


# **Innovations in Clinical Inquiry: Nurses Transforming Ideas into Actions**

**Flex Course  
April 24, 2024**





The Academy is the educational arm of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly RIC), a non-profit rehabilitation hospital in Chicago that has been ranked number one by *US News and World Report* since 1991. The Academy offers a wide range of accredited programs with the common goal of improving patient outcomes through clinical excellence. Our commitment to sharing the best evidence and rehabilitation practice with clinicians around the globe has always been an integral part of our mission.

The Academy is committed to creating an inclusive, authentic and comfortable learning environment that celebrates and supports all learners. We are dedicated to providing the highest-quality teaching regardless of race, age, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation/identity, ability, religion, language or culture. Above all, we believe that everyone should feel safe, respected, and welcomed when attending our programs at the hospital or online. We encourage the sharing of experiences and perspectives so we can learn from one another, and from our varied points of view.

## **Course Description**

This one-day annual conference, cohosted by Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, provides a unique opportunity for nurses to pursue their clinical questions through scholarship, clinical inquiry, research, innovation, evidence-based practice and translational science. Tools and strategies to support the development of nursing research and innovation will be discussed. Nurse-led research and quality improvement projects will be shared. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with nurse scientists to help develop their own ideas.

## **Location and Delivery Method**

This is a Flex course which will be held both in-person and virtually. If attending live, the program will be held in the 10th floor conference center at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, 355 East Erie Street, Chicago IL, 60611. The conference site is wheelchair accessible. Accessible materials, sign language interpretation and personal assistance are available with at least 45 days advance notice. The course is also available virtually via Zoom, an online meeting platform.

Directions and parking details for the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab can be found: [HERE](#)

## **Successful Completion**

Participants will complete seven continuing education units (CEU). To receive CEU credit, participants must sign in, be present for all sessions, view and evaluate a minimum of six posters during the poster session and complete an online course evaluation. The online evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2024.

## **Who Should Attend**

Nurses and Nursing Students. Please note that only Registered Nurses are eligible to receive continuing education credit.

## Learner Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the results or findings of several nurse-led research, quality improvement, or evidence-based practice projects
- Recognize the value of both qualitative and quantitative approaches to research questions
- Identify strategies for improving the design of research and quality improvement projects
- Reflect on opportunities to innovate and improve outcomes within their own fields of practice
- Formulate new ideas for nurse-led research development, quality improvement, or evidence-based practice initiatives

## Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be requested by email at [academy@sralab.org](mailto:academy@sralab.org). Refunds less a 20 percent administrative charge will be given 30 days before the start date of the course. If the cancellation notice is received less than 30 days from the start date of the course, a credit towards a future continuing education program would be applied for one year from the start date of the canceled course. The Academy reserves the right to cancel or change any programs for due cause. The cancellation of a program by the Academy will result in a full refund of tuition.

## Technology Requirements

To participate virtually, you will need access to a computer with an internet connection. High-speed broadband access is highly recommended.

- Internet connection: broadband wired or wireless (3G or better)
- Web browser with latest stable version. Recommended browsers are Apple Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge. Do not use Internet Explorer, as it is not supported.
- JavaScript and Cookies enabled

## Accessibility

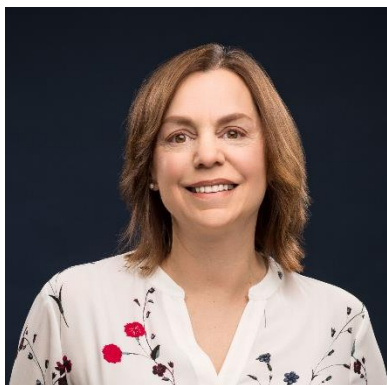
Please contact the Academy if you require any special accommodations for this course.

## Continuing Education Credit



**Nursing:** The Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (P0609-11/30/2022) is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This CNE is being offered for **seven contact hours** of continuing education.

