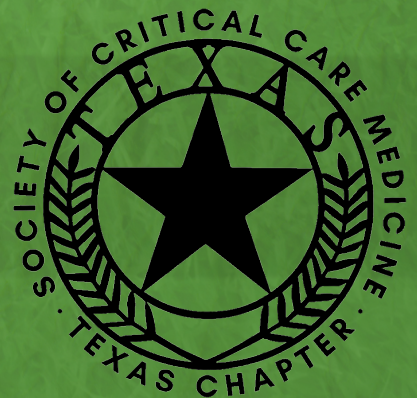


Critical Care Corner

June 2026

Society of Critical Care Medicine
Texas Chapter



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President's Corner

Hello SCCM Texas Chapter,

What an exciting time to be in Texas! This June, our state is taking center stage on the global map as the 2026 FIFA World Cup officially kicks off. With world-class soccer matches in both Houston and Dallas, the high-energy teamwork on display is truly inspiring. As critical care professionals, we know firsthand that achieving optimal patient outcomes relies entirely on that same spirit of seamless, high-performance team alignment. Whether you are catching a game or just enjoying the buzz in our cities, it is a great reminder of what can be accomplished when passionate individuals unite under one mission.



**Melanie Madorsky, PharmD,
BCPS, BCCP, BCCCP, FCCM**

Speaking of milestone events, planning is in full swing for our landmark **15th Annual SCCM Texas Chapter Symposium**, titled “Celebrating Innovation in Critical Care: Advancing Science, Education, and Outcomes.” Mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, October 2-3, 2026**, at our coastal backdrop in Galveston, Texas. We are thrilled to announce that our Keynote Speaker will be **Jose Pascual, MD, PhD, FRCS(C), FACS, FCCM**. This is one of our favorite annual traditions, and we are planning an experience filled with evidence-based presentations, networking, and collaboration.

Stepping into the role of Chapter President has been rewarding and I look forward to expanding our impact over the coming year. Our core focus will center on increasing statewide professional programming, boosting membership recruitment across our regions with a dedicated emphasis on trainees and early-career professionals, and proactively nominating our local members for National SCCM Awards to highlight Texas excellence. To turn these strategic visions into reality, we need you! We are currently seeking individuals to step into open committee roles and leadership opportunities. If you are looking for a meaningful way to give back and volunteer, please reach out!

Our committees have already hit the ground running this summer. Congratulations to the **Community Engagement Committee** for hosting a successful RESCUE Bystander CPR and Swim Safety event this month. For research, we proudly congratulate **Dr. Alisia Gunderson**, recipient of the Joseph L. Nates Grant for her study, “Alpha-Klotho and Acute Kidney Injury after Cardiac Surgery.”

Finally, do not forget to enter our Taco Giveaway before the July 2026 deadline. One lucky Chapter member will be selected to win catering for their unit! Also, be sure to keep an eye on our Instagram, Bluesky, and LinkedIn accounts for Chapter updates and deadlines.

Wishing you a great, air-conditioned summer,

Melanie Madorsky, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP, BCCCP, FCCM
President, SCCM Texas Chapter



**Beth Teegarden,
MD, FASA, FCCM**

Symposium Committee



**Kevin Proud,
MD, FCCP**

We're finalizing an outstanding agenda for the **SCCM Texas Chapter's 15th Annual Symposium**. Each year, the symposium brings together multidisciplinary professionals from across Texas to learn, collaborate, and share innovations that advance the care of critically ill patients. We are excited to present a program that reflects the expertise, passion, and collaborative spirit of our members.

The 2026 SCCM Texas Chapter Symposium will take place **October 2-3, 2026**, at **William C. Levin Hall (University of Texas Medical Branch)** in **Galveston, Texas**. We are especially excited to welcome our keynote speaker, **Jose L. Pascual, MD, PhD, FRCS(C), FACS, FCCM**, the 2025 President of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, who will present "Using Videoreview for Quality Improvement in the ICU".

As always, our goal is to provide high-quality educational content while creating meaningful opportunities for networking and collaboration among colleagues from across the state. The Symposium Committee is actively developing programming, securing engaging speakers, and identifying new ways to enhance the attendee experience. In addition to our traditional speaker sessions, this year's program will feature workshops focused on strategies to mitigate the second victim effect and innovative approaches to educating multidisciplinary healthcare teams. We are also excited to host a 5K along the beautiful seawall on the morning of Saturday October 3rd, with proceeds benefiting a local charity.

