

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*The David Rubenstein
Forum at the University
of Chicago*
Chicago, IL



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



Austin
HEALTH

Tracheostomy
Review and
Management
Service
(TRAMS)



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PROGRAM BOOK

Partners in Care: Advancing Excellence in Tracheostomy from Hospital to Home

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



**Vinciya Pandian,
PhD, MBA, MSN,
RN, ACNP-BC,
FCCM, FAANP,
FAAN, FFMRCIS**

President

Global Tracheostomy
Collaborative

President's Welcome Message

It is my great honor to welcome you to the **9th International Tracheostomy Symposium-Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care: From Hospital to Home**.

This year's symposium represents an extraordinary step forward in our shared mission to advance tracheostomy care through innovation, inclusion, and collaboration. For the first time, we are offering a **hands-on workshop on tracheostomy care post-insertion**, allowing participants to build and refine skills through immersive, interprofessional learning. Equally meaningful is our inaugural **social reception dedicated to people with a tracheostomy, their family members, and caregivers**, a celebration of resilience, partnership, and community.

The Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC) was founded on a simple truth: **collaboration saves lives**. Over the years, our collective efforts have shown that when clinicians, scientists, and people with lived experience come together, we create care systems that are safer, more responsive, and deeply human. Together, we are transforming the tracheostomy journey from one of survival to one of thriving, connecting hospitals to homes, and teams to families, across the world.

This year's theme, *From Hospital to Home*, reflects the full continuum of our commitment: to empower, to listen, and to lead with compassion. As you engage in the sessions, discussions, and celebrations ahead, may you be inspired to bring new knowledge, empathy, and collaboration back to your own communities.

On behalf of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative, thank you for your dedication to advancing excellence in tracheostomy care, for every person, in every place, at every stage of life.

With gratitude and hope,

*Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, FCCM,
FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCIS*
President, Global Tracheostomy Collaborative

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OVERALL COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to equip healthcare professionals with the latest knowledge and skills in tracheostomy care through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach. The symposium will feature sessions on advanced practices, quality improvement strategies, and patient engagement techniques, all aimed at enhancing tracheostomy care across various healthcare settings. Participants, including physicians (MD), nurses (RN), pharmacists (Pharma), nurse practitioners (NP), physician assistants (PA), and social workers (SW), will gain insights into best practices and innovative care models. The symposium will facilitate collaborative learning and the exchange of expertise, ultimately improving patient outcomes and safety in tracheostomy care.

Purpose: The overarching purpose of this educational activity is to empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the quality of tracheostomy care through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach.

Scope of Practice: The target audience for the 9th International Tracheostomy Symposium comprises healthcare practitioners and professionals from a wide range of specialties and geographic locations who are actively involved in the care of patients with tracheostomies including improved communication with persons with a tracheostomy and their family members.. These professionals provide care across various settings, including acute care, outpatient care, rehabilitation, and home care. The audience includes:

1. **Surgeons and Specialty Physicians:** Practitioners in fields such as Otolaryngology, Pulmonology, Critical Care Medicine, Anesthesiology, and General Surgery who are responsible for performing tracheostomies, managing airway complications, and overseeing the care of patients with complex respiratory needs.
2. **Primary Care Physicians and General Medicine Practitioners:** These providers often manage tracheostomy patients in community settings, ensuring continuity of care and addressing general health needs related to tracheostomy.
3. **Nurses and Nurse Practitioners:** Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Nurses (NPs) who provide direct care, manage complications, educate patients and families, and coordinate multidisciplinary care for tracheostomy patients.
4. **Pharmacists:** Professionals involved in the management of medications crucial to tracheostomy care, including antibiotics, pain management, and sedation.
5. **Physician Assistants:** PAs working alongside physicians in various specialties who contribute to the management and care of tracheostomy patients.
6. **Speech-Language Pathologists, Respiratory Therapists, and Physiotherapists:** Allied health professionals who play critical roles in rehabilitation, communication, and respiratory management for patients with tracheostomies.
7. **Social Workers, Nutritionists, and Hospital Administrators:** Individuals involved in the psychosocial support, nutritional care, and administrative aspects of managing tracheostomy care, ensuring that patients receive comprehensive, coordinated care.
8. **Patients and Family Members:** Persons with a tracheostomy and their family members or caregivers who are involved in the day-to-day management of tracheostomies, particularly in home care settings.

Level for This Particular Activity Topic:

The symposium is designed to accommodate learners at various levels of expertise, including:

- **Novice:** Participants who are new to tracheostomy care, including newly qualified healthcare professionals, or those with limited experience in managing tracheostomies.
- **Intermediate:** Practitioners with some experience in tracheostomy care who are seeking to enhance their skills, update their knowledge with the latest practices, and learn from case studies and expert discussions.
- **Advanced:** Experienced professionals and specialists who are engaged in cutting-edge tracheostomy care, research, or education, and who are interested in refining their skills, contributing to discussions on complex cases, and leading quality improvement initiatives.
- **Persons with a Tracheostomy and their family members or caregivers**

The program is structured to provide valuable insights and practical knowledge to all participants, regardless of their current level of expertise, with sessions tailored to address the varying needs and learning objectives of each group.

LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

The overarching purpose of this educational activity is to empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the quality of tracheostomy care through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach.

Upon completion of this educational activity, participants will be able to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Articulate the essential elements of a multidisciplinary approach to tracheostomy care, including the roles and contributions of various healthcare professionals, and how this approach facilitates comprehensive, institution-wide improvements in patient care practices.
2. Assess effective methods for enhancing engagement with patients and their families in tracheostomy care, as well as strategies for improving the education and training of staff, thereby ensuring that all team members are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide high-quality care.
3. Explain the benefits of implementing standardized tracheostomy care protocols, including how such standardization can lead to improved consistency in care delivery, reduced variability in practices, and enhanced patient safety across the healthcare institution.
 - a. Critique at least one quality improvement strategy that has been demonstrated to enhance patient outcomes, increase patient satisfaction, or reduce hospital length of stay, readmission rates, or adverse events in tracheostomy care
 - b. Analyze at least one specific outcome related to tracheostomy care that has shown improvement following the implementation of a multidisciplinary tracheostomy care team, underscoring the value of collaborative care models in achieving superior patient outcomes.
4. Formulate specific opportunities and targets within their own institutions where improvements in tracheostomy care can be made, facilitating the development of actionable plans to address these areas.
5. Illustrate how a quality improvement collaborative can effectively disseminate strategies and best practices for improving tracheostomy care, emphasizing the importance of shared learning and collaboration in advancing patient care quality.
6. Synthesize the ability to apply concepts from change theory in critically examining and seeking improvements to tracheostomy care protocols within their own institutions, with a focus on fostering effective, evidence-based changes that enhance care delivery and patient outcomes.

Satisfactory Completion:

To receive credit participants must attend the designated educational sessions in their entirety and complete the evaluation that prompts them to reflect on what they learned in the course and how they intend to change their practice based on this information.



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Towson University, Department of
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Various Levels

Up to 1.15 ASHA CEUs

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Thursday, October 23 | Building Bridges: Clinical Care and Community Connection

8:00-9:00 am **Registration**

9:00-9:05 am **President's Welcome Message: Advancing Excellence Together**

Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCIS; President, GTC

9:05-9:20 am **Grounding in Excellence: Welcome from the Host Institution**

Nishant Agrawal, MD, Division Chair, University of Chicago

9:20-10:20 am **Keynote #1: Leading with Purpose: Advancing Collaborative Tracheostomy Care from Hospital to Home**
David Goldenberg, MD, FACS – Vice President of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Services, Penn State Health; Chair of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Department, Hershey Medical Center

10:20-10:30 am **Innovation Break: Coffee, Conversations & Industry Connections**

10:30-11:15 am **Finding a Voice: Enhancing Communication**

Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S; Sarju Patel, SLP; William Gao, MD; Morgan Stearns, MA, CCC-SLP; Alejandra C. Lastra, MD FCCP FAASM

11:15 am-12:00 pm **Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disability Risks in Children with Tracheostomies and Ventilators: Lessons learned from home-based research with families**

Sarah A. Sobotka, MD MSCP; Emma L. Green, MPH

12:00-1:00 pm **Lunch Break (Provided) and Visit Exhibits**

1:00-2:00 pm **Keynote #2: Finding Strength Beyond the Tube: A Journey of Resilience and Hope**

Laura Jackson

2:00- 2:10pm **Transition to Breakout Sessions**

Track A Lived Experience as Expertise: Families and Caregivers Shaping Tracheostomy Care

University Room
Moderators: Kylie McElroy and Nicole Kovite Zeitler

2:10-2:40 pm **Transition of Care: Post Discharge Realities for Pediatric Trach Families**

Kathryn Knight, BBA, Executive Director & Co-Founder of Hello Nurze, Medical Mom & Gary Knight, BS, Co-Founder of Hello Nurze & Medical Dad

2:40-3:10 pm **The Invisible Load: Family Caregivers Become Specialists Overnight**

Susana Elizarraraz, Medical Mom

3:10-3:20 pm **Discovery Break: Refreshments & Partner Insights**

3:20-3:50pm **The Trach Family Toolkit: What You Need to Know When Going Home**

Sofia Seewald, Lurie Children's Hospital; Pulmonary Habilitation Program Family Advisory Board

3:50-4:50 pm **The Power of Listening: What Providers Don't Always Hear**

Speakers: Katie Roche, Sofia Seewald, Lurie Children's Hospital; Pulmonary Habilitation Program Family Advisory Board

4:50-5:00 pm **Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks**

Kylie McElroy, BA

5:00-6:00 pm **Sharing Science, Sharing Stories: Posters & PFC Social Hour; City View Room**

Moderators: Laura Cavallone, MD, MS, FASA, Professor of Anesthesia and Critical Care and Andrea Vannucci, MD, FASA, DEAA, CPPS, Vice-chair for Quality and Safety; Director of Liver Transplant Anesthesia

Track B Harnessing Global Data for Better Care

Room #504
Moderator: Carly Milliren

Learning from the Numbers: Updates from the GTC Global Database Committee

Carly Milliren, MPH

Ask the Experts: Open Q&A with the GTC Database Committee

Carly Milliren, MPH

Turning Data into Action: Research and Real-World Impact

Improving Length of Stay for Pediatric Tracheostomy Patients Through Weekly Interdisciplinary Table Rounds

*Presenter: Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC; Jennifer Henningfeld, MD, Lisa Molkentine, RT
Author: DaJhnae Gambrell-Sanders; Cassandra Zavala, BSN, RN, Robin Kostroski, MSW, APSW; Haley Clark, BSN, RN*

4:20-4:50 pm **Shaping Practice, Improving Care: How GTC Transformed Tracheostomy Care at Monash Health**

Presenters: Lisa Terry, Brendan Murfin

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks

Carly Milliren, MPH



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Poster Abstracts | Oct 23, 2025 | 5:00-6:00 PM CST

1	Avoiding Tracheostomy in a Paediatric Patient with Cervical Spinal Cord Injury and Pre-existing Neuromuscular Disorder: The Role of Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Person-Centred Care <i>Grace McCormack, BA. MSc, MRCSLT (Presenter), Matt Henley, Suzanne Capel, Caterina Ferrara, Kate Roberts, Laura Eves</i>
2	MDT Considerations in Dysphagia Management Following Cervical Spinal Cord Injury: Lessons Learned at a Specialist Centre <i>Laura Eves B.A., MSc., MRCSLT (Presenter), Grace McCormack, BA. MSc, MRCSLT, Matthew Henley, Kate Roberts, Caterina Ferrara</i>
3	Post-Tracheostomy Care Transition: A Needs Assessment in Nebraska <i>Noha Algahimi, BS (Presenter), Dr. Jayme Dowdall, MD, Dr. Jana Wardian, PhD</i>
4	Medical Complexity of Patients with a Tracheostomy Throughout Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care <i>Sydni Springer, BS (Presenter), Jana Wardian, PhD, MSW, Jayme Dowdall, MD</i>
5	Using Interprofessional Clinical Simulation with Standardized Patients to Teach Tracheostomy Management Skills to Graduate SLP and RT Students <i>Lisa LaGorio, PhD, MPH, CCC-SLP (Presenter), Doreen Izaguirre, PhD-ABD, MA, CCC-SLP (Presenter), J. Brady Scott, PhD, RRT, RRT-ACCS, AE-C, FAARC, FCCP (Presenter), Tyler Weiss, PhD, RRT, RRT-ACCS, AE-C, FCCP, (Presenter)</i>
6	Aligning Allied Health Tracheostomy Education within a Community Hospital Setting <i>Madison Himler, M.S., CCC-SLP (Presenter), Juliana Marks, M.S., CCC-SLP (Presenter)</i>
7	Too many cooks in the kitchen - pitfalls with care despite warm hand offs during facility to facility transitions <i>Teresa Rodriguez, RRT (Presenter), Jade Rice, RN, Ryan Higgins, MD, Chris Bingcang, Tony Richa, Elizabeth Bradford Bell, Melissa Gulizia, BS, RRT, Jayme Dowdall, MD</i>
8	Knowledge and Confidence Test for Tracheostomy and Mechanical Ventilation (KCT-TMV): A Psychometric Pilot <i>Meredith Baker-Rush, PhD, MS, CCC-SLP/L, CHSE, FNAP (Presenter)</i>
9	Surgical Tracheostomy Training on Human Cadavers at a Medical College in South India <i>Vishnu Martha, Professor of Otolaryngology (Presenter)</i>
10	VHA Clinical Practice Recommendations for Managing Communication and Swallowing Impairments in Patients with Tracheostomies <i>Ronda Winans-Mitrik, MA CCC-SLP (Presenter), Christine Matthews, CScD, CCC-SLP; BCS-S (Presenter), Kimberly Eichhorn, MS, CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDs, ATP (Presenter)</i>
11	Improving the Usability and Usage of a Tracheostomy Order Set <i>Tony Satroplus, MD (Presenter), Teresa Rodriguez, Jordon Flynn, Carly Garcia, Bennett Berning, Cassie Gay, Laura Bargell, Sarah Schmoker, Jayme Dowdall</i>
12	Development of Adult Multidisciplinary Tracheostomy Rounding Teams: Prevalence, Template for Starting and Analysis for Diffusion of Innovation <i>Sarah Schmoker, MD (Presenter), Tony Satroplus, MD, Teresa Rodriguez, Bennett Berning, Robert Morrison, Jayme Dowdall, MD</i>
13	Development of a Workflow Process for Large-scale Ventilator Transitioning <i>Donna Slayton, MSN, RN, CPN (Presenter), Author: Natalie Allums, MSN, RN, CPN</i>