## Course Faculty



### Eileen Lake, PhD, RN, FAAN (Morning Keynote)

A nurse and a sociologist, I am an international leader in the theory and methods of nursing systems research. Over three decades, I have studied hospitals as complex organizations and focused on measuring elements of the nurse work environment and nurse staffing and analyzing their relationship to safety and quality of care and patient outcomes. I developed and oversee the National Quality Forum-endorsed Practice Environment Scale of the Nursing Work Index, a survey measure. Translated into 23 languages, this instrument assesses the presence of features in the work environment that support professional nursing practice and has generated global evidence showing care settings that capitalize on nurses' education and skills—by providing competent and supportive managers, expecting physicians to treat nurses as partners in care, providing sufficient staff and resources, and encouraging nurse input on decisions—achieve higher quality outcomes. I am Associate Director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research. I serve Co-PI of our T32 pre- and post-doctoral training program “Advanced Training in Nursing Outcomes Research,” now in its 23rd year. This program enhances the pipeline of nurse scientists and knowledge generation by recruiting BSN to PhD candidates and expediting training to completion in 3 years.



### Lisa Burkhart, PhD, RN, ANEF (Afternoon Keynote)

Lisa Burkhart is a Research Health Scientist in the Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare at Edward Hines, Jr VA Hospital and Professor in the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago. Her program of research focuses on whole person, preventive care in the community among individuals with chronic conditions, specifically Veterans living with spinal cord injury. She has led a mixed-methods study to develop a decision support tool to prevent community-acquired pressure injuries (CAPrIs) in spinal cord injury (SCI) for use in the SCI clinic, called the CAPP-FIT. She was approved for funding for an implementation study to integrate the CAPP-FIT at seven VA SCI clinics across the country. She developed an on-line education program for healthcare providers to prevent community-acquired pressure injuries (funded by PVA Education Foundation) and available publicly for free. She is also conducting a study to evaluate the use of wearable technology to detect complications among community-dwelling Veterans living with SCI. At Loyola, she has also collaborated on HRSA-funded program grants to integrate interprofessional case management in ambulatory care, primary care nursing education, and integrating social determinants of health in acute care nursing.



### Valerie DeMarchi, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPN

Valerie, with over 14 years of nursing experience, currently serves as the Nursing Informatics Manager at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Throughout her clinical nursing career, she discovered her passion for enhancing nursing workflows through the seamless integration of information systems. Valerie is an ANCC certified informatics nurse and a certified Epic Clinical Informaticist with 8 years of dedicated focus on nursing informatics. In her leadership role, she oversees a dynamic team dedicated to the integration and assessment of diverse nursing EHR workflows at Lurie Children's, ensuring optimal efficiency and patient care outcomes.



### **Antonette Desai, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNE**

Antonette Desai is a seasoned rehabilitation nurse and nurse educator. She serves as the Magnet Program Coordinator and Nurse Residency Program Coordinator at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Antonette received her BSN from Loyola University Chicago and MSN from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Antonette is currently working on efforts to establish and grow a formal mentorship program for new graduate nurses at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.



### **Katherine Earnest, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNML**

Katherine Earnest is a nurse leader with 15 years of experience working in rehabilitation nursing, including roles in bedside care, administration, and research. She currently works as the Director of Nursing Research at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. In this role, she leads efforts to increase the involvement of nurses in research and champions the integration of research into nursing clinical care, as well as conducting her own original research. She holds a BSN from Loyola University Chicago and an MSN from Northern Illinois University. Katherine is currently pursuing a PhD in nursing at Illinois State University.

### **Emily Neitz, MSN, RN, CNL, CPN**

Emily Neitz has 12 years' experience as a nurse. She has been with Lurie Children's for nine years total, working clinically on a transitional care unit, intermediate care unit, and the Resource Team. While working clinically, Neitz served on the Nursing Professional Governance Board as Nursing Quality Council Chair and served as Magnet Champion through two redesignations. Since July 2022, Neitz has worked in the role of Magnet Program Manager, assisting in the writing, compilation, and submission of Lurie Children's 6th Magnet document.



