

Nader Sanai, MD, Yosie Umemura, MD, William Kennedy, MD, Jennifer Eschbacher, MD, & Kendall Felix, RN, BSN, CNRN, SCRn

9:30 a.m. Neuroimaging for Stroke: What All Neuro Nurses Need to Know

Rachel Malloy, DNP, RN, CNRN, SCRn

10 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. When Swallowing Competes: Dysphagia Under Cognitive Load

Kelsey Raab, MS, CCC-SLP

11 a.m. Out of the Shadows: An approach to Psychogenic Non-Epileptic Seizures

Ryan Wagner, MD, MSc(Med), PhD

11:15 a.m. Spoken Truths and Heard Interpretations: Decoding the Diagnosis

Madona Plueger, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC, CNRN, FAES

11:30 a.m. Other Side of the Rail

Patient

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Magnetoencephalography

Vladimir Shvarts, MD, FACNS

1:30 p.m. Between Awareness and Uncertainty: Approaches to Care for Patients with Disorders of Consciousness

Mark Linsenmeyer, MD

2 p.m. Clinical Practice Within Constraints: A Collaborative Model of Neuroscience Nursing in Tanzania

Mackenzie Granitz, BSN, RN, CNRN, SCRn

2:30 p.m. Break

3 p.m. Raíces: Connecting Through Hispanic Culture in Healthcare

Jessica Adame, MSN-Ed, RN, SCRn, CNRN

3:30 p.m. Cochlear Implants at 65: Where We've Been and Where We're Going

Shawn Stevens, MD

4 p.m. Closing Remarks

Registration Information

	Early Bird (Before 10/06/26)	Late Registration (After 10/06/26)
Dignity Health Employee-Single Day	\$105.00	\$115.00
Dignity Health Employee-Both Days	\$170.00	\$180.00
Visiting Health Care Professional-Single Day	\$130.00	\$140.00
Visiting Health Care Professional-Both Days	\$205.00	\$215.00

<https://www.barrowneuro.org/patient-care/support-resources/education-seminars/neuroscience-nursing-symposium/>

For more information, please contact the Barrow Continuing Medical Education Office at BNINursingEducation@BarrowNeuro.org.

Click or Scan



Guest Faculty

Noland Arbaugh

Patient

Cynthia Bautista, PhD, APRN, FNCS, FCNS

Keynote

Kayla Gray, MS, CCRP, PhD(c)

Director, Donor Knowledge Program

Rachel Malloy, DNP, RN, CNRN, SCRNP

Keynote

Danielle Sweeney, Neurology Clinical Nurse Specialist

Our Lady Of Lourdes Hospital,
Drogheda IRE

Barrow Neurological Institute Faculty

Mollee Deason, BSN, RN

Neurosurgery Nursing Manager

Cyrus Elahi, MD

Chief Resident, Neurosurgery

Jennifer Eschbacher, MD

Neuropathology

Kendall Felix, BSN, RN, CNRN, SCRNP

Nurse Navigator – Ivy Brain Tumor Center
Neurosurgical Oncology

Brandon Fox, MD, PhD

Chief Resident, Neurosurgery
Resident Director, Thurston Innovation
Center

William Kennedy, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of
Radiation Oncology
Barrow – Ivy Brain Tumor Center

Mark Linsenmeyer, MD

Physical Medicine & Neuro-Rehabilitation

Kelsey Raab, MS, CCC-SLP

Acute Care Speech Language Pathologist
Clinical Specialist

Tom Rowe, FNP-BC, CNRN

Barrow Advanced Practice

Nader Sanai MD, FAANS, FACS

Chief of Neurosurgical Oncology, Barrow
Director, Ivy Brain Tumor Center

Vladimir Shvarts, MD, FACNS

Director, Epilepsy Division

Laura Snyder, MD

Professor of Neurosurgery
Chief, Neurotrauma

Shawn Stevens, MD

Associate Professor, ENT and Skull Base
Surgery

Yoshie Umemura, MD, FAAN

Chief of Neuro-Oncology, Barrow –
Ivy Brain Tumor Center

Ryan Wagner, MD, MSc(Med), PhD

Adult Neurology Resident

Lori Wood, RN, MSN-L, CPHN

Manager Research Operations