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14	Beyond the ICU: Longitudinal Healthcare Costs of Tracheostomy in a Nationally Insured Cohort <i>Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA MSN RN AvCNP-BC FCCM FAAN-BC F AAN FFMRCIS, Michael Brenner, MD, FACS</i>
15	Standardized Tracheostomy Education for Caregivers in Preparation for Initial Transition to Home <i>Katie Dwyer, MSN, APRN, FNP-C (Presenter), Mark Minor, MD. Carol Murray, RN, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC. Tammy Witwer, RN, BSN, CPN</i>
16	Intrahospital Transport of Adults with Surgical Airways: A Scoping Review of Risks and Outcomes <i>DeMarcus Burke, BA (Presenter), Ferdie Galicia, BD, MS, Youssef Nagaty, BA, Raivat Shah, BS, Jai'el Toussaint, BA</i> <i>Authors: Sarah E. Hughes, BA, Qingli Ji, MAS, Michael J. Brenner, MD, FACS, Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCIS</i>
17	Laryngotracheal Sequelae Following Endotracheal Intubation in the ICU: A TriNetX Database Analysis <i>DeMarcus Burke, BA (Presenter), Ferdie Galicia, BD, MS, Youssef Nagaty, BA, Raivat Shah, BS, Jai'el Toussaint, BA</i> <i>Authors: Sarah E. Hughes, BA, Qingli Ji, MAS, Michael J. Brenner, MD, FACS, Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCIS</i>
18	Enhancing Critical Care Nurses' Suctioning Skills Using Structured Education : A Quasi-Experimental Study <i>Manizhe Amir Mohammadi, Vinciya Pandian, Amir Vahedian Azimi</i>
19	Tracheostomy Across Contexts: A Cluster Analysis of Global Care Trends (2015–2025) <i>Marielle He, MD, MS; Vinciya Pandian, PhD, RN; Michael Brenner, MD</i>

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Friday, October 24 | Innovation to Impact: Advancing Science and Skills in Tracheostomy Care

8:25-8:30 am **Welcome and Introductions**
Dr. Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCST;
President, Global Tracheostomy Collaborative

8:30-9:30 am **Keynote #3: Collaboration between Families and Health Systems: Partnering Together to Improve Pediatric Tracheostomy Care**
Carolyn C. Foster, MD, MS and Alexandra Feldman, MD, Jaclyn Vasquez

9:30-9:40 am **Transition to Breakout Sessions**

Track A Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration

University Room
Moderator: Amy Freeman-Sanderson

9:40-9:55 am **Evaluation of multidisciplinary competency training to introduce speaking valve use for ventilated tracheostomised patients in Swedish ICUs**
Presenter: Amy Freeman-Sanderson, PhD, BAppSc, CPSP, FHEA
Authors: Sara Wiberg, Anna-Liisa Sutt, Stina Sundstedt, Viveka Lyberg Ahlander, Maria Sehlin, Patricia Häggglund, Mia Hylén, Liza Bergström

9:55-10:10 am **A speech recognition-based communication aid for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care: a cohort study**
Presenter: Carla McClintock, PhD MSc PGCE BSc (Hons) RN
Authors: Daniel F. McAuley, Bronwen Connolly, Bronagh Blackwood

10:10-10:20 am **Q&A**

10:20-10:40 am **Connection Break: Engage with Experts & Explore Partner Solutions**

10:40-10:55 am **Enhancing Tracheostomy Management Skills Through Simulation: A Bootcamp for General Practitioners at UGHE in Kigali, Rwanda**
Presenter: Nina Patel, MS, Mphil
Authors: Kami Pullakhandam, Mary Jue Xu

10:55-11:10 am **Automated Suctioning in Action: Experimental Evaluation of Device Efficiency and Reliability**
Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA MSN RN ACNP-BC FCCM FAAN-BC F AAN FFMRCST

11:10-11:20 am **Q&A**

11:20-11:35 am **Systematic Approach to Airway Occlusion within a Community Hospital Setting**
Juliana Marks, M.S., CCC- SLP (Presenter), Beth Heise, M.S., CCC-SLP

Track B Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes

Room #504
Moderator: Jennifer Henningfeld

One-year outcomes measurably improve after implementation of Global Tracheostomy Collaborative five key elements
Presenter: Ashley Johnson, RN
Author: Adele Evans, MD, FAAP

Standardizing Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Post-operative Improvement
Presenters: Carol Murray, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC, Karen Reeder, MS, RN, PCNS-BC, CPN

Q&A

Slide Tracheoplasty as a Bridge to Tracheostomy in a Toddler with Complete Tracheal Rings and Prolonged Ventilatory Needs
Presenter: Zialesi Adissem, BS
Author: Jonathan Grischkan

Lessons Learned by a Pediatric Tracheostomy Team
Presenters: Jennifer Helman, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC/PC, Kelly Krawcke, BSN, RN
Author:

Q&A

Comparative Analysis of Access to Outpatient Care in Pediatric Versus Adult Tracheostomy Patients
Presenter: Juliana Morcos, BS
Author: Adele Evans, MD, FAAP



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Track A Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration

University Room
Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS

11:35-11:50 am **Improving Discharge Planning Communication via Multidisciplinary Tracheostomy Rounds**
*Presenters: Wendy Barahona, MSN, RNC-NIC
Jennifer Petrasanta, MSN, RNC-NIC*

11:50 am-12:00 pm **Q&A**

12:00-1:00 pm **Lunch Break (Provided) and Visit Exhibits**

1:00-1:15 pm **Perspectives of patients, families, and healthcare professionals on a speech recognition-based communication aid for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care**
*Presenter: Carla McClintock, PhD, MSc, PGCE, BSc (Hons) RN
Authors: Daniel F. McAuley, Bronwen Connolly, Bronagh Blackwood*

1:15-1:30 pm **Involving Medical Students in Innovative Approaches in Tracheostomy Care: Bridging Research and Practice**
Presenters: Taylor Pitzl, BS, Jayme Dowdall, MD, Noha Algahimi, BS, Sydni Springer, BS, Dr. Jana Wardian, PhD, MSW

1:30-1:40 pm **Q&A**

1:40-1:55 pm **Grassroots Tracheostomy Teams - Options for when people care and funding isn't there**
*Presenters: Carly Garcia, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS, Cassie Gay, MS, CCC-SLP
Authors: Laura Bargell, Jayme Dowdall, Bennett Berning, Teresa Rodriguez*

1:55-2:10 pm **Language as Lifeline: Humanizing How we Speak About Surgical Airways.**
Presenters: Michael J. Brenner, MD, FACS, Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCIS; Seana Sammon, Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

2:10-2:20 pm **Q&A**

2:20-2:40 pm **Connection Break: Engage with Experts & Explore Partner Solutions**

Track B Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes

Room #504
Moderators: Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC & Marta Kulich, MD

Implementing a remote patient monitoring platform for Tracheostomy and Home Ventilator patients in a large healthcare system: lessons learned
*Presenters: Jennifer Henningfeld, MD, Grace Flanagan, RRT
Author: Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC, Kimberly Cronsell, MD*

Q&A

Pre-Clinic Huddles in Tracheostomy-Ventilator Clinic: A Strategy to Improve Multidisciplinary Care Coordination and Time to Decannulation
*Presenters: Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC, Kristina Keppel, RN, MSN, DNP, Lisa Molkentine, RT, Christine Bueckers, M.S. CCC-SLP
Author: Jennifer Henningfeld, MD*

Skin Care for the Pediatric Tracheostomy Patient: Alternatively- Breaking Down Skin Breakdown
Presenters: Kristina Keppel, DNP, APNP, CPNP Rebekah; Barrette MS, RN, PCNS-BC, APNP, CWOON

Q&A

Tying Up Loose Ends: Benchmarking Current Practice Regarding Tracheostomy Ties in Paediatrics
*Presenter: Sandy Foster, BSN
Authors: Rachel Kerr, Kiraka Nakazawa, Aisha Barton-Ross, Angela McCullagh*

Enhancing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Techniques Among Caregivers of Pediatric Tracheostomy Patients Using High-Fidelity Simulation
*Presenter: Holly Jacobson, RRT
Authors: Lisa Molkentine, Grace Flanagan, Cassie Zavala, Cecilia Lang, Da'Jhnae Gambrell-Sanders, Jennifer Henningfeld*

Q&A



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Track A Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration

University Room
Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS

2:40-2:55 pm **Outpatient Tracheostomy Care Clinic: The Impact on Readmission Rates and Quality of Life**
Presenter: Jennifer Faulkner, PA-C
Authors: Mary Madeline Howard, CRNP, Harishanker Jeyarajan, MD

2:55-3:10 pm **Evaluation of a Simulation-Based, E-Learning Intervention to Develop Nursing Students' Competency to Recognize Tracheostomy Complications**
Presenter: Ruth Bargainer Tobin, PhD, RN, CNE

3:10- 3:20 pm **Q&A**

3:20-4:00 pm **Panel Discussion: Beyond Survival: Redefining Quality of Life in Tracheostomy Care**
Amy Freeman-Sanderson, PhD, BAppSc, CPSP, FHEA
Linda Williams, RRT
Laura Istanboulian, PhD, NP
Michael Brenner, MD, FACS
Pat Camalliere

4:00-5:00 pm **Celebrating Excellence: Closing Reflections and Awards**
Vinciya Pandian, President, Global Tracheostomy Collaborative
Michael Brenner, Chair of the GTC Board

Track B Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes

Room #504
Moderators: Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC & Marta Kulich, MD

Exposure of Tracheostomy Education Well-Received During Pre-Clinical Head and Neck Physical Exam Course

Presenter: Tony Satroplus, MD
Authors: Jayme Dowdall, MD, Christopher Bingang, MD, Katie Geelan-Hansen, MD, Tony Richa, MD, Chelsea Hamill, MD

Medically Complex Technology-Dependent Children: Support from Decision for Tracheostomy to Discharge
Carol Murray, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC, Mark Minor, MD and Shannon Root, MSW, LISW-S

Q&A



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Friday, October 24 | Innovation to Impact: Advancing Science and Skills in Tracheostomy Care

Hands-On Workshop: Excellence in Tracheostomy Care for Pediatric and Adult Populations (Ticketed Event)

Room #503

1:00 - 1:05 PM	Setting the Stage: Why Skilled Tracheostomy Care Matters for People, Families, and Communities	<i>Kylie McElroy, BA</i>
1:05 - 1:20 PM	Understanding the Airway: Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathways to Tracheostomy	<i>Septimiu Murgu, MD</i>
1:20 - 1:35 PM	Getting to Know the Essentials: Tracheostomy Tubes and Equipment Made Practical	<i>Nicki Johnson, APRN, CPNP-AC</i>
1:35 - 2:20 PM	Hands-On Airway Care: Safe Techniques for Tracheostomy Management	<i>Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S Course Simulation Faculty</i>
2:20 - 2:40 PM	Community Break: Refreshments, Networking & Exhibit Hall Conversations	
2:40 - 2:55 PM	Staying Prepared: Managing Complications and Emergencies in Tracheostomy Care	<i>Kristina Keppel, DNP, APNP, CPNP</i>
2:55 - 3:55 PM	Practice to Proficiency: Simulation and Case Studies in Tracheostomy Care	<i>Priti Jani, MD, MPH Anna McCormick, DO Course Simulation Faculty</i>
3:55 - 4:00 PM	Closing the Loop: Reflections, Questions, and Looking Ahead	<i>Kylie McElroy, BA</i>

Hands on Course Simulation Faculty

Ajay Wagh, MD, MS

Anna McCormick, DO

Cassandra Zavala, BSN RN

Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Holly Jacobson, RT

Kristina Keppel, DNP, APNP, CPNP

Kylie McElroy, BA

Laura Nairns, MS, CCC, SLP

Linda Williams, RT

Lisa Molkentine, RT

Marielle He, MD

Nicki Johnson, APRN, CPNP-C

Priti Jani, MD, MPH

Septimiu Murgu, MD



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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025

Time	Activity/Topic
9:20-10:00am	Keynote #1: Leading with Purpose: Advancing Collaborative Tracheostomy Care from Hospital to Home Speaker: - David Goldenberg, MD, FACS – Vice President of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Services, Penn State Health; Chair of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Department, Hershey Medical Center Course Description This session will explore strategies for advancing collaborative tracheostomy care across the continuum from hospital to home. Faculty will highlight the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork, standardized protocols, and patient- and family-centered engagement to ensure safe transitions and improved outcomes. Participants will gain practical tools and approaches to strengthen communication, streamline care pathways, and enhance quality of life for patients with tracheostomies. Learning Objectives At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to: - Identify key elements of collaborative tracheostomy care that support safe and effective transitions from hospital to home. - Describe strategies for engaging patients, families, and multidisciplinary teams in shared decision-making to optimize outcomes. - Apply evidence-based approaches to improve continuity of care and quality of life for individuals living with tracheostomies. Disclosures: - David Goldenberg, MD, FACS has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. Add .01 ASHA credits will be offered.
10:30-11:15am	Topic: <i>Finding a Voice: Enhancing Communication</i> Speakers - Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S - Sarju Patel, SLP - William Gao, MD - Alejandra C. Lastra, MD FCCP FAASM Course Description This session will address the importance of communication access for individuals with complex medical needs, including those with tracheostomies. Presenters will discuss strategies and tools that support patients in “finding a voice” across care settings. Emphasis will be placed on interdisciplinary collaboration, patient and family engagement, and evidence-based approaches to enhance communication, participation, and overall quality of life. Learning Objectives At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to: - Explain the impact of communication access on patient safety, engagement, and quality of life. - Identify interdisciplinary strategies and tools that support communication for individuals with complex medical needs. - Discuss approaches for partnering with patients and families to promote meaningful communication across the continuum of care. Disclosures: - Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. - Sarju Patel, SLP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. - William Gao, MD is a consultant for Regeneron. - Alejandra C. Lastra is a Principal Investigator on HiFlo Clinical Trial for Fisher&Paykel, Consultant for Inogen, Consultant for Nyxoah. Add .075 ASHA credits will be offered.