### **Laura Schlenker, BSN, RN, CPHON**

Laura Schlenker has been a nurse for 24 years, caring for pediatric, adolescent, and young adult patients with cancer and blood disorders. She has spent time in inpatient and ambulatory areas, and most recently as the research nurses for patients with solid tumors at Lurie Children's Hospital. She has helped with multiple retrospective chart reviews and has published results from her own nurse-led study using retrospective data. She currently serves the chair of the Lurie Nursing Research Council.





### **Ally Schroepfer, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPN**

Ally is an ANCC board certified Nursing Informatics Practitioner- Advanced at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Armed with an MSN in Health Informatics and Epic certification in Clinical Informatics, she brings four years of dedicated experience to the field of nursing informatics. Ally’s expertise lies in optimizing documentation efficiency, allowing nurses to spend more time caring for patients. Her commitment to streamlining workflows is rooted in her background, having previously served in the Intermediate Care Unit at Lurie Children’s and La Rabida Children’s Hospital before transitioning into nursing informatics.



### **Inga Uremovich, MSN, RN, CPN**

Inga Uremovich has been a nurse at Lurie Children’s for over 20 years. She is currently the Senior Director, Magnet Program and Nursing Excellence, focusing on the nurse work environment and patient outcomes related to the care nurses provide. Inga is passionate about frontline leadership, professional development, and elevating the profession of nursing.



### **Kashica J. Webber-Ritchey, PhD, MHA, RN**

Dr. Kashica Webber-Ritchey is a nurse scientist with over eight years of research experience in health promotion and over ten years of clinical practice experience. She is currently an Associate Professor at DePaul University, School of Nursing. She possesses a strong foundation in quantitative, qualitative, and systematic review research methodologies as well as a wealth of knowledge on rigorous development, implementation, and evaluation of digital surveys. Her research interest is reducing health disparities in underserved populations. Her current research focuses on a parent dyadic approach to address childhood obesity in African Americans. She is also the lead qualitative nursing scientist on the “Nursing During COVID-19” research team. She is the Section Councilor, Public Health Nursing Section to the

American Public Health Association and Student Nursing Association of Illinois (SNAI) Co-Consultant to the American Nurses Association. She serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Community Health Nursing and Frontiers in Public Health. She is also a peer reviewer for Public Health Nursing. She holds a BSN from Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, a Master of Health Administration (MHA) and MSN from Governors State University, and a PhD in Nursing from The University of Arizona, College of Nursing.

### **Christine Wetzel, DNP, MS, RNC-NIC, IBCLC**

Chris Wetzel provides care in the NICU at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois. She is an expert in neonatal care and a lactation specialist. Over her 30-year nursing career, her work has focused on preterm infants, lactation, feeding intolerance, use of mother’s own milk in the NICU, and neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). Wetzel developed the eNEC, a risk assessment tool for NEC, a potentially deadly complication in preterm infants. This work has directly contributed to Carle Foundation Hospital’s NICU reporting exceptionally low NEC rates. In recognition of her contributions towards improving patient outcomes, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) named Chris National Magnet Nurse of the Year in the category of New Knowledge, Innovations, and Improvements for 2021.



### Jessica Wolff, MSW, LCSW, NICU Parent

Jessica Wolff is the mother of three NICU babies – twin micropreemie daughters born in 2018 and a late-preterm son born in 2022. One of her girls was stillborn and the other spent eight months in the NICU before coming home with long-term medical complexities. Jessica is a licensed clinical social worker and has spent many years advocating for students and families in the school system. Since her own NICU experience, she has refocused her passion to support families who have experienced similar paths.

