



Critical Care Corner

December 2025

**Society of Critical Care Medicine
Texas Chapter**

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President's Corner

Hello SCCM Texas Chapter Members,

As we wrap up 2025 and head into the busiest (and festive!) stretch of the year, I'm excited to share our 4th quarter updates with you. December always seems to arrive faster than any of us expect—much like that STAT page we swear we just stepped away from—but it's also a perfect time to reflect on our shared accomplishments and the momentum we are carrying into the new year.

Our Chapter has had an energizing few months filled with education, advocacy, networking, and some truly outstanding member achievements. I continue to be inspired by the dedication and compassion of our critical care community across Texas. Whether you're on service, teaching, researching, or catching your breath between shifts, please know how grateful I am for each of you and the work you do every single day.

The **14th Annual Symposium, "One Team, One Mission: Elevating Outcomes with Evidence-Based Critical Care,"** was a great success, thanks to the hard work of our Symposium Committee, chaired by **Sree Cheruku**, and the assistance of all the other Chapter Committees. We have already begun planning our **15th Annual Symposium** for the fall in Galveston. Reach out to **Beth Teegarden**, the 2026 Symposium Chair, to get involved in the planning.

If you are looking to get more involved in the Chapter, our annual nominations are now open through **January 9, 2026**. We are seeking candidates for the **President-Elect, Treasurer**, and three seats on the **Board of Directors** (one physician and two at-large positions). Check out "Chapter Leadership Nominations" under the Nominations tab on our Chapter website (<https://www.sccmtexaschapter.org/chapter-leadership-nominations>) for more information, or to nominate a candidate - including yourself!

Our Programs Committee members have been busy this year, with programming in Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. Be on the lookout for details on our **SCCM National Congress Chapter Reception and our Annual Business Meeting** coming up in March 2026.

We still have some wrap-up to do on our **Membership Drive**, the **Joseph L. Nates Grant**, and the **Alan I. Fields Award**. However, the Awards Committee still has time for you to submit for the **Outstanding Member and Excellence in Service** awards, so investigate and explore these on our website.

As you can see, we have exciting initiatives ahead, and I'm looking forward to closing out the year strong—with plenty of opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate together. Make sure you don't miss anything by following us on our social media pages on Instagram, BlueSky, and LinkedIn!

Wishing you a warm and restorative holiday season,

Rebecca

President, SCCM Texas Chapter



**Rebecca McClay, DNP, MS,
ACNPC-AG, NPD-BC, CCRN-
CMC-CSC**

14th Annual Symposium

One Team, One Mission: Elevating Outcomes with Evidence-Based Critical Care

Thank you to all committee members and presenters for your hard work and contributions to a successful meeting!

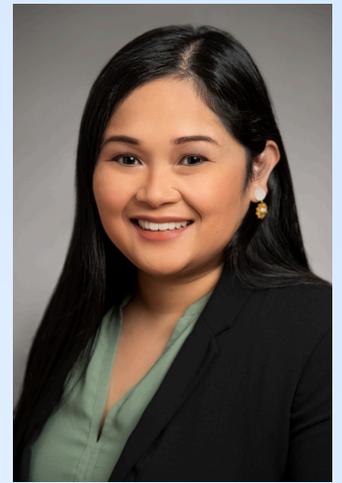
Thank you to our sponsors for your generous support!

Special thanks to **Sree Cheruku, MD, MPH** for leading the Symposium Committee!



We look forward to seeing you in **Galveston** in 2026!

Communications Committee



Ada Jutba, PharmD, BCCCP

The Communications Committee is responsible for the dissemination of information between our chapter and its members.