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Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

11:15am-12:00pm	Topic: <i>Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disability Risks in Children with Tracheostomies and Ventilators: Lessons learned from home-based research with families</i> Speakers • Sarah Sobotka, MD, MSCP • Emma Green, MPH Course Description: <i>This course examines the heightened risk of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual disability (ID) in children discharged home with invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) and tracheostomies. Participants will review longitudinal assessment data, screening tools, and expert consensus findings to identify early red flags and developmental trajectories. Strategies for monitoring, early intervention, and tailored therapeutic approaches to optimize neurodevelopmental outcomes in this high-risk population will be discussed.</i> Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the prevalence and types of neurodevelopmental disabilities observed in children with home IMV and tracheostomies. 2. Identify early signs and red flags for ASD and intellectual disability using standardized developmental assessment tools. 3. Apply strategies to support neurodevelopmental monitoring and intervention planning for children with tracheostomies and ventilator dependence. Disclosures: • Sarah Sobotka, MD, MSCP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Emma Green is employed by the Utah Division of Health and Human Services as a Epidemiologist where she receives a salary Add .075 ASHA credits will be offered.
1:00-2:00pm	Keynote #2: Finding Strength Beyond the Tube: A Journey of Resilience and Hope Speaker • Laura Jackson Course Description <i>This session will highlight the resilience and strength of individuals living with tracheostomies and their families. Through shared experiences and clinical insights, presenters will explore how collaborative care, patient-centered support, and community resources contribute to recovery, adaptation, and hope beyond the tube. Attendees will gain strategies to foster resilience and promote holistic well-being across the continuum of care.</i> Learning Objectives <i>At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the role of resilience and psychosocial support in the recovery journey for individuals with tracheostomies. 2. Identify strategies to integrate patient- and family-centered approaches that promote adaptation and hope. 3. Discuss ways interdisciplinary teams can support long-term quality of life beyond medical management Disclosures: • Laura Jackson has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. Add .10 ASHA credits will be offered.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

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October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

2:10-2:40pm	TRACK A: <i>Lived Experience as Expertise: Families and: Caregivers Shaping Tracheostomy Care</i> Moderators: <i>Kylie McElroy and Nicole Kovite Zeitler</i> Topic: <i>Transition of Care: Post Discharge Realities for Pediatric Trach Families</i> Speakers: • Kathryn Knight, BBA, Executive Director & Co-Founder of Hello Nurze, Medical Mom • Gary Knight, BS, Co-Founder of Hello Nurze & Medical Dad Course Description: <i>This continuing education session addresses the critical transition period from hospital to home for pediatric patients with tracheostomies. Participants will explore the real-world challenges families face after discharge, including navigating home health services, managing complex medical equipment, and coping with emotional and logistical burdens. The course emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, family-centered care, and practical strategies to improve outcomes and reduce caregiver stress. Through case examples and evidence-based discussion, learners will gain insights into improving discharge planning and long-term support for medically complex children.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Identify common challenges pediatric tracheostomy families face during the transition from hospital to home. 2. Explain the roles of healthcare providers, caregivers, and home health agencies in supporting safe and effective post-discharge care. 3. Apply family-centered and interdisciplinary strategies to enhance discharge planning, improve care coordination, and support caregiver preparedness. Disclosures: • Kathryn Knight has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose • Gary Knight has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose .05 ASHA credits will be offered.
2:10-2:40pm	TRACK B: <i>Harnessing Global Data for Better Care</i> Moderator: <i>Carly Milliren, MPH</i> Topic: <i>Learning from the Numbers: Updates from the GTC Global Database Committee</i> Speaker: • Carly Milliren, MPH Course Description: <i>This session invites participants to join the Database Committee of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative. The facilitators will outline the committee's objectives, ongoing activities, and the benefits of involvement. Attendees will learn how to easily join the committee using a QR code provided during the session. The discussion will also focus on potential collaborative projects, with opportunities for audience engagement and brainstorming to drive future initiatives.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Understand the objectives and activities of the Database Committee within the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative. 2. Learn how to get involved with the Database Committee and explore potential collaborative opportunities. 3. Engage in brainstorming and discussions on future projects and initiatives supported by the committee. Disclosures: • Carly Milliren, MPH has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .05 ASHA credits will be offered.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

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Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

2:40-3:10pm	TRACK A: <i>Lived Experience as Expertise: Families and: Caregivers Shaping Tracheostomy Care</i> Moderators: <i>Kylie McElroy and Nicole Kovite Zeitler</i> Topic: <i>The Invisible Load: Family Caregivers Become Specialists Overnight</i> Speaker: • <i>Susana Elizarraraz, Medical Mom</i> Course Description: <i>This continuing education session explores the often-overlooked emotional, physical, and cognitive demands placed on family caregivers of medically complex children. When a child is discharged with complex medical needs, families are expected to rapidly acquire clinical skills, navigate healthcare systems, and provide round-the-clock care—often with minimal preparation or support. This course examines the “invisible load” these caregivers carry, highlighting the psychological toll, systemic gaps, and opportunities for healthcare professionals to better support and empower families. Through real-life narratives and evidence-based insights, participants will gain a deeper understanding of caregiver burden and strategies to mitigate it through collaborative, family-centered care.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Define the concept of the “invisible load” and explain its impact on family caregivers of medically complex children.</i> <i>2. Describe the challenges caregivers face in rapidly acquiring clinical skills, navigating healthcare systems, and managing daily responsibilities after hospital discharge.</i> <i>3. Apply family-centered and interdisciplinary strategies to support, educate, and empower caregivers in order to reduce stress and improve long-term outcomes.</i> Disclosures: • <i>Susana Elizarraraz has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> .05 ASHA credits will be offered.
2:40-3:10pm	TRACK B: <i>Harnessing Global Data for Better Care</i> Moderator: <i>Carly Milliren, MPH</i> Topic: <i>Ask the Experts: Open Q&A with the GTC Database Committee</i> Speaker: • <i>Carly Milliren, MPH</i> Course Description: <i>This interactive session provides participants with the opportunity to engage directly with members of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC) Database Committee. The discussion will focus on best practices for data collection, reporting, and utilization to improve tracheostomy care and patient outcomes. Faculty will address participant questions related to database participation, data accuracy, benchmarking, and quality improvement initiatives. Through open dialogue, attendees will gain practical insights into how database engagement can inform research, guide clinical practice, and support multidisciplinary collaboration.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe the purpose and structure of the GTC Database and its role in supporting quality improvement.</i> <i>2. Identify best practices for collecting, reporting, and interpreting tracheostomy-related data.</i> <i>3. Discuss strategies for applying database insights to enhance clinical decision-making, research, and patient outcomes.</i> Disclosures: • <i>Carly Milliren, MPH has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> .05 ASHA credits will be offered.

Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

3:20-3:50pm	TRACK A: <i>Lived Experience as Expertise: Families and: Caregivers Shaping Tracheostomy Care</i> Moderators: <i>Kylie McElroy and Nicole Kovite Zeitler</i> Topic: <i>The Trach Family Toolkit: What You Need to Know When Going Home</i> Speaker: • Sofia Seewald, Lurie Children’s Hospital Pulmonary Habilitation Program Family Advisory Board Course Description: <i>This continuing education session provides healthcare professionals with a comprehensive overview of the essential knowledge and tools families need when transitioning a child with a tracheostomy from hospital to home. The course emphasizes the importance of caregiver education, emotional preparedness, and interdisciplinary coordination to ensure safe and confident home care. Participants will explore practical strategies for discharge planning, caregiver training, and resource navigation, with a focus on empowering families and reducing preventable readmissions. Real-life scenarios and evidence-based practices will guide learners in supporting families through this complex transition.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Explain the essential knowledge and skills families need to safely transition a child with a tracheostomy from hospital to home. 2. Describe strategies for discharge planning, caregiver education, and resource navigation that promote family preparedness and confidence. 3. Apply interdisciplinary approaches to support families, reduce preventable readmissions, and improve outcomes for children with tracheostomies. Disclosures: • Sofia Seewald has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .05 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

3:50-4:20pm	TRACK B: <i>Harnessing Global Data for Better Care</i> Moderator: Carly Milliren, MPH Topic: <i>Improving Length of Stay for Pediatric Tracheostomy Patients Through Weekly Interdisciplinary Table Rounds</i> Speakers: • Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC • Jennifer Henningfeld, MD • Lisa Molkentine, RT Author: • DaJhnae Gambrell-Sanders • Cassandra Zavala, BSN, RN • Robin Kostroski, MSW, APSW • Haley Clark, BSN, RN Course Description: <i>This session reviews a multidisciplinary model designed to improve discharge efficiency for pediatric patients with tracheostomies in NICU and PICU settings. Drawing on experience from Children's Wisconsin, participants will learn how structured weekly trach-vent rounds streamline care coordination, reduce fragmentation, and support timely, patient-centered discharges. Practical strategies will be shared to help clinicians adapt this model within their own practice settings.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Identify common barriers that contribute to prolonged hospital stays for pediatric patients with tracheostomies. 2. Explain how structured, interdisciplinary trach-vent rounds improve care coordination and discharge planning. 3. Apply practical strategies from the trach-vent model to enhance discharge efficiency in their own clinical practice. Disclosures: • Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Jennifer Henningfeld, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Lisa Molkentine, RT has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Cassandra Zavala, BSN, RN has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Robin Kostroski, MSW, APSW has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Haley Clark, BSN, RN has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • DaJhnae Gambrell-Sanders has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .05 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

3:40-4:50pm	TRACK A: <i>Lived Experience as Expertise: Families and: Caregivers Shaping Tracheostomy Care</i> Moderators: Kylie McElroy and Nicole Kovite Zeitler Topic: <i>The Power of Listening: What Providers Don't Always Hear</i> Speakers: • Katie Roche • Sofia Seewald, Lurie Children's Hospital Pulmonary Habilitation Program Family Advisory Board Course Description <i>This session explores the often-unspoken experiences and perspectives of patients and families that healthcare providers may overlook. While clinical expertise is essential, the ability to listen—beyond symptoms and checklists—is a powerful tool for building trust, improving outcomes, and delivering compassionate, patient-centered care. Through real-world stories and reflective discussion, participants will examine their listening habits, recognize communication blind spots, and adopt strategies to elevate the voices of those they serve.</i> Learning Objectives <i>At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Define active and empathetic listening within the context of healthcare interactions. 2. Identify barriers that hinder providers from fully hearing patient and caregiver concerns. 3. Apply strategies to improve listening skills and strengthen patient-provider communication. Disclosures: • Katie Roche has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose • Sofia Seewald has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose • Jaclyn Vasquez has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose .10 ASHA credits will be offered.
4:20-4:50pm	TRACK B: <i>Harnessing Global Data for Better Care</i> Moderator: Carly Milliren, MPH Topic: <i>Shaping Practice, Improving Care: How GTC Transformed Tracheostomy Care at Monash Health</i> Speakers: • Lisa Terry • Brendan Murfin Course Description: <i>This session will highlight how participation in the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC) led to significant improvements in tracheostomy care at Monash Health. Presenters will describe the strategies implemented through the GTC framework, including standardized protocols, interdisciplinary teamwork, and enhanced communication with patients and families. Outcomes related to patient safety, quality of care, and staff engagement will be discussed. Participants will gain practical insights into how collaborative, data-driven approaches can transform care delivery and improve experiences for patients with tracheostomies and their families.</i> Learning Objectives: 1. Describe the objectives and activities of the Database Committee within the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative. 2. Identify ways to get involved with the Database Committee and explore potential collaborative opportunities. 3. Discuss future projects and initiatives supported by the committee. Disclosures: • Lisa Terry has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Brendan Murfin has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .05 ASHA credits will be offered.

Day 1 Thursday, October 23, 2025 (continued)

5:00-6:00pm	Topic: <i>Scientific Poster Session</i> Course Description: <i>The Tracheostomy Care Poster Session engages healthcare professionals in a dynamic exploration of cutting-edge research, innovations, and multidisciplinary strategies aimed at improving tracheostomy care for diverse patient populations. This session showcases a range of global studies, technological advancements, and quality improvement initiatives that address challenges in tracheostomy management, including complications, patient education, caregiver training, and the role of social determinants of health. Participants will critically evaluate emerging practices, synthesize multidisciplinary perspectives, and conceptualize novel approaches to enhancing safety, efficiency, and outcomes in both resource-rich and resource-limited settings.</i> Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Synthesize recent innovations in tracheostomy management, including robotic-assisted systems, standardized educational programs, and automated care solutions, to design new protocols that enhance patient safety and quality of care.</i> <i>2. Critically evaluate the influence of social determinants of health and environmental contexts on tracheostomy outcomes, and formulate strategies to mitigate disparities in both neonatal and adult tracheostomy populations.</i> <i>3. Appraise the effectiveness of various caregiver and healthcare provider training programs, including emergency simulations and standardized discharge education plans, and develop recommendations to improve tracheostomy care practices.</i> <i>4. Integrate multidisciplinary approaches by designing improved collaboration models that enhance communication, safety, and care coordination among healthcare providers in tracheostomy management.</i> <i>5. Analyze complex tracheostomy-related complications, such as high cuff pressures and vertebral body erosion, and propose evidence-based solutions to optimize patient outcomes and minimize risks.</i> <i>6. Evaluate innovative models for incorporating emerging technologies, such as automated suction systems and heat and moisture exchangers, into tracheostomy care to improve both clinical practice and healthcare provider training.</i> .10 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025

8:30-9:30am	Keynote #3: Collaboration between Families and Health Systems: Partnering Together to Improve Pediatric Tracheostomy Care Speakers: • Carolyn C. Foster, MD, MS • Alexandra Feldman, MD • Jaclyn Vasquez Course Description <i>This session will examine the critical role of partnership between families and healthcare systems in optimizing pediatric tracheostomy care. Presenters will discuss approaches to foster collaboration, improve communication, and design systems of care that address both medical and family needs. Through case examples and best practices, participants will gain insight into how family-healthcare partnerships drive quality, safety, and improved outcomes for children with tracheostomies.</i> Learning Objectives <i>At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. <i>Explain the value of family-healthcare system collaboration in improving pediatric tracheostomy care.</i> 2. <i>Identify strategies to enhance communication and shared decision-making between families and clinical teams.</i> 3. <i>Discuss system-level approaches that support safe, effective, and family-centered pediatric tracheostomy management.</i> Disclosures: • Carolyn C. Foster has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Alexandra Feldman has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose • Jaclyn Vasquez has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose .10 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