## Agenda (in CST)

April 24, 2024

7:30 am	<b>Registration &amp; Check-In</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor Sky Lobby  <b>Breakfast</b> Auditorium A&B
8 am	<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b> Auditorium A&B
8:05 am	<b>Morning Keynote</b> <b>Two Truths and a Lie About the Work Environment</b> <i>Eileen Lake, PhD, RN, FAAN</i> Auditorium A&B
9:05 am	<b>Bringing Purpose &amp; Meaning Back to Nursing, One (Less) Click at a Time</b> <i>Valerie DeMarchi, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPN &amp; Ally Schroepfer, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPN</i> Auditorium A&B
9:50 am	<b>Break</b>
10:05 am	<b>Patient Collaboration in Neonatal Quality Improvement at Carle Foundation Hospital</b> <i>Chris Wetzel, DNP, MS, RNC-NIC, IBCLC &amp; Jessica Wolff, MSW, LCSW, NICU Parent</i> Auditorium A&B

	<b>Breakout Sessions – Choose One</b>
10:50 am	<p><b>Patient-Centered Research &amp; Quality Improvement – A Panel Discussion</b>  <i>Panelists Megan Burns, Coach Kenneth Jennings, &amp; Amber Sexton</i>  Auditorium C</p> <p><b>Outcomes Odyssey: Crafting Magnet Stories Through Nursing Excellence</b>  <i>Antonette Desai, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNE, Emily Neitz, MSN, RN, CNL, CPN &amp; Inga Uremovich, MSN, RN, CPN</i>  Auditorium A&amp;B</p>
11:20 am	<p><b>Demystifying Survey Research</b>  <i>Kashica J. Webber-Ritche, PhD, MHA, RN</i>  Auditorium A&amp;B</p>
12:05 pm	<p><b>Lunch</b>  Auditorium A, B, &amp; C</p>
1 pm	<p><b>Looking Back to Move Forward – Using Retrospective Data to Inform Practice</b>  <i>Laura Schlenker, BSN, RN, CPHON</i>  Auditorium A&amp;B</p>
1:40 pm	<p><b>Create to Innovate – Product Design, Prototyping, Testing &amp; Beyond</b>  <i>Katherine Earnest, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNML</i>  Auditorium A&amp;B</p>
2:20 pm	<p><b>Poster Session</b>  10<sup>th</sup> Floor Sky Lobby</p>
3:20 pm	<p><b>Afternoon Keynote</b>  <b>Transforming Nursing Research into Practice: A Focus on Whole-Person, Preventative Care for Community Dwelling Individuals Living with Spinal Cord Injury</b>  <i>Lisa Burkhart, PhD, RN, ANEF</i>  Auditorium A&amp;B</p>
4:15 pm	<p><b>Closing Remarks, Evaluations</b>  Auditorium A&amp;B</p>



## Faculty Disclosures

### Course Director's and Planning Committee Members' Disclosure Information:

Katherine Earnest, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNML	Has nothing to disclose.
Elianna Rivkin, BSN, RN	Has nothing to disclose.
Maricela Ontiveros, ADN, RN	Has nothing to disclose.
Laura Schlenker, BSN, RN, CPHON	Has nothing to disclose.
Keri Benbrook, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, CBC, CPN	Has nothing to disclose.
Sue Horner, PhD, APRN/CNS, RNC-NIC	Has nothing to disclose.

### Speakers, Moderators and Panelists' Disclosure Information:

Eileen Lake, PhD, RN, FAAN	Has nothing to disclose.
Lisa Burkhardt, PhD, RN, ANEF	Has nothing to disclose.
Valerie DeMarchi, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPN	Has nothing to disclose.
Antonette Desai, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNE	Has nothing to disclose.
Katherine Earnest, MSN, RN, CRRN, CNML	Has nothing to disclose.
Emily Neitz, MSN, RN, CNL, CPN	Has nothing to disclose.
Laura Schlenker, BSN, RN, CPHON	Has nothing to disclose.
Ally Schroepfer, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPN	Has nothing to disclose.
Inga Uremovich, MSN, RN, CPN	Has nothing to disclose.
Kashica J. Webber-Ritchey, PhD, MHA, RN	Has nothing to disclose.
Chris Wetzel, DNP, MS, RNC-NIC, IBCLC	Has nothing to disclose.
Jessica Wolff, MSW, LCSW, NICU Parent	Has nothing to disclose.

## **Thank You to our Course Sponsor**

The Nursing Research Councils of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago would like to extend a special **THANK YOU** to **COLOPLAST** for their sponsorship of this event.

Note: Course sponsors do not have input into the planning or delivery of course content