Follow us for more information and to stay up to date on chapter activities:

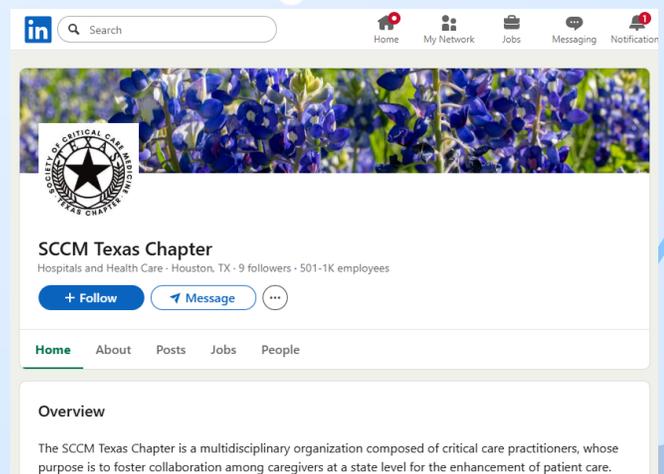
Website: www.sccmtexaschapter.org

Facebook: SCCM Texas Chapter

Instagram: @sccmtxchapter

Bluesky: @sccmtxchapter.bsky.social

NEW! LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/sccm-tx-chapter



Research Committee



Emily Highsmith, PharmD, BCCCP

As we reach the end of the year the research committee is also wrapping up a year of work and looking forward to recognizing some outstanding research opportunities and contributions made in 2025. We recently awarded the **Alan I Fields** award to 2 recipients who had their abstracts accepted at Congress. If you are attending Congress this year, please look for their abstracts in the snapshot theaters!

- **1st Place Award:** How Social and Geographic Disparities Shape Burn Mortality – **Ariel Santos, MD, MPH**
- **2nd Place Award:** Treating the Trifecta: Central Venous Catheter Injury, Entrapped Lung, and Pneumothorax Ex Vacuo – **Shamali Nahete, MD**

Additionally, we have extended the application window for the **Joseph L. Nates** grant. The grant is now due February 27th, 2026, with anticipated funding beginning in June. We look forward to awarding our grant recipient(s), so please spread the word if you or someone you know needs research funding!

Finally, in an effort to increase the outreach of the research committee in the coming year we are looking for members who are interested in research to join our team. We are in particular need of nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, dietitians, physical or occupational therapists, physician assistants and other allied health professionals. Please review the information on the SCCM-Texas Chapter website Research tab or contact research@sccmtexaschapter.org for more information on joining the research committee.

From all of us on the research committee, we hope you have a happy holiday season!



Kyllie Ryan-Hummel,
PharmD, BCCCP

Nominations Committee

Nominations for the SCCM Texas Chapter Executive Committee and Board of Directors are open. Nominations will open **December 1, 2025**, and are accepted until **January 9, 2026**. Please nominate your candidate today!

Positions open for the 2025 election are:

Executive committee:

- **President elect** (3-year progressive term)
- **Treasurer** (2-year term)

Board of Directors (3-year term):

- **Physician** (1 position)
 - All chapter members shall be eligible (MD)
- **At-large** (2 positions)
 - All chapter members shall be eligible

Officer responsibilities and required qualification information can be found on the SCCM Texas Chapter [website](#). We look forward to your nominations and continued involvement in the chapter! Please be on the lookout in early 2026 for online voting!

Call for volunteers!

We are always looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for our **FCCM mentorship program** and would love to hear from you. Be on the lookout for quarterly development sessions; reach out if you would like to get involved!

If you have any questions about the nominations process, FCCM Mentorship Program, or would like to get involved with the committee, please email us at:

nominations@sccmtexaschapter.org

Programs Committee

Here are the most recent and upcoming programs by region including date, topic, sponsor, and location.

Programs

Houston			
October 8	NMOSD: A Life-Threatening Autoimmune Disease	Amgen	La Griglia
October 22	Terlivaz (terlipressin): The first FDA-approved treatment for HRS in adults with rapid reduction in kidney function	Malinckrodt	Maggiano's Little Italy
November 5	Zevtera	Innoviva	Perry's
November 19	Contemporary evidence supporting the appropriate role of a treatment option for HABP/VABP	Merck	Kiran's
December 17	Winter Social	TX Chapter	Verde Garden
San Antonio			
October 8	Zevtera (ceftobiprole medocartil sodium for injection)	Innoviva	Perry's
October 9	Contemporary evidence supporting the appropriate role of a treatment option for HABP/VABP	Merck	Blu Prime Steakhouse
Austin			
November 13	Contemporary evidence supporting the appropriate role of a treatment option for HABP/VABP	Merck	Carve American Grill

Volunteer Opportunities

Love to organize events? Want to get more involved in the Texas Chapter? Look no further! We are searching for a Programs Chair to be a liaison between the regional program coordinators and the executive leadership team. Email president@sccmtexaschapter.org for more information!