9:40-9:55am	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Amy Freeman-Sanderson Topic: <i>Evaluation of multidisciplinary competency training to introduce speaking valve use for ventilated tracheostomized patients in Swedish ICUs</i> Presenter: • Amy Freeman-Sanderson, PhD, BAppSc, CPSP, FHEA Authors: • Sara Wiberg • Anna-Liisa Sutt • Stina Sundstedt • Viveka Lyberg Åhlander • Maria Sehlin • Patricia Hägglund • Mia Hylén • Liza Bergström Course Description: <i>This course reviews a multidisciplinary competency training program designed to introduce one-way speaking valve (SV) use for ventilated, tracheostomised patients in Swedish ICUs. Participants will explore how hybrid training—including online modules and simulation-based case scenarios—enhances knowledge, confidence, and interprofessional teamwork among ICU staff. Outcomes related to communication, collaboration, and implementation of evidence-based SV practice will be highlighted, with strategies to replicate training in other critical care settings.</i> Learning Objectives After completing this course, participants will be able to: 1. Describe the components of a multidisciplinary competency training program for introducing speaking valve use in ventilated tracheostomised patients. 2. Apply strategies learned from hybrid online and simulation-based training to improve knowledge, confidence, and patient care in ICU teams. 3. Evaluate the impact of multidisciplinary competency training on interprofessional communication, teamwork, and readiness to implement speaking valve protocols. Disclosures • Amy Freeman-Sanderson, PhD, BAppSc, CPSP, FHEA has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Sara Wiberg has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Anna-Liisa Sutt has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Stina Sundstedt has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Viveka Lyberg Åhlander has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Maria Sehlin has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Patricia Hägglund has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Mia Hylén has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Liza Bergström has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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October 23-24, 2025
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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

9:40-9:55am	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i>
	Moderator: Jennifer Henningfeld
	Topic: <i>One-year outcomes measurably improve after implementation of Global Tracheostomy Collaborative five key elements</i>
	Presenter: • Ashley Johnson, RN
	Author: • Adele Evans, MD, FAAP
	Course Description: <i>This session will present the impact of implementing the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative's (GTC) five key elements—broad staff education, consensus in care, multidisciplinary collaboration, family engagement, and outcomes review—at a tertiary pediatric facility. Participants will review data comparing patient outcomes before and after program implementation, with a focus on 30-day readmissions and unplanned decannulations. The session will highlight strategies used to improve safety, streamline care pathways, and enhance family preparedness. Evidence-based outcomes will be discussed to illustrate how adopting the GTC framework can improve consistency in care, reduce complications, and support safe transitions from hospital to home for children with tracheostomies.</i>
	Learning Objectives: <i>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe the five key elements of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative and their role in improving tracheostomy care.</i> <i>2. Interpret outcome data related to readmissions and unplanned decannulations before and after program implementation.</i> <i>3. Apply strategies from the GTC model to enhance patient safety, family engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration in tracheostomy care.</i>
	Disclosures • Ashley Johnson, RN has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Adele Evans, MD, FAAP has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose
	.025 ASHA credits will be offered.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

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October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

9:55-10:10am	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Amy Freeman-Sanderson Topic: <i>A speech recognition-based communication aid for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care: a cohort study</i> Presenter: • Carla McClintock, PhD, MSc, PGCE, BSc (Hons) RN Authors: • Daniel F. McAuley • Bronwen Connolly • Bronagh Blackwood Course Description: <i>This session presents findings from a prospective cohort study evaluating SRAVI, a novel lip-reading technology designed to support communication for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care. Participants will learn about feasibility, patient outcomes, and limitations of speech-recognition-based aids, with discussion on how emerging technologies may complement existing communication strategies and enhance patient-centered care.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe the feasibility and limitations of a speech recognition-based communication aid for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care.</i> <i>2. Identify the impact of impaired communication on psychological and clinical outcomes for tracheostomised patients.</i> <i>3. Discuss how technology-assisted communication strategies can be integrated into clinical practice to improve patient experience and care delivery.</i> Disclosures • Carla McClintock, PhD MSc PGCE BSc (Hons) RN has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Daniel F. McAuley has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Bronwen Connolly has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Bronagh Blackwood has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

9:55-10:10am	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Jennifer Henningfeld Topic: <i>Standardizing Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Post-operative Improvement</i> Speakers: • Carol Murray, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC • Karen Reeder, MS, RN, PCNS-BC, CPN Course Description: <i>This course reviews a quality improvement initiative designed to standardize post-operative tracheostomy care in pediatric patients. Clinicians will learn how an interdisciplinary team applied best practice standards and continuous improvement cycles to reduce complications and improve patient safety. Practical strategies for staff education, protocol development, and collaborative care will be emphasized to support consistent and effective clinical outcomes.</i> Learning Objectives After completing this course, participants will be able to: 1. Describe evidence-based strategies used to standardize post-operative pediatric tracheostomy care. 2. Apply interdisciplinary quality improvement methods, such as Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles, to enhance tracheostomy care practices. 3. Evaluate the impact of standardized protocols on complication rates and patient safety outcomes in pediatric tracheostomy management. Disclosures • Carol Murray has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Karen Reeder has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
10:40-10:55am	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Amy Freeman-Sanderson Topic: <i>Enhancing Tracheostomy Management Skills Through Simulation: A Bootcamp for General Practitioners at UGHE in Kigali, Rwanda</i> Presenter: • Nina Patel, MS, MPH Authors: • Kami Pullakhandam • Mary Jue Xu Course Description: <i>This session highlights the design and outcomes of a simulation-based tracheostomy management bootcamp for general practitioners in Rwanda. Using a combination of didactic teaching, case-based discussions, and hands-on practice with a 3D-printed tracheostomy model, the program significantly improved participants' confidence and competence in key airway management skills. Attendees will explore how simulation and low-cost training tools can strengthen tracheostomy care in resource-limited settings.</i> Learning Objectives After completing this course, participants will be able to: 1. Describe the role of simulation-based training in improving tracheostomy management skills for general practitioners. 2. Demonstrate key tracheostomy care procedures—including suctioning, decannulation, and strap fitting—using simulation-based methods. 3. Apply strategies for incorporating low-cost, high-fidelity models into local training programs to enhance airway management capacity in resource-limited settings. Disclosures • Nina Patel has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Kami Pullakhandam has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Mary Jue Xu has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.

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David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

10:40-10:55am	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Jennifer Henningfeld Topic: <i>Slide Tracheoplasty as a Bridge to Tracheostomy in a Toddler with Complete Tracheal Rings and Prolonged Ventilatory Needs</i> Presenter: • Zialesi Adissem, BS Author: • Jonathan Grischkan Course Description: <i>This course presents the updated Clinical Practice Recommendations (CPRs) for management of communication and swallowing impairments in patients with tracheostomies across the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Participants will learn about the evidence review process, new recommendations related to heat moisture exchangers and decannulation, and strategies to support consistent, evidence-based care across diverse clinical settings. Discussion will highlight how these recommendations can guide practice within VHA facilities and serve as a resource for broader healthcare systems.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe the evidence review process used to update the VHA Clinical Practice Recommendations for tracheostomy management.</i> <i>2. Explain key updates to the CPRs, including recommendations for heat moisture exchangers and decannulation.</i> <i>3. Apply strategies for integrating clinical practice recommendations into speech-language pathology management of communication and swallowing in patients with tracheostomies.</i> Disclosures • Zialesi Adissem, BS has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Jonathan Grischkan has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

10:55-11:10am	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Amy Freeman-Sanderson Topic: <i>Automated Suctioning in Action: Experimental Evaluation of Device Efficiency and Reliability</i> Speaker: • Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, ACNPBC, FCCM, FAAN-BC, FAAN, FFMRCIS Course Description <i>This session introduces the design and early development of an automatic robotic tracheostomy suction system, created to improve patient safety and reduce the burden of manual suctioning for clinicians. Attendees will learn about the clinical challenges of suctioning, the technical and software solutions proposed, and the potential impact of automation in airway management. Through discussion of prototype design, user interface, and future directions, participants will gain insights into how engineering and clinical collaboration can advance innovative tracheostomy care solutions.</i> Learning Objectives <i>By the end of this session, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe current challenges and risks associated with manual tracheostomy suctioning. 2. Explain the core design elements of a robotic suction system, including mechanical, software, and safety features. 3. Evaluate how automation and computer vision may enhance safety, standardization, and efficiency in tracheostomy care. Disclosures • Vinciya Pandian has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
10:55-11:10am	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Jennifer Henningfeld Topic: <i>Lessons Learned by a Pediatric Tracheostomy Team</i> Presenter: • Jennifer Helman, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC/PC • Kelly Krawcke, BSN, RN Course Description: <i>This course reflects on the eight-year experience of a pediatric tracheostomy team at an academic children's hospital, highlighting strategies to improve caregiver education, staff competence, multidisciplinary collaboration, and patient safety. Participants will explore lessons learned regarding pre-operative teaching, care coordination, quality improvement, and community outreach. Practical insights for implementing best practices and overcoming challenges in pediatric tracheostomy care will be shared.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe key lessons learned in establishing and maintaining a pediatric tracheostomy team to enhance patient care and safety. 2. Apply strategies for caregiver education, staff training, and multidisciplinary collaboration to improve care consistency for pediatric tracheostomy patients. 3. Evaluate approaches to address challenges such as data collection, technology integration, and complex patient needs to inform quality improvement initiatives. Disclosures • Jennifer Helman, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC/PC has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Kelly Krawcke, BSN, RN has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

11:20-11:35am	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Amy Freeman-Sanderson Topic: <i>Systematic Approach to Airway Occlusion within a Community Hospital Setting</i> Presenter: • Juliana Marks, M.S., CCC- SLP • Beth Heise, M.S., CCC-SLP Course Description <i>This session presents the development and implementation of a standardized Airway Occlusion Protocol at UChicago Ingalls Memorial to enhance the safety and efficacy of tracheostomy decannulation. Prior to the protocol, the absence of standardized procedures posed potential safety risks during tracheostomy removal. This evidence-based protocol was created to establish a consistent process for airway occlusion, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, improve documentation, and engage patients and families in the care process.</i> <i>Participants will review the step-by-step methodology of the protocol, including medical order initiation, clinical assessment, monitoring parameters, and progression criteria. The course will highlight key outcome data demonstrating improved patient safety, earlier decannulation, reduced recannulation rates, and increased discharge to home settings. Implications for clinical practice, including team-based care models and EMR integration, will also be discussed.</i> Learning Objectives <i>By the end of this session, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the key components and clinical criteria of the Airway Occlusion Protocol used to guide safe and progressive tracheostomy decannulation. 2. Identify physiological indicators and monitoring parameters used by the interdisciplinary team to assess patient readiness and tolerance for airway occlusion. 3. Evaluate the clinical outcomes and implications of implementing a standardized decannulation protocol, including patient safety, care efficiency, and team collaboration. Disclosures • Juliana Marks has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Beth Heise has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

11:20-11:35am	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i>
	Moderator: <i>Jennifer Henningfeld</i>
	Topic: <i>Comparative Analysis of Access to Outpatient Care in Pediatric Versus Adult Tracheostomy Patients</i>
	Presenter: • <i>Juliana Morcos, BS</i>
	Author: • <i>Adele Evans, MD, FAAP</i>
	Course Description: <i>This course examines disparities in access to outpatient tracheostomy care for pediatric versus adult patients, with a focus on Medicaid reimbursement and supply coverage in Florida. Participants will learn how gaps in funding, reimbursement rates, and eligibility policies impact safe home care, particularly for medically complex children. Strategies for advocacy, policy awareness, and clinical planning to support equitable access to essential tracheostomy supplies will be discussed.</i>
	Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe disparities in Medicaid reimbursement and access to tracheostomy-related supplies for pediatric versus adult patients.</i> <i>2. Explain the clinical and public health implications of limited access to essential tracheostomy supplies for children.</i> <i>3. Identify strategies for clinicians to advocate for improved reimbursement, coverage policies, and equitable access to outpatient tracheostomy care.</i>
	Disclosures • <i>Juliana Morcos, BS has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> • <i>Adele Evans, MD, FAAP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i>
	.025 ASHA credits will be offered.

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

11:35-11:50am	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: <i>Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS</i> Topic: <i>Improving Discharge Planning Communication via Multidisciplinary Tracheostomy Rounds</i> Presenters: • Wendy Barahona, MSN, RNC-NIC • Jennifer Petrasanta, MSN, RNC-NIC Course Description: <i>This course highlights the implementation of structured multidisciplinary tracheostomy rounds to enhance communication and discharge planning in a Level IV NICCU. Participants will learn how a standardized rounding tool and hybrid meeting model can improve coordination among nurses, respiratory therapists, neonatologists, social workers, and other team members. Outcomes related to improved communication, caregiver education tracking, and timely discharge planning will be discussed, along with strategies for sustaining interdisciplinary collaboration.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the structure and purpose of multidisciplinary tracheostomy rounds for discharge planning. 2. Apply standardized rounding tools to enhance communication and coordination among multidisciplinary team members. 3. Evaluate the impact of structured tracheostomy rounds on team communication, caregiver education, and discharge outcomes. Disclosures • Wendy Barahona, MSN, RNC-NIC has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Jennifer Petrasanta, MSN, RNC-NIC has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

