



IACRN 15th Annual Conference Registration is Now Open!

A great networking and educational opportunity is right around the corner. The 2023 [International Association of Clinical Research Nurses \(IACRN\) Annual Conference](#) in Philadelphia, PA, October 16-18, 2023, Advancements in Clinical Research Nursing: Building Practice Excellence.

Why attend an IACRN conference?

IACRN is the Voice of Clinical Research Nurses. “Attending the annual conference is an excellent way to be part of change, advance a CRN’s professional development, learn from clinical research experts from across the globe, and have a voice in the dynamic, professional practice of clinical research nursing,” said Noriko Fujiwara, MS, RN, OCNS, CCRP, 2023 IACRN Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair.

According to American Nurses Association (2019) “it’s easy to network with people in your industry on sites like LinkedIn, but face-to-face interaction is still key in this digital age for both students and professionals. An excellent way to get that is to attend professional organization conferences.”

Six reasons you and your organization will benefit from your attendance

1. **Solutions:** Connect with experts and peers to discover solutions for relevant research related issues and develop a culture of learning for your team.
2. **Quality:** Attend plenary presentations, break-out sessions, and round table discussions that will help you explore successful quality strategies that can be applied globally.
3. **Innovation:** Find inspiration in presentations on practical innovations that will impart new ideas to take back to your organization.
4. **Opportunity:** Experience new opportunities at the conference that will contribute value to your organization and research team.
5. **Value:** Learn from interactive sessions, engaging content, and gain a great overall experience and continuing education credits.
6. **Network:** Establish professional contacts for collaboration, information sharing and resource sharing.

The keynote session, “The Many Roles of Nurses in Clinical Research Nursing,” will provide expert insight into the importance of clinical research nursing. It will be delivered by Carole Treston, RN, MPH, SCRNP, FAAN, Executive Director of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

In addition to the keynote, other scheduled sessions, poster presentations, and informal gatherings will offer attendees a chance to participate in crowdsourcing. Networking and educational sessions will provide opportunities to gather innovative information on quality, safety, and other challenges unique to clinical research and the role of the CRN. The conference presents the best in advancements and novel approaches that attendees can take back to their own workplace and research team.

According to Schneider (2015), “nursing conferences bring together the best and the brightest of nursing’s thought leaders. By attending you are in the best position possible to be on the leading edge of practice change.”

Request Approval to Attend the IACRN Conference

Getting approval to attend the conference is a two-part endeavor. In addition to showing the benefits of the conference itself, you will also want to demonstrate to your employer that you (and your colleagues) are the best person for your organization to invest valuable resources for not only your professional development, but also to bring value to the organization. Here are some ideas for items you can prepare for your supervisor that will help organize your request to attend.

Prepare a Proposal

Make sure your employer is familiar with the vision and mission of IACRN:

Vision: Enhancing clinical research quality and safety through specialized nursing practice.

Mission: The International Association of Clinical Research Nurses is a professional nursing organization. Its purpose is to define, validate and advance clinical research nursing as a specialty practice and to support the professional development of registered nurses who directly or indirectly impact the care of clinical research participants across all clinical specialties.

- Use the conference agenda outline to identify sessions you plan to attend. Explain how they will benefit your practice by using specific examples on how sessions meet organizational objectives and provide learning opportunities. Link to IACRN Conference Agenda: <https://iacrn.org/2023-Conference-Agenda>
- Outline your plan for sharing information gained at the conference (e.g., spend 10 minutes at the next staff meeting speaking about new trends presented at the conference, strategies to solve your organization’s challenges, insight you gained from experts, new approaches to managing common challenges; or write an article for your newsletter on these topics).
- Highlight that Continuing Professional Development Credits/CEUs will be granted for attending the conference sessions and tie this to your organization’s goals (e.g., Magnet).
- If necessary, have a plan for who will cover for you at work while you are attending the conference.

- Identify cost and strategies for cost savings (e.g. Early Bird registration, share the hotel expense with a colleague).
- Justify the cost of the conference by comparing it to other educational courses and offerings. Almost any alternative will prove to be more time-consuming and expensive.

IACRN has created a template letter you can personalize for your needs and share with your employer. Link to Employer Letter Template: <https://iacrn.org/2023-Conference>

Prepare for the Conference

- Research the conference speakers, and have specific questions lined up relevant to their session topics and your work.
- Find out what other organizations are attending the event to demonstrate to your manager the potential networking opportunities that will be invaluable to gain fresh ideas or solutions to current issues.
- Disseminate: Share your experience and knowledge gained.
 - Tweet about the keynote/endnote speakers, session speakers, agenda topics, and venue.
 - Prepare a presentation of the major take-away to present to other staff members and/or your supervisor.
 - Maintain an action list of ideas you want to implement or develop further when you return to work.
 - Discuss with your employer the measurable changes/improvements gained from attending the conference to help them identify their return on investment.

References:

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