Congress Reception

Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026

Time: 6-8pm CST

Location: Marriott Marquis Chicago, Daniel Burnham B



Membership Committee

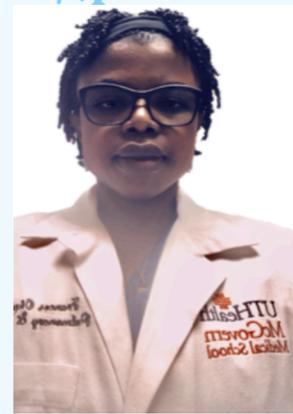
The Texas Chapter currently has 542 active members. We would like to encourage you to renew your membership and continue to spread the word about joining our chapter to your colleagues and friends. Membership grants access to ongoing educational programming, networking opportunities and other resources for an annual fee of \$45 dollars per year.

Recent benefits of membership in the Texas Chapter include participation in our Awards and Grants programs. See our Awards and Research pages for more information. To participate in recognition on our social media pages, fill out the form [here](#) so that we can highlight our fantastic members!

Congratulations to **Michael Mileski**, the winner of our **2025 Fall Membership Drive prize**. Thank you to everyone who participated and the new members that have joined the Chapter as a result.

If you would like to get more involved in volunteering for the membership committee or have questions about membership or renewals, please reach out at **membership@sccmtexaschapter.org**.

Awards Committee



**Frances Okpaluba,
MS, RN, APRN, CCRN**

Dear SCCM Texas Chapter Members,

As we approach the end of 2025, it's hard to believe how quickly this year has passed. There is still much to be done to support our chapter and the awards committee, and we are excited to share some important updates with you.

Professional Development Awards Review

We are in the final stages of reviewing submissions for the **Professional Development Awards**. The competition has been fierce, and the submissions have truly showcased the clinical and scholarly excellence of our chapter members. We are thrilled to recognize the remarkable talent within our community.

Upcoming Awards Nominations

Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement regarding nominations for the following prestigious awards:

- **Excellence in Service, Clinical Practice** (One Winner)
- **Excellence in Service, Education** (One Winner)
- **Outstanding Member Award** (One award per region – Four Total Winners)

We encourage all members to consider nominating deserving individuals who have made significant contributions to their respective areas.

Collaboration with the Research Committee

The awards committee continues to collaborate closely with the **Research Committee** and has been instrumental in supporting the presentation of certificates to speakers during the **2025 Symposium**. This partnership is vital in acknowledging the contributions of those advancing research and knowledge in critical care.

Join the Awards Committee

As we look ahead to 2025, we invite you to consider joining the **SCCM Awards Committee**. This committee plays a key role in promoting member recognition, fostering professional trust, and encouraging engagement within our chapter.

Season's Greetings

As the holiday season approaches, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to each of you. May you have a joyful and safe holiday season. We look forward to continued collaboration and success in the new year!

Respectfully,

Frances Okpaluba, MS, RN, APRN, CCRN
Texas Chapter SCCM Awards Committee Chair
Olga Rodriguez, DNP, MSN, RN, CPHQ
Texas Chapter SCCM Awards Committee Co-Chair



Anne Rain Brown,
PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM



Community Engagement Committee



Happy Holidays on behalf of the Community Engagement Committee. Thank you to those of you who have already donated to the Houston Food Bank!

If you're able, please consider supporting our holiday food drive and joining us in fighting hunger in our community.

Details are below—every single contribution makes a difference.

1. **Give Funds:** Donate directly to our fundraiser for Houston Food Bank.
2. **Spread Joy:** Attend our Winter Social and donate in person.
3. **Give Time:** Interested in volunteering at the Houston Food Bank? More details to come about a potential date or email communityengagement@sccmtexaschapter.org





Houston Food Bank

2025 SCCM Texas Chapter Charity Event

Donate Today!



100% of proceeds will be donated to the Houston Food Bank

SCCM Texas Chapter is a 501c3 charitable organization. Federal ID Number: 86-1123907. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Please consult your tax advisor for your individual tax consequences. No goods or services were provided to you in consideration of this gift.

communityengagement@sccmtexaschapter.org





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