11:35-11:50am	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Dana Sussman, MA, CCC-SLP, CLC Topic: <i>Implementing a remote patient monitoring platform for Tracheostomy and Home Ventilator patients in a large healthcare system: lessons learned</i> Presenters: • Jennifer Henningfeld, MD • Grace Flanagan, RRT Authors: • Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC • Kimberly Cronsell, MD Course Description: <i>This course reviews the implementation of a digital remote patient monitoring (RPM) platform to support pediatric patients with tracheostomies and ventilator dependence. Clinicians will learn how structured caregiver-entered data, real-time communication, and interdisciplinary workflows can enhance ventilator weaning, improve care coordination, and reduce emergency department utilization. The role of respiratory therapists, physicians, and caregivers in leveraging RPM for both routine and acute decision-making will be emphasized.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the components of a remote patient monitoring platform for tracheostomy and ventilator-dependent pediatric patients. 2. Explain how caregiver-entered data and interdisciplinary collaboration can accelerate ventilator weaning and improve outpatient care coordination. 3. Evaluate the impact of remote monitoring on caregiver engagement, clinical workflow efficiency, and healthcare utilization. Disclosures • Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Kimberly Cronsell, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Jennifer Henningfeld, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Grace Flanagan, RRT has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:00-1:15pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: <i>Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS</i> Topic: <i>Perspectives of patients, families, and healthcare professionals on a speech recognition-based communication aid for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care</i> Presenter: • <i>Carla McClintock, PhD MSc PGCE BSc (Hons) RN</i> Authors: • <i>Daniel F. McAuley</i> • <i>Bronwen Connolly</i> • <i>Bronagh Blackwood</i> Course Description: <i>This session explores the perspectives of patients, families, and healthcare professionals on SRAVI, a speech recognition-based communication aid for tracheostomised patients in acute and critical care. Drawing on qualitative findings, participants will gain insights into the benefits, challenges, and barriers to implementing technology-assisted communication in clinical practice, with emphasis on patient readiness, family involvement, and workflow integration.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Identify patient, family, and healthcare professional perspectives on the feasibility and acceptability of speech recognition-based communication aids.</i> <i>2. Explain common barriers—such as patient readiness, technical limitations, and time constraints—that affect successful use of communication technology in critical care.</i> <i>3. Apply strategies to integrate technology-assisted communication into patient-centered care plans for tracheostomised patients.</i> Disclosures • <i>Carla McClintock, PhD MSc PGCE BSc (Hons) RN has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> • <i>Daniel F. McAuley has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose.</i> • <i>Bronwen Connolly has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose.</i> • <i>Bronagh Blackwood has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose.</i> .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:00-1:15pm	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC Topic: <i>Pre-Clinic Huddles in Tracheostomy-Ventilator Clinic: A Strategy to Improve Multidisciplinary Care Coordination and Time to Decannulation</i> Presenters: • Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC, • Kristina Keppel, RN, MSN, DNP, • Lisa Molkentine, RT • Christine Bueckers, M.S. CCC-SLP Author: • Jennifer Henningfeld, MD Course Description: <i>This course reviews the implementation of structured pre-clinic huddles in a multidisciplinary tracheostomy-ventilator clinic to improve care coordination and reduce time to decannulation. Participants will learn how pre-visit chart reviews, team summaries, and structured huddles support cross-disciplinary communication, caregiver engagement, and streamlined decision-making. Outcomes demonstrating improved efficiency, caregiver satisfaction, and reduced time to decannulation will be highlighted, along with strategies for adapting this model to various care settings.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the structure and components of a pre-clinic huddle process for tracheostomy-ventilator clinics. 2. Explain how structured pre-visit communication enhances multidisciplinary collaboration and caregiver engagement. 3. Evaluate the impact of pre-clinic huddles on care coordination and measurable outcomes such as time to decannulation. Disclosures • Cecilia Lang, MSN, CCRN, PPCNP-BC has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Jennifer Henningfeld, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Kristina Keppel, RN, MSN, DNP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Lisa Molkentine, RT has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Christine Bueckers, M.S. CCC-SLP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:15-1:30pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS Topic: <i>Involving Medical Students in Innovative Approaches in Tracheostomy Care: Bridging Research and Practice</i> Presenters: • Taylor Pitzl, BS • Jayme Dowdall, MD • Noha Algahimi, BS • Sydney Springer, BS • Dr. Jana Wardian, PhD, MSW Course Description: <i>This session highlights innovative strategies for engaging medical students in tracheostomy care research through a structured summer research experience that extends into the academic year. Panelists—including clinicians, researchers, and medical students—will share best practices for designing meaningful research opportunities, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and translating research into improved patient care. Attendees will explore methods to recruit, mentor, and retain students in clinically relevant projects, and examine how these programs enhance both student learning and clinical outcomes. The session will also provide actionable guidance for developing and sustaining similar research programs within academic or healthcare settings.</i> Learning Objectives After completing this course, participants will be able to: 1. Describe effective strategies for involving medical students in tracheostomy care research and integrating their work into clinical practice. 2. Identify the educational and clinical benefits of student participation in interdisciplinary tracheostomy research programs. 3. Apply key principles and practical steps to design or enhance a medical student research experience that promotes innovation and improved patient outcomes. Disclosures • Taylor Pitzl has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Jayme Dowdall has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Noha Algahimi has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Sydney Springer has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Dr. Jana Wardian has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:15-1:30pm	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: <i>Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC</i> Topic: <i>Skin Care for the Pediatric Tracheostomy Patient: Alternatively- Breaking Down Skin Breakdown: A Panel on Pediatric Tracheostomy Skin Care</i> Presenters: • <i>Kristina Keppel, DNP, APNP, CPNP</i> • <i>Rebekah Barrette MS, RN, PCNS-BC, APNP, CWOCN</i> Course Description: <i>This course presents a multidisciplinary panel discussion focused on managing skin concerns in pediatric tracheostomy patients. Using real-world case studies, participants will explore common challenges including erythema, fungal infections, pressure injuries, stomal granulation, and ulceration. The panel will highlight evidence-based strategies, institutional protocols, and caregiver involvement, encouraging interactive discussion to enhance clinician competence, confidence, and consistency in daily skin care management.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe common skin-related complications in pediatric tracheostomy patients and their underlying causes.</i> <i>2. Apply evidence-based and experiential strategies for prevention and management of skin breakdown, infections, and stomal complications.</i> <i>3. Evaluate approaches to incorporate multidisciplinary collaboration and caregiver involvement in pediatric tracheostomy skin care.</i> Disclosures • <i>Kristina Keppel, DNP, APNP, CPNP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> • <i>Rebekah Barrette MS, RN, PCNS-BC, APNP, CWOCN has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:40-1:55pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS Topic: <i>Grassroots Tracheostomy Teams -Options for when people care and funding isn't there</i> Presenters: • Carly Garcia, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS • Cassie Gay, MS, CCC-SLP Authors: • Laura Bargell • Jayme Dowdall • Bennett Berning • Teresa Rodriguez Course Description: <i>This course highlights a grassroots approach to developing a tracheostomy management team in the absence of formal funding or staffing. Clinicians will learn practical strategies to collaborate across disciplines, streamline care processes, and advocate for improved patient outcomes through volunteer-based efforts. Emphasis will be placed on real-world applications that speech-language pathologists and other practitioners can implement within their clinical settings.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Identify practical strategies for engaging key stakeholders in the creation of a grassroots tracheostomy management team. 2. Apply interdisciplinary collaboration methods to improve safety, efficiency, and clinician independence in tracheostomy care. 3. Evaluate opportunities to use existing hospital policies and order sets to enhance patient outcomes without additional funding. Disclosures • Laura Bargell has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Dr. Jayme Dowdall, MD is the founder of Airway Education, LLC, and founder of Amplified Resonance, LLC. • Bennett Berning has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Teresa Rodriguez has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:40-1:55pm	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: <i>Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC</i> Topic: <i>Tying Up Loose Ends: Benchmarking Current Practice Regarding Tracheostomy Ties in Pediatrics</i> Presenter: • <i>Sandy Foster, BSN</i> Authors: • <i>Rachel Kerr</i> • <i>Kiraka Nakazawa</i> • <i>Aisha Barton-Ross</i> • <i>Angela McCullagh</i> Course Description: <i>This course reviews current practices and associated complications in the use of tracheostomy securing devices for pediatric patients across Australia and New Zealand. Participants will examine survey findings highlighting variation in tie selection, rates of skin complications, and protocol implementation. Strategies to standardize practice, improve patient outcomes, and foster inter-hospital collaboration will be discussed.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> <i>1. Describe current practices and variation in tracheostomy securing devices for pediatric patients across tertiary hospitals in Australia and New Zealand.</i> <i>2. Explain the types and rates of complications associated with cotton ties versus alternative securing devices.</i> <i>3. Identify strategies to standardize securing device selection and promote inter-hospital collaboration to improve patient safety and outcomes.</i> Disclosures • <i>Sandy Foster, BSN has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> • <i>Rachel Kerr, Kiraka Nakazawa has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> • <i>Aisha Barton-Ross has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose.</i> • <i>Angela McCullagh has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose.</i> .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:55-2:10pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS Topic: <i>Language as Lifeline: Humanizing How we Speak About Surgical Airways.</i> Speakers: • Michael J. Brenner, MD, FACS • Vinciya Pandian, PhD, MBA, MSN, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, FFMRCSE Course Description <i>This session presents a mixed-methods study of 1,000+ respondents—patients, families, caregivers, and interprofessional clinicians—on how airway identification and language influence safety for people with tracheostomy and total laryngectomy. Using survey data, qualitative themes, and real-world cases, the faculty contrast breathing routes and emergency implications (e.g., “neck-only breather”), highlight common failure points in communication, and offer practical, patient-centered terminology and team workflows that reduce error across ED/OR/ICU/ward and community settings. The course blends evidence with actionable tools (handoff cues, labels, order-set language, simulation prompts) to strengthen rapid recognition, correct oxygenation/ventilation approach, and coordinated response in respiratory emergencies.</i> Learning Objectives <i>By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Differentiate breathing routes and emergency airway management pathways for tracheostomy vs. total laryngectomy and select the correct oxygenation/ventilation approach in case scenarios. 2. Apply patient-centered terminology (e.g., “neck-only breather”) in orders, handoffs, and labeling to reduce miscommunication and safety events across care settings. . 3. Design a unit-level micro-protocol (checklist/signage + handoff cue + simulation drill) that clarifies roles and coordinates interprofessional response for airway emergencies. . Disclosures • Vinciya Pandian has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Michael Brenner has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:55-2:10pm	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC Topic: <i>Enhancing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Techniques Among Caregivers of Pediatric Tracheostomy Patients Using High-Fidelity Simulation</i> Presenter: • Holly Jacobson, RRT Authors: • Lisa Molkentine • Grace Flanagan • Cassie Zavala • Cecilia Lang • Da'Jhnae Gambrell-Sanders • Jennifer Henningfeld Course Description: <i>This course highlights the use of high-fidelity simulation to train caregivers of pediatric tracheostomy patients in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Participants will learn how structured training—including instructional videos, hands-on practice, and simulated scenarios with real-time feedback—can improve caregiver competence and confidence in delivering high-quality CPR. Outcomes related to compression depth, rate, and ventilation performance will be reviewed, along with strategies to optimize caregiver readiness for home emergencies.</i> Learning Objectives After completing this course, participants will be able to: 1. Describe a structured, high-fidelity simulation approach for teaching CPR to caregivers of pediatric tracheostomy patients. 2. Apply real-time feedback techniques to improve caregiver performance in chest compressions and ventilation. 3. Evaluate caregiver competency and confidence in delivering CPR following high-fidelity simulation training. Disclosures • Holly Jacobson, RRT has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Lisa Molkentine has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Grace Flanagan has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Cassie Zavala has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Cecilia Lang has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Da'Jhnae Gambrell-Sanders has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Jennifer Henningfeld has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

2:40-2:55pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS Topic: <i>Outpatient Tracheostomy Care Clinic: The Impact on Readmission Rates and Quality of Life</i> Presenter: • Jennifer Faulkner, PA-C Authors: • Mary Madeline Howard, CRNP • Harishanker Jeyarajan, MD Course Description <i>This course will review the development and outcomes of a dedicated outpatient tracheostomy clinic designed to address gaps in post-discharge care, reduce readmissions, and improve quality of life for patients and caregivers. Clinicians will learn how interdisciplinary coordination, timely tracheostomy management, and targeted education contribute to better patient outcomes and decreased healthcare utilization. Practical strategies for implementing outpatient tracheostomy services and supporting continuity of care will be highlighted.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the role of outpatient tracheostomy clinics in reducing emergency department visits and hospital readmissions. 2. Apply strategies for interdisciplinary collaboration to provide comprehensive outpatient tracheostomy care, including airway evaluation, supply coordination, and caregiver education. 3. Evaluate the impact of structured outpatient follow-up on patient safety, caregiver confidence, and overall quality of life for individuals with tracheostomies. Disclosures: • Jennifer Faulkner, PA-C has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Mary Madeline Howard, CRNP has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Harishanker Jeyarajan, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

2:40-2:55pm	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC Topic: <i>Exposure of Tracheostomy Education Well-Received During Pre-Clinical Head and Neck Physical Exam Course</i> Presenter: • Tony Satroplus, MD Authors: • Jayme Dowdall, MD • Christopher Bingcang, MD • Katie Geelan-Hansen, MD • Tony Richa, MD • Chelsea Hamill, MD Course Description: <i>This session reviews the outcomes of a pilot program integrating hands-on tracheostomy education into a pre-clinical head and neck physical examination course for medical students. Using mannequin-based simulation and structured instruction, the course improved both knowledge and confidence in caring for tracheostomy patients. Participants will explore how concise, early exposure to tracheostomy care can enhance foundational skills and prepare future clinicians for complex patient needs.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the impact of early, concise tracheostomy education on medical student knowledge and confidence. 2. Identify key instructional methods—such as simulation and structured practice—that enhance pre-clinical learning of tracheostomy care. 3. Apply strategies to integrate tracheostomy education into pre-clinical or early medical training to strengthen preparedness for clinical practice. Disclosures • Tony Satroplus, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Dr. Jayme Dowdall, MD is the founder of Airway Education, LLC, and founder of Amplified Resonance, LLC. • Christopher Bingcang, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Katie Geelan-Hansen, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Tony Richa, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Chelsea Hamill, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

2:55-3:10pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS Topic: <i>Evaluation of a Simulation-Based, E-Learning Intervention to Develop Nursing Students' Competency to Recognize Tracheostomy Complications</i> Presenter: • Ruth Bargainer Tobin, PhD, RN, CNE Course Description <i>This course presents the outcomes of a simulation-based, e-learning intervention designed to improve nursing students' competency in tracheostomy care and complication recognition. Participants will review evidence supporting the use of interactive, asynchronous modules to enhance airway monitoring skills and clinical decision-making. Practical applications for integrating simulation-based education into training programs will be discussed, with emphasis on preparing new clinicians to deliver safe, effective tracheostomy management.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe the role of simulation-based, e-learning interventions in building tracheostomy care and complication recognition skills. 2. Apply strategies for integrating asynchronous simulation modules into clinical education to enhance learner competency. 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of simulation-based interventions in improving vigilance, airway monitoring, and readiness for real-world tracheostomy care. Disclosures: • Ruth Bargainer Tobin has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.
2:55-3:10pm	TRACK B: <i>Transforming Pediatric Tracheostomy Care: Innovation, Family Partnership, and Outcomes</i> Moderator: Dana Sussman, MA CCC-SLP, CLC Topic: <i>Medically Complex Technology-Dependent Children: Support from Decision for Tracheostomy to Discharge</i> Speakers: • Carol Murray, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC • Mark Minor, MD • Shannon Root, MSW, LISW-S Course Description: <i>This session provides a practical overview of supporting families from the decision to place a tracheostomy through safe transition to home for medically complex, technology-dependent children. Participants will learn about decision aids that empower families, strategies for caregiver education and training, and approaches to interprofessional care coordination that promote safety, confidence, and quality of life for both patients and families.</i> Learning Objectives <i>After completing this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Describe how decision aids can support families in evaluating tracheostomy placement and defining quality of life. 2. Explain strategies for caregiver training and education that promote confidence and competence in home tracheostomy care. 3. Apply interprofessional approaches and standardized protocols to enhance discharge planning for medically complex, technology-dependent children. Disclosures • Carol Murray, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Mark Minor, MD has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Shannon Root, MSW, LISW-S has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. .025 ASHA credits will be offered.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

3:20-4:00	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Moderator: Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS Topic: <i>Panel Discussion: Beyond Survival: Redefining Quality of Life in Tracheostomy Care</i> Speakers: • Amy Freeman-Sanderson, PhD, BAppSc, CPSP, FHEA • Linda Williams, RRT • Laura Istanbulian, PhD, NP • Michael Brenner, MD, FACS • Pat Camalliere Course Description <i>This panel discussion will explore what it means to move “beyond survival” in tracheostomy care by redefining quality of life for patients and families. Panelists will highlight diverse perspectives on physical, emotional, and social well-being, emphasizing patient-centered approaches that extend beyond medical management. Attendees will gain insights into strategies and innovations that support meaningful recovery and long-term outcomes.</i> Learning Objectives <i>At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:</i> 1. Explain the importance of quality of life as a core outcome in tracheostomy care. 2. Identify patient- and family-centered strategies that promote holistic well-being beyond medical stabilization. 3. Discuss interdisciplinary approaches that address long-term recovery and participation in daily life Disclosures: • Amy Freeman-Sanderson, PhD, BAppSc, CPSP, FHEA has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Linda Williams, RRT has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Laura Istanbulian, PhD, NP has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Michael Brenner, MD, FACS has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Pat Camalliere has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .05 ASHA credits will be offered.
4:00-5:00pm	TRACK A: <i>Transforming Adult Tracheostomy Care: Science, Skills, and Collaboration</i> Topic: <i>Celebrating Excellence: Closing Reflections and Awards</i> Speakers: • Vinciya Pandian, President, Global Tracheostomy Collaborative • Michael Brenner, Chair of the GTC Board Disclosures: • Vinciya Pandian has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Michael Brenner has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. No ASHA credits will be offered.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Day 2 Friday, October 24, 2025 (continued)

1:00-4:00pm	Hands-On Workshop: Excellence in Tracheostomy Care for Pediatric and Adult Populations
	Topic: Setting the Stage: Why Skilled Tracheostomy Care Matters for People, Families, and Communities Speaker: Kylie McElroy, BA
	Topic: Understanding the Airway: Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathways to Tracheostomy Speaker: Septimiu Murgu, MD
	Topic: Getting to Know the Essentials: Tracheostomy Tubes and Equipment Made Practical Speaker: Nicki Johnson, APRN, CPNP-AC
	Topic: Hands-On Airway Care: Safe Techniques for Tracheostomy Management Speaker: Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
	Topic: Staying Prepared: Managing Complications and Emergencies in Tracheostomy Care Speaker: Kristina Keppel, DNP, APNP, CPNP
	Topic: Practice to Proficiency: Simulation and Case Studies in Tracheostomy Care Speakers: Priti Jani, MD, MPH; Anna McCormick, DO
	Topic: Closing the Loop: Reflections, Questions, and Looking Ahead Speaker: Kylie McElroy, BA
	Course Description This interactive, hands-on skills lab will provide clinicians with comprehensive training in tracheostomy care across pediatric and adult populations. Participants will engage in a step-by-step exploration of airway anatomy, tracheostomy tubes, and essential equipment before practicing core care techniques such as cleaning, suctioning, tube securement, and safe tube changes. Through guided instruction, simulation-based scenarios, and interprofessional teamwork, learners will build confidence in routine tracheostomy care as well as in responding to complications and emergencies, including mucus plugging and accidental decannulation. The session emphasizes evidence-based infection prevention, communication with families, and collaborative problem-solving across disciplines. Structured methods such as Peyton's four-step teaching model and simulation debriefing frameworks will be used to enhance skill retention and transfer into practice. By the end of the workshop, participants will leave with practical, hands-on experience, improved clinical judgment, and strategies to improve safety and quality of life for people with a tracheostomy and their caregivers. Learning Objectives By the end of this hands-on workshop, participants will be able to: • Explain the anatomy and physiology of the airway in both pediatric and adult populations and describe the clinical indications for tracheostomy. • Differentiate between types of tracheostomy tubes and associated equipment, and demonstrate appropriate use of essential supplies for safe care. • Perform core tracheostomy care techniques—including cleaning, suctioning, tube changes, and securement—using evidence-based infection prevention practices. • Apply structured methods to build proficiency and confidence in tracheostomy management. • Recognize and manage common tracheostomy-related complications and emergencies (e.g., mucus plugging, accidental decannulation) through simulation-based practice and team drills. • Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration with interprofessional team members, patients, and families in routine and high-stress situations. • Reflect on personal learning, identify skills to integrate into clinical practice, and commit to strategies that enhance safety and quality of life for people with a tracheostomy, their families, and caregivers. Disclosures • Kylie McElroy has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Septimiu Murgu has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Nicki Johnson APRN, CPNP-AC is the founder and executive director of the Childhood Tracheostomy Alliance, a 501c3 non-profit. • Derek Palmer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Kristina Keppel has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. • Priti Jani has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Anna McCormick has no relevant relationships related to the content of course to disclose. • Kylie McElroy has no relevant relationships related to the content of the course to disclose. .25 ASHA credits will be offered.

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9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

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From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

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Atos Medical develops and manufactures high-quality medical devices for laryngectomy and tracheostomy care.



CHILDHOOD TRACHEOSTOMY ALLIANCE

We are a group composed of both medical professionals and caregivers who have a desire to work together to improve the lives of children with tracheostomy and ventilator dependence. We recognize that caring for children with this degree of medical complexity in the home setting can be challenging and even isolating, and we want to help relieve some of the strain these families often feel.



Decorum

Decorum Medical Innovations is elevating the standard of care in the large but broken ecosystem of advanced airway care.

Our flagship device, the AutoTrach®, utilizes our patented intraluminal irrigating suction platform technology to rinse, clean, and evacuate the secretions from a tracheostomy tube at the press of a button.

The AutoTrach® changes the entire ecosystem of tracheostomy care from high touch, high cost, high risk, and high exposure into an integrated system that aligns the incentives of all parties - all while restoring patient dignity and autonomy.

In short, we're creating a new standard in advanced airway.

HELLO
NURZE



Hello Nurze is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and FREE web resource, HelloNurze.com. Created to empower medically complex families and individuals during their search for in-home nursing. Founded in 2023 by a family after they personally struggled to find adequate in-home nursing care for their medically complex daughter.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025
David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



ICU Medical is a global leader offering clinically essential products and solutions that connect patients with caregivers through life-enhancing, innovative technology and services that provide meaningful clinical value. Our robust portfolio features medical delivery systems and consumable products for infusion therapy, emergency medicine, general and regional anesthesia, homecare, NICU/PICU, oncology, pain management, and respiratory care. We are a dedicated partner delivering leading-edge products across the continuum of care



Maxim Healthcare specializes in providing high-quality, compassionate nursing care for medically complex patients and their families. The core of Maxim's work is in-home nursing support for high-acuity patients, including those who rely on ventilators, tracheostomies, and feeding tubes. These patients often face life-threatening risks of cardio-respiratory decompensation without constant professional monitoring, and Maxim's nurses ensure their safety, stability, and quality of life outside of the hospital.

Maxim partners with families, hospitals, and payers to create safe, sustainable care plans that prevent unnecessary hospital readmissions while supporting patients in the comfort of their own homes. Recruiting and retaining qualified nurses for this highly specialized work requires competitive compensation, robust training, and ongoing competency evaluations. Maxim's nurses are equipped to manage conditions such as severe bronchopulmonary dysplasia, seizure disorders, spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, MS, ALS, and more.

With thousands of caregivers placed nationwide and a strong local presence, Maxim Healthcare is committed to delivering consistent, reliable, and compassionate care. The mission is simple: to keep medically complex patients safe, supported, and thriving.

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Invented by a patient for patients, all Passy Muir Swallowing & speaking Valves are made in the USA to the highest of standards. Inspired by the ingenuity and passion of David Muir, the inventor of the Passy Muir Valve, Passy Muir is committed to enhancing quality of life through quality products, and a commitment to excellence in education. We believe that communication is the essence of the human spirit; it is essential to individual rights and dignity, and we are committed in our efforts to offer tracheostomized and ventilator-dependent patients a step towards independence and dignity through speech.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

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From Hospital to Home*

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David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Speaker Bios



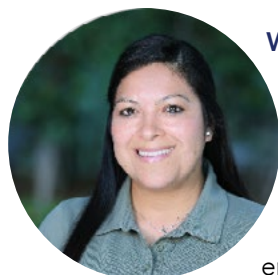
Zialesi Adissem

Zialesi Adissem is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Toledo pursuing a career in Otolaryngology.



Hassan Arshad, MD, FACS

I am a head and neck cancer surgeon with training in complex head and neck surgery and microvascular reconstruction.



Wendy Barahona

Currently, I am employed at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA), where I am a dedicated member of the Newborn and Infant Critical Care Unit (NICCU).

Within this capacity, I am actively engaged as a pivotal member of the Tracheostomy Committee, contributing

significantly to its initiatives and fostering collaborative efforts towards enhanced patient care. Moreover, my involvement extends to the facilitation of Trach Rounds, where I actively participate in discussions and the decision-making process aimed at optimizing patient outcomes. Throughout these endeavors, I plan to uphold the highest standards of professional excellence and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of healthcare delivery within the pediatric/neonatal critical care domain.

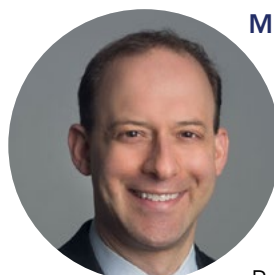


Ruth Bargainer Tobin

Ruth Bargainer Tobin is a registered nurse (RN) and Adjunct Faculty at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing (TTUHSC-SON) and Abilene Christian University.

Ruth earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from The University of Texas at Arlington after completing her dissertation research study "Evaluation of a Simulation-

Based, E-Learning Intervention to Develop Prelicensure Nursing Students' Clinical Competency to Recognize Tracheostomy Airway Complications". She earned a Master's of Science in Nursing Education and Rural Health from TTUHSC-SON and an undergraduate degree from McMurry University. Ruth possesses over 30 years of diversified nursing experience, the past 15 years as faculty in prelicensure nursing education programs. Supportive of simulation as a teaching modality, Ruth designed an interprofessional simulation - "A Day in the Life of an Emergency Room" - to teach health professions students how teamwork improves patient outcomes. Ruth is an alum of the National League for Nursing LEAD program and was selected as an AACN Jonas Scholar in 2017.



Michael Brenner, MD, FACS

Michael J. Brenner, M.D., F.A.C.S. is an Associate Professor and Co-Director of Branch Science at University of Michigan Medical School. A clinicianscientist with dual appointment in Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and the Kresge Research Institute, he has a longstanding

interest in diversity and medical education including mentoring, coaching, and sponsorship. He chairs the Outcomes Research & Evidence-Based Medicine Committee and Centralized Otolaryngology Research Efforts (CORE) Study Section, of the AAOHNS. He also serves as president of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative, whose learning community spans over 200 institutions across over 25 countries. He has mentored dozens of interprofessional learners at doctoral and postgraduate level in Otolaryngology, Neuroscience, Nursing, and Speech Language Pathology.

Dr. Brenner's research program has garnered NIH funding, foundation grants, and resulted in over 200 publications. He is the AAFPRS representative to the AAO-HNS Guidelines Task Force and has spearheaded proposals and international guideline/ consensus statement development, dissemination, and implementation. His translational research projects investigate nerve regeneration, axonal guidance, nanoparticle delivery, biomedical engineering, and mechanisms of oxidative stress.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Christine Bueckers, MS CCC-SLP

Christine M. Bueckers, M.S. CCC-SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Masters Family Speech and Hearing Center at Children's Wisconsin. She has been a member of the Trach/Vent Team since 2017 and a practicing speech-language pathologist since 1994. While her experience includes assessment and treatment of children and adults in the areas of cleft, Autism, speech-language and feeding within inpatient and outpatient settings, she currently works with outpatients and has the strongest emphasis in the area of Voice and Upper Airway Disorders.



Pat Camalliere

Pat Camalliere had forty years experience in health care administration and after retirement became a writer and speaker on local history. In 2018 she was treated for base of tongue cancer with radiation and chemotherapy. Her father spent two years on a ventilator before his death from COPD. She has written a memoir detailing her cancer experience.



Haley Clark

My name is Haley Clark and I am the Integrated Nurse Case Manager at Children's Wisconsin. I primarily manage the Pediatric ICU, Trach/Vent population, and the Rehab population. In my role, I am responsible for providing care coordination services for patients and their families. Through collaboration with providers, therapists, pharmacists, and other multidisciplinary teams, I assure patients' needs have been addressed prior to discharge, along with new needs in a safe and efficient manner. I have been able to use my experience at Children's Wisconsin for the last 13-14 years (6 of those years as a registered nurse) to help anticipate the needs for patients and be able to help during many stressful and challenging times for families. I am part of the work group for our rehab population, and attend weekly meetings to discuss inpatient rehab, where I will start to coordinate these needs at that time. I am also a vital part of the trach/vent work group, and attend weekly meetings to help coordinate all discharge needs with a new trach in collaboration with our hospital trach vent multidisciplinary team.



Kimberly Cronsell, MD

Kim Cronsell, MD, serves as the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Experience and Digital Innovation and is the acting Chief Medical Information Officer at Children's Wisconsin. She is passionate about leveraging technology to transform healthcare, focusing on redesigning services around the child and family to create meaningful and personalized experiences. In her current role, Dr. Cronsell plays a pivotal part in shaping digital health initiatives and enhancing the overall experience across the Children's Wisconsin enterprise. Her notable achievements include implementing digital and emerging technology solutions, promoting remote care, and fostering provider engagement and innovation. Dr. Cronsell earned her medical degree from Loyola University Chicago and completed her pediatric residency at Children's Wisconsin.



Katie Dwyer

Transitional Care Unit Nurse
Practitioner at Dayton Children's
Hospital



Susana Elizarraraz

Susana Elizarraraz is an educator and advocate whose career began in the classroom and later in nonprofit leadership. A first-generation college graduate with a master's degree in education, Susana has always been committed to creating space for underrepresented voices. That commitment deepened in October 2020, when her son Carlos was born with medical complexities, including an upper airway obstruction that required a tracheostomy, as well as hearing and vision differences. Her new experience with medical complexities and, especially, the care of someone with a tracheostomy has been an eye-opening one, reinvigorating her passion for advocacy and equity. Today, Susana draws on her background in education and advocacy to navigate care and resources for her son, as well as serve in whatever capacity is needed.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Jennifer Faulkner, PA-C

Jennifer Faulkner, PA-C is on the Tracheostomy Management Team at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After twelve years of teaching private voice and piano lessons, she graduated from UAB's School of Healthcare Professions in 2018 with a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies and has worked in pain management and otolaryngology. Jennifer, Mary Madeline Howard, CRNP, and Haley Smith, RRT were the first members of the Trach Team and have worked to standardize trach and lary care across UAB, provide education to patients, caregivers, and staff, and create a trach management clinic. Jennifer also focuses on research and data collection. In her free time, she is a foster parent, plays piano, sings, makes jewelry, and loves on her dog and cat.



Alexandra Feldman, MD

Dr. Feldman was born and raised in Houston, Texas, completed medical school at McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas, and pediatrics residency at The University of Texas Dell Medical School in Austin. She then completed pediatric critical care training at Duke Children's Hospital in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Feldman became pediatric ICU faculty at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago in 2022. She is currently the medical director of the Pulmonary Habilitation Program at Lurie Children's Hospital, the program that cares for all children who require tracheostomy and invasive mechanical ventilation and ensures medical stability, provides caregiver training and facilitates safe discharge home. Her clinical interests include mechanical ventilation, especially chronic ventilation strategies and her academic passion is the improvement of care provided for children with medical complexity in the ICU and at home.



Grace Flanagan

Grace has been a respiratory therapist for 18 years, all of which have been spent providing respiratory care in the world of pediatrics. The last 9 years have been dedicated to the care/support/education of tracheostomy and home ventilator dependent children and their caregivers.

In addition to patient care, Grace is active in staff and community education, research and QI, and process/technology improvement.



Carolyn C. Foster, MD

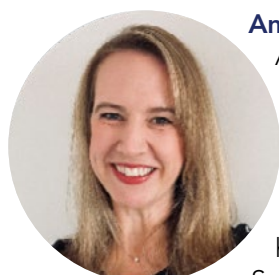
Dr. Carolyn Foster is a physician innovator and leader in pediatric healthcare design, family-partnered research, and policy change. Dr. Foster directs Lurie Children's Stanley Manne Research Institute's Health@Home Initiative to catalyze innovation in healthcare from hospital to home by designing, developing, and evaluating pediatric digital tools, apps, devices, and clinical workflows. She is also primary investigator of the Foster Health Lab, holding NIH, AHRQ, and foundation funding to improve the wellbeing of patients with chronic and disabling conditions, while reducing health-care related costs and stress for their families. She has experience as a federal expert witness, giving legislative testimony, and writing policy briefs to impact care delivery systems and practices.



Sandy Foster

I have worked for Monash Health for the past 28 years. Initially I worked on the acute paediatric medical/oncology ward. I have always had a passion in improving patient outcomes for the paediatric population with tracheostomies

From 2005 - 2024 I worked with Monash Children's at Home within the Complex Care Team as a Clinical Nurse Consultant. This role provided and improved service provision for children with complex medical needs including children with tracheostomies and their families at inpatient, outpatient and ambulatory levels. From January 2025 I started in the newly appointed role of Paediatric Tracheostomy and Respiratory Services (PTRS) Clinical Nurse Consultant. My focus for this role is to provide best evidence-based practice in the management of children with a tracheostomy. These cohort of very vulnerable children are at high risk of adverse events in the care of their tracheostomy tubes.



Amy Freeman-Sanderson

Associate Professor Amy Freeman-Sanderson is a PhD-trained Certified Practising Speech Pathologist at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia and an NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellow. She holds an Honorary Clinical Specialist Speech Pathologist appointment at

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney, is an Honorary Senior Fellow in the Critical Care Division at The George Institute for Global Health and is an Affiliate

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC), School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. Additionally, she serves as the Education Committee Chair for the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative. With over 20 years of clinical and leadership experience in tertiary hospitals, Dr. Freeman-Sanderson works in international and interprofessional research teams focused on optimising functional communication and swallowing outcomes for critically ill patients. She is currently leading a research program aimed at enhancing communication function across the critical care continuum.



Carly Garcia

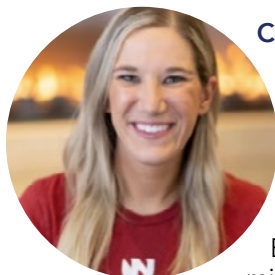
Carly Garcia is an acute care speech-language pathologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Carly is passionate about advancing the SLP's role in patients with disorders of consciousness and tracheostomies.

Carly received her masters of arts in speech-language pathology from The Ohio State University in 2021.



William Gao

Dr. William Gao is a board-certified, fellowship-trained laryngologist based at the University of Chicago Medicine, where he serves as Assistant Professor of Surgery and Co-Director of the UChicago Voice Center. He is passionate about restoring voice, airway, and swallowing function through a personalized, multidisciplinary approach to patient care.



Cassie Gay

Cassie Gay is the lead Speech-Language Pathologist in the department of speech-language pathology at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. She holds her Bachelor of Science degree in Education and Human Sciences with minors in Gerontology and Education and her Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Cassie enjoys working with patients across the lifespan. She began working at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in April of 2021.



David Goldenberg, MD, FACS

David Goldenberg, MD, FACS, is a Head and Neck Surgical Oncologist. He was educated at the Ben Gurion University in Israel. He completed a residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Israel, and then went on to do a three-year fellowship in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He then came to Penn State Hersey and has been there for 20 years.

Currently, Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center.

David combines a busy surgical practice with teaching and research. His clinical practice includes head and neck cancers, thyroid cancer, and parathyroid disease. In addition, David actively teaches medical students, residents, and fellows and is a Penn State College of Medicine Distinguished Educator.

Dr. Goldenberg is an internationally recognized expert on thyroid cancer, thyroid, and parathyroid surgery. He is a funded researcher, and his clinical research focuses on outcomes and etiology of the rise in the incidence of thyroid cancer. In addition, his basic research lab and translational research focus on Head and neck and thyroid cancer genomics.

Dr. Goldenberg is an accomplished and prolific author of 275 journal articles, 40 book chapters, and eight books in the field of Head and neck and thyroid oncology and surgery. His most recent work, a Handbook of Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery, Third Edition, published by Elsevier, is an acclaimed, award-winning handbook that is considered an essential companion for residents, fellows, clinicians in otolaryngology, and other physicians and allied professionals.



Emma Green

Emma Green is a clinical research coordinator who has worked in Dr. Sobotka's lab for the past 8 years and has recently transitioned to part time when she transitioned to a new role in Utah. She has experience in working with family members of children with invasive mechanical ventilation as well as other medical technologies. Through her work with Dr. Sobotka's lab she has experience with both qualitative and quantitative analyses. In addition to her work, she is a sibling to a young man with a tracheostomy and ventilator.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

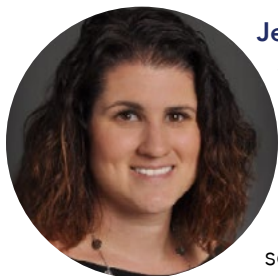
October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Jennifer Helman

Jennifer Helman is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and APP Manager at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. She specializes in caring for children with tracheostomies and complex airway issues. She is also clinical adjunct faculty at University of Michigan School of Nursing and a DNP Executive student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.



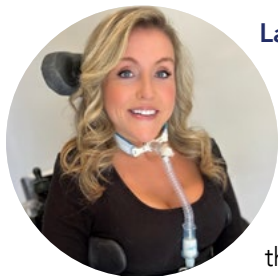
Jennifer Henningfeld

Jennifer K. Henningfeld, MD, is a board-certified pediatric pulmonologist at Children's Wisconsin and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She serves as the Medical Director of the Tracheostomy and Home Ventilator Program, focusing on the care of children with chronic respiratory conditions requiring tracheostomy and home ventilation. Dr. Henningfeld is actively involved in clinical research, particularly research regarding bronchopulmonary dysplasia and tracheostomy with or without home mechanical ventilation.



Laura Istamboulian

Dr. Laura Istamboulian is an Assistant Professor at the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Her program of research is focused on improving equitable access to care for adult patients across the critical care continuum. She is also a Nurse Practitioner working for the Provincial Center for Excellence in Prolonged Ventilation Weaning which is in Michael Garron Hospital, a community academic hospital in Toronto.



Laura Jackson

Laura Jackson is a disability advocate, motivational speaker, and the unstoppable force behind the motto "Move Your Mind." At just 14 years old, Laura sustained a spinal cord injury during a cheerleading accident that left her a C1-C2 quadriplegic and ventilator-dependent. What could have ended her story instead became the start of a purpose-driven life.

Since then, Laura has earned her MBA, been crowned Miss Wheelchair Michigan 2020 and 2021, and is the

President of the nonprofit organization Mi Work Matters. She's a passionate voice for disability rights, stem cell research, and mental resilience.

Whether she's challenging the way the world sees disability or helping others find light in their darkest moments, Laura is living proof that when you can't move your body, you move your mind—and that is how you move your world!



Holly Jacobson

Holly Jacobson is a compassionate and skilled Registered Respiratory Therapist with over nine years of experience at Children's Wisconsin. For the past five years, Holly has been an RT with the Tracheostomy & Home Ventilator program, where she has led efforts to enhance both caregiver and staff education. Holly is currently completing her bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies, further deepening her commitment to supporting families within complex care settings.



Priti Jani

Pediatric critical care physician and Faculty Director of the UChicago Medicine Simulation Center with a focus on the intersection of research in simulation-based medical education and resuscitation quality improvement. Dedicated to the development and investigation of simulation-based initiatives to improve individual, team, and system-level performance necessary to improve patient outcomes.



Ashley Johnson

I am the Tracheostomy Nurse Educator and Care Coordinator for Nemours Children's Hospital. I have experience with rehabilitation medicine, pediatric intensive care, and family education. My passion is the optimal whole patient care for the medically complex and technology-dependent child.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

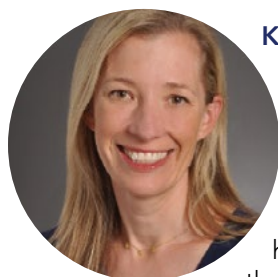
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Nicki Johnson

Nicki Johnson is Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and the Founder and Executive Director of the Childhood Tracheostomy Alliance 501(c)3 who specializes in the care and management of children with tracheostomy dependence. Nicki has been working with medically complex children for over 15 years.

She has a passion for helping these children and their families after recognizing early in her career that they are often under supported in the community given the very complex nature of their day-to-day life and the disproportionate out-of-pocket expenses they endure.



Kristina Keppel

Kristina Keppel is a nurse practitioner for the Medical College of Wisconsin and employed at Children's Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She started her career as a nurse practitioner in 2005 in pediatric otolaryngology and has continued in the same division since then. She received her Master's of Nursing

from Marquette University in 2005 and her doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) in 2010. She has been involved in our hospital's multidisciplinary Tracheostomy/Ventilator program as one of the ENT nurse practitioners since 2005. She has three active children and when not working, spends her free time largely in the bleachers watching baseball games and at soccer tournaments.



**Gary Knight BS, Co-Founder of
Hello Nurze & Medical Dad**

Gary is a Product Marketing Lead at a tech company, where he's focused on technology solutions to help small businesses succeed. As a father of a medically complex daughter, he's passionate to bring that same mindset to medical families in dire need of help.



**Kathryn Knight, BBA, Executive
Director & Co-Founder of
Hello Nurze & Medical Mom**

Outside of running the 501c3 national nonprofit Hello Nurze, Kathryn is the primary caregiver for her medically complex toddler—the inspiration for Hello Nurze. Prior to becoming a medical mom, Kathryn ran marketing campaigns at companies including

Sephora, Vogue, and Coach in NYC and San Francisco.

Kathryn now lives in northern Colorado with her husband and two amazing daughters.



Robin Kostroski

Robin has nine years of experience serving the Tracheostomy & Home Ventilator pediatric population at Children's WI. She received her Masters of Social Work from the University of WI - Milwaukee and has a diverse background in the social work field. Her current initiatives have focused

on raising awareness of the developmental needs of patients and increasing resource support for caregivers including increasing representation in a state-wide mentoring program called Parent to Parent. Robin enjoys the benefit of being part of the diverse multi-disciplinary teams serving our patients and families.



Kelly Krawcke

Kelly Krawcke has been a pediatric nurse for over 35 years with experience caring for children in a variety of ICU settings, as well as in the home and as a case manager. For the past 8 years she has been part of the Tracheostomy Education Team where she has had the opportunity to provide education and support to the patients, families and community of caregivers who help these children grow and thrive.



Alejandra Lastra

Dr. Lastra is Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago, where she directs both the Sleep Medicine Fellowship and the Advanced Respiratory Care (ARC) Program. She also serves as Associate Medical Director of the UChicago Sleep Center, Chair of the American Academy of

Sleep Medicine (AASM) Education Committee, and is the immediate past president of the Illinois Sleep Society. Her clinical and research expertise centers on complex sleep-disordered breathing, with particular focus on hypercapnic COPD-obesity overlap, home mechanical ventilation (invasive and non-invasive), and emerging neurostimulation therapies. Through the ARC Program, Dr. Lastra has advanced comprehensive, patient-centered care for individuals with dependence on home ventilation, while also building innovative training and research opportunities for future pulmonologists and sleep physicians. Nationally and internationally recognized for her contributions to education, diversity, and research, Dr. Lastra has authored peer-reviewed publications, delivered invited lectures at leading scientific meetings, and served as a mentor to numerous trainees. She is a Fellow of both the American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP) and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (FAASM). Her work reflects a commitment to advancing care, training, and equity in pulmonary and sleep medicine

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Cecilia Lang

Advanced Practice Nurse and Manager of the Children's Wisconsin Tracheostomy Home Ventilator Program for 12 years with a background in Pediatric Critical Care Nursing. Provides oversight of clinical practice standards, education, community outreach, care coordination, quality improvement and research related to this multidisciplinary program. GTC hospital member since 2016 and active in the Education and Webinar subcommittee.



Juliana Marks

Juliana is a speech- language pathologist at UChicago Ingalls Memorial working primarily in acute care. She also has experience within the inpatient rehab and outpatient settings. Juliana serves as the co-chair for ISHA's Medical Practice Issues Committee. Juliana has a special interest in dysphagia as well as tracheostomy/ airway occlusion and traumatic brain injury.



Carla McClintock

Critical care registered nurse with a PhD focused on enhancing communication and tracheostomy patients.



Anna McCormick

Anna McCormick, DO, is a pediatric critical care specialist at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital, where she provides expert care to critically ill infants and children in both the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and the Pediatric Sedation Service.



Kylie McElroy

Kylie McElroy, a dedicated medical and special needs mom, serves as a Patient and Family Engagement Specialist at Children's Mercy in Kansas City. Her professional path became deeply personal in 2012 when her son was born at just 23 weeks and 5 days, weighing only 1 lb 12 oz. He spent five and a half months in the NICU, fighting for his life, until being discharged with a tracheostomy, ventilator, and other life-sustaining supports.



Carly Milliren

Carly Milliren, MPH, has been a biostatistician at the Biostatistics and Research Design Center at Boston Children's Hospital since 2011. Ms. Milliren has expertise in clinical and epidemiologic research, as well as safety and quality measurement and quality improvement. Since 2017, she has been involved with the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC), where she has focused on enhancing the data and reporting processes. Currently, she manages the Data Coordinating Center for the GTC database.



Mark Minor, MD

Dr. Mark Edward Minor is a board-certified pediatric pulmonologist with extensive clinical, research, and leadership experience. Currently serving at Dayton Children's Hospital, he specializes in pediatric pulmonology, transitional care, and cystic fibrosis management. His career spans both clinical practice and research, with a focus on cystic fibrosis, chronic lung diseases, and pediatric pulmonary conditions. As a clinician-educator, Dr. Minor's time will be split between direct patient care and cystic fibrosis related clinical research on an approximate 80/20 basis.



Lisa Molkentine

Lisa Molkentine is a Respiratory Therapist with Children's Wisconsin and has been caring for the pediatric population for the last 20 years, specifically with the Tracheostomy/ Home Ventilator program for the last 5 years. She has many roles as an RT in the program including, but not limited to preparing and educating trained caregivers for their initial discharge home, educating CW staff (Doctors, RN's, RT's), certifying RN's in the community in Pediatric Home Ventilation, being a liaison for families and their DME companies, and following patients on an outpatient basis both from home and in clinic.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Juliana Morcos

M.D. Candidate at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. Graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology.



Brendan Murfin

Dr. Brendan Murfin is a highly skilled Intensive Care Specialist at Monash Health in Victoria Australia. He co-leads the Monash Health altered airway team with a focus on development of the multidisciplinary approach. He also serves at the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) lead and sits on the state ECMO service governance committee.

With extensive training and experience in critical care medicine, Dr Murfin is known for his leadership in complex, high-stakes medical environments. He is deeply involved in clinician education, emergency response, and system-wide improvements in how intensive care is delivered.

His commitment extends beyond bedside care to contributing to broader clinical innovation: participating in summits (e.g. the Monash Resus Summit), collaborating with interdisciplinary teams, and helping shape best practices in resuscitation and critical care.

Dr Murfin balances scientific rigour with compassion—valuing not only technical excellence but also the welfare and dignity of patients and their families.



Septimiu Murgu

Dr. Murgu is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago Medicine in the USA, where he is also the Program Director of the Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship.

His clinical interests include interventional pulmonology and procedure-related training. His specific expertise is in minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopic and pleural procedures for the management of lung cancer and central airway disorders. This interest is also seen in his research work, where he published extensively on the role of bronchoscopy for molecular testing, diagnosis of lung nodules, and therapeutic bronchoscopy for central airway disorders. He has more than 120 peer-reviewed

publications, authored numerous clinical practice guidelines and four medical books, including a best-seller textbook on bronchoscopy for central airways diseases.

He is actively involved in teaching bronchoscopy, pleural procedures, central airway disorders throughout the world. He is currently the Clinical Simulation Director for the American College of Chest Physicians.

Dr. Murgu is the Immediate Past President of the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology, the past Chair of Education Committee for the American College of Chest Physicians, a prior member of the Program Committees for the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer programs and ACCP. He is an Associate Editor for the World Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology Newsletter and for the Annals of American Thoracic Society.

Dr. Murgu devotes significant time to training chest physicians throughout the world in advanced diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopic and pleural procedures.



Carol Murray

Carol Murray, MS, PCNS-BC, CPNP-AC, is a dedicated Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with over 30 years of expertise in the care of medically complex children, including those with tracheostomies and ventilator dependence. With a strong foundation in evidence-based

and family-centered care, Carol plays a pivotal role in multidisciplinary teams to support medical management, transition planning, and long-term care coordination. In addition to clinical work, Carol Murray is a recognized leader in pediatric nursing, serving in leadership roles that focus on quality improvement, staff, patient, and caregiver education, and program development. She has presented at regional and national conferences on topics such as pediatric chronic illness, trach care protocols, advocating for safe, high-quality care for children with medical complex needs.



Derek Palmer

Derek Palmer is a speech-language pathologist at UChicago Medicine. His clinical interests include voice and swallowing disorders in patients with artificial airways and head and neck cancer.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Vinciya Pandian

Vinciya Pandian is an acute care nurse practitioner who has clinical expertise in managing individuals with a tracheostomy. She completed her undergraduate degree in nursing at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, Masters and Ph.D. degrees

in Nursing at the Johns Hopkins University, and Masters of Business and Administration degree at the University of Baltimore. She works as an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and serves as the Associate Director of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)-Executive and DNP-MBA programs.

The focus of her scholarship has been in advancing the management of mechanically ventilated patients with a tracheostomy, integrating biological and behavioral science for better health, with an emphasis on improving quality of life and eliminating health disparities. Her primary research focuses on identifying signs and symptoms of laryngeal injury post-extubation in intensive care units. Her other interests surround developing, implementing, and evaluating airway products and multidisciplinary programs. She has been highly productive academically, publishing over 60 scientific articles and presenting over 100 abstracts nationally or globally.

Vinciya Pandian is currently the Vice President of Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Nurses and the President of Sigma Theta Tau International Nu Beta-at Large chapter. She has been involved with global tracheostomy collaborative since 2014 and now, also serves a chair for the Educational committee of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative.



Nina Patel

Nina Patel, MS, MPhil is a medical student at Loyola Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. She earned an MPhil in Sociology at the University of Cambridge as a Gates Scholar. She worked with the Gates Foundation, UN Women Safe Spaces Project, and

Dutch NGO, Women on Waves, to advance women's health globally. She obtained her MS in Healthcare Delivery and BA in Global Health and Human Rights at Arizona State University, where she researched mental health post-earthquake in Nepal and founded the Global Women's Health Initiative. She served as UN Millennium Fellowship Campus Director advancing SDGs 3 and 5, and worked with the UNHCR creating policy to standardize medical screenings for Ukrainian refugees. Patel is currently a Prendergast Clinical Research Fellow at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) working with the head and neck surgery team on a number of clinical research and global health initiatives.



Sarju Patel

I am an acute care speech pathologist working with adults and geriatrics in the acute care setting at UChicago Medicine. Clinical interests include dysphagia and trach speech management with critical care population in the ICU settings.



Jennifer Petrasanta

Jennifer is a Newborn and Infant Critical Care Nurse IV at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of the Philippines and her Master of Science in Nursing Education from Grand Canyon University.

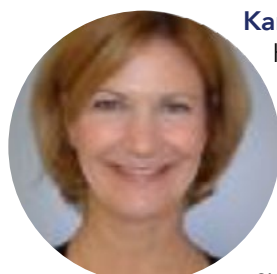
Her nursing career began in the neonatal intensive care unit of the Philippine General Hospital before she transitioned to the United States to continue her work in neonatal critical care. At CHLA, she founded the NICCU Tracheostomy Committee and currently serves as one of its co-chairs, leading initiatives to advance patient safety, caregiver education, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Jennifer has been awarded multiple grants for her evidence-based practice projects, with a primary focus on neonatal and tracheostomy care. Her work reflects a deep commitment to improving clinical outcomes, empowering caregivers, and fostering innovation in the care of critically ill infants.



Taylor Pitzl

Taylor Pitzl is a third year medical student at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. She's originally from Overland Park, KS and received her BS in Biology from Boston College. She's interested in pursuing a career in otolaryngology.



Karen Reeder

Karen Reeder, MS, RN, PCNS-BC, CPN, is a seasoned clinical nurse specialist (CNS) with over 33 year's experience. She currently serves as the CNS in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Dayton Children's Hospital. She is passionate about using the best evidence at the bedside, empowering the bedside nurse, and assuring positive outcomes for the patients. Karen earned her BSN from

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago

Medical College of Ohio and her Master's degree from Wright State University. Karen has experience in multiple nursing and leadership roles from inpatient to outpatient while serving as an Air Force nurse or the first 20 years of her career.



Katie Roche

Katie is a medical mom of two miraculous twin toddlers, one of whom has a tracheostomy. Her daughters were born at 23 weeks and had extended NICU stays at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. She is an advocate for fellow medically complex caregivers whose children rely on health services such as home nursing, Medicaid and Early Intervention.



Shannon Root, MSW, LISW-S

Shannon Root, MSW, LISW-S, is a dedicated medical social worker with over 15 years of experience, currently serving as the Pulmonary medical social worker at Dayton Children's Hospital since 2016. Shannon is passionate about supporting children and families navigating complex and chronic respiratory conditions, including cystic fibrosis and trach/vent dependence. She brings a compassionate, family-centered approach to care, collaborating closely with interdisciplinary teams to ensure holistic support across the continuum of treatment. Shannon earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) from Boston University and holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Montana State University. As a Licensed Independent Social Worker with Supervision designation (LISW-S), she is committed to both clinical excellence and mentorship within the field of pediatric medical social work.



Seana Sammon

Graduated with a an honours degree in Clinical Speech and Language Therapy from Trinity College Dublin, before going on to work across a range of adult acute and rehabilitation roles. Currently the Clinical Specialist SLT of The Wellington Hospital neurorehabilitation unit, with a special interest in Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDoC) and tracheostomy.



Sofia Seewald

Sophia is a Behavioral Research Coordinator at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.



Sarah Sobotka, MD

Dr. Sarah Sobotka is Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago. As a Developmental Pediatrician, she is primarily interested in how to enable children at risk for severe disabilities to reach their developmental potentials. Dr. Sobotka's research utilizes mixed methodology to study young children whose disabilities are a sequelae of medical complexity and medical technology dependence, particularly after prolonged critical illness. She studies trends and is interested in creating efficient and effective healthcare service models which minimize hospitalizations and provide support for families of children with medical complexity. Most recently, Dr. Sobotka has been focused on creating innovative habilitative models to support high risk children with complex disabilities, particularly young children with tracheostomies. Dr. Sobotka received her medical degree and a master's degree in public health sciences from the University of Chicago. Her clinical training included pediatric internship and residency at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine, and fellowship training in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Sobotka's research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH): the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), The Chicago Chronic Conditions Equity Network, The Gerber Foundation, The Bucksbaum-Siegler Institute for Clinical Excellence, and The Comer Development Board.

9TH INTERNATIONAL TRACHEOSTOMY SYMPOSIUM

*Excellence in Collaborative Tracheostomy Care:
From Hospital to Home*

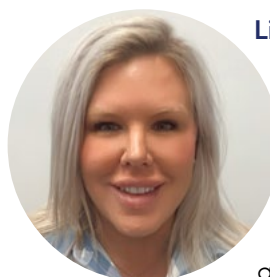
October 23-24, 2025

David Rubenstein Forum, University of Chicago



Tony Stroplus

I am a resident in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I was initially drawn to research after volunteering in a lab at the University of Nevada Reno where we focused on the electrophysiology of preterm labor. I started my undergraduate studies in biomedical engineering at The Ohio State University where I completed four years of cardiac electrophysiology biomedical engineering research under Thomas Hund, PhD. This work culminated in an honors thesis, incorporating optical mapping and arrhythmogenesis of ex vivo mouse hearts. Throughout medical school and undergraduate, I dedicated significant time to volunteering in underserved countries through Engineers Without Borders and other organizations. This developed an interest in further research on disparities in medicine and engineering. Additional research interests include head and neck oncology, pediatric otolaryngology, medical education and quality improvement. Specific interests have included analyzing disparities in care of certain populations and outcomes in healthcare. My professional plans include participating in educational programs abroad and contributing to research in head and neck oncology, along with promoting equitable care. Additionally, I have valued my previous teaching and mentorship experiences, including my teaching assistant position in general chemistry, and plan on further supporting future physicians and scientists through practicing and teaching at an academic institution.



Lisa Terry

Lisa has worked in public health for 20 years, with specialist clinical skills in the areas of Critical Care and Altered Airways (tracheostomy and laryngectomy). She has been successful in attaining numerous grants including the \$100,000 SMICS grant, to develop an multimodal service for Altered Airway clients at Monash Health, and won the 'Innovation Award' at the 2024 Allied Health awards. Her project targeting Multidisciplinary Tracheostomy education in the Simulation space was recently presented at the National Allied Health conference, Adelaide 2025.



Jaclyn Vasquez

Jaclyn's advocacy began long before motherhood, rooted in a lifelong commitment to challenging systems that marginalize young children and families. Her journey deepened when she became the mother of four, including Ava, who is medically fragile and technology-dependent. Navigating

medical complexities, health and insurance systems, and educational access while caregiving has shaped her fierce dedication to health equity and disability justice.

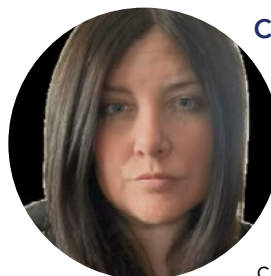
Jaclyn now brings both professional expertise and lived experience to influential spaces. She serves as a Parent Mentor for the ParentWISE program at Lurie Children's Hospital and holds advisory roles on the Policy and Advocacy Advisory Committee (PAAC) of Lurie's, the NICU to Home Policy Table, and the Illinois Lifespan Respite Task Force. She is also a member of the Pulmonary Habilitation Program (PHP) Advisory Committee at Lurie's, working alongside Dr. Foster and Dr. Feldman to support families newly navigating life with a trach, both in the hospital and at home, through the lens of her own lived experience.

Professionally, Jaclyn brings over 25 years of experience as an early childhood educator, administrator, policy and leadership coach, and community partnership strategist. She is the former co-director of the Policy and Leadership department at Erikson Institute and the former manager of the Child Parent Centers for Chicago Public Schools. Jaclyn has led systems-level initiatives across the state of Illinois and now consults with organizations such as Illinois Action for Children and the All Our Kids (AOK) Network. Her work is driven by data and equity, with a deep commitment to inclusive, family-centered systems change that prioritizes the voices and needs of those historically left out.



Linda Williams

Linda Williams, RRT is a Respiratory Care Practitioner at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center where she is the coordinator and creator of Multidisciplinary Trach Team. Previously, she worked as a Respiratory Care Practitioner for The Johns Hopkins Hospital.



Cassandra Zavala

Cassandra Zavala BSN, RN, is the Nurse Clinician for the Tracheostomy/ Home Ventilator Program at Children's Wisconsin. In this role, she provides comprehensive care coordination for an average of 75 medically complex patients. Working closely with a multidisciplinary team.

Cassandra plays a key role in educating and training both staff and families, ensuring safe, informed care both within the hospital and throughout the community. She brings valuable experience from her background in inpatient case management and complex care programming, enhancing the quality and continuity of care for patients with specialized respiratory needs.