The committee warmly welcomes members who are interested in contributing ideas, helping shape the agenda, or becoming more involved with the chapter. Committee meetings are open to all members who would like to participate in the planning process, and we encourage anyone with an interest in the symposium to join us.

If you would like to receive invitations to upcoming Symposium Committee meetings or learn more about opportunities to get involved, please reach out to us at **symposium@sccmtexaschapter.org**. We would be delighted to have you join the conversation as we plan another memorable event for the Texas Chapter community.

We look forward to working with many of you in the months ahead and to welcoming everyone to Galveston this fall.

[Symposium Page](#)

[Registration Link](#)

[Hotel Booking Link](#)



**THE SOCIETY OF CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE -
TEXAS CHAPTER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH PRESENT**



15TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATING INNOVATION IN CRITICAL CARE: ADVANCING SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND OUTCOMES

SAVE THE DATE

Friday-Saturday,
October 2-3, 2026

Univ of Texas Medical Branch
William C. Levin Hall
Galveston, TX

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jose Pascual, MD, PhD,
FRCS(C), FACS, FCCM
SCCM Past President

REGISTRATION





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

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

We're looking for members to be featured on
#MemberMonday.

Please reach out to us at
communications@sccmtexaschapter.org to be featured!

Research Committee



Mohammed Salameh, MD

The Research Committee is excited to announce that we will soon be accepting abstract submissions for research snapshots during our Annual Symposium! This is a great opportunity for our membership to showcase their work and an opportunity to gain experience giving platform presentations. Members can submit abstracts for case reports or research that is either completed or in-progress. Accepted abstracts will be invited for a 5-minute podium presentation at our Annual Symposium, taking place this **September 19th - 20th in Dallas**. Furthermore, the highest quality abstracts will be eligible to win the **Jeffrey J. Bruno Symposium Award**, which allows for free symposium registration as well as a monetary award. The 1st place winner will receive \$1000 and the 2nd place abstract will receive \$500 - these funds can be utilized towards SCCM or SCCM Texas Chapter activities over the next 2 years. The submission portal will be open from July 1st - July 26th. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.sccmtexaschapter.org/abstracts/> or contact **abstracts@sccmtexaschapter.org**.

We would also like to highly encourage all members to start considering research they would like to perform and plan to submit for the chapter's **Joseph L. Nates Grant**. This is an annual research grant which is intended to support clinical research designed to enhance the care and outcomes of critically ill patients. The application portal will be opening later this summer with a deadline in late December. Additionally, later this fall we will be accepting applications for our **Alan I. Field's award**. This award is for SCCM members who have had their abstracts accepted to SCCM Congress 2026 and has a monetary award of \$1500 for first place and \$1000 for second place. We are also in the process of updating both of these sections on our website to reflect the correct deadlines, but check back later this summer!

We want to hear more about the great research work our members do! The research committee has developed a short survey where members can submit their recent research publications, accepted abstracts, and grant awards. We will then give you a shoutout in future newsletters and on social media! Fill out the survey [here](#).

Lastly, in an ongoing effort to increase the outreach of the research committee in the coming year we would love for you to join our committee! We are in particular need of nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, dietitians, physical or occupational therapists, physician's 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.



Kyllie Ryan-Hummel,
PharmD, BCCCP

Nominations Committee

Call for SCCM national award nominations!

Texas Chapter of SCCM is looking for nominees to support in nomination to National Awards from SCCM!

Criteria for the awards can be found on SCCM's website and nominations are due **ASAP**.

Questions? Want to nominate someone? Please email nominations committee at **nominations@sccmtexaschapter.org**!

We are always looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for our FCCM mentorship program and would love to hear from you. Please 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.





Christina Watkins,
OTR, MOT

Programs Committee

Recent and Upcoming Events:

HOUSTON

May 13th: "The critical role of pharmacists in the care of patients with hepatorenal syndrome-acute kidney injury (HRS-AKI) – Terlivaz"

Sponsor: Mallinckrodt | **Location:** Kiran's

May 27th: "Delivered Deep Durable gMG Disease Control for Adults Who Are Anti-AChR or Anti-MuSK Antibody Positive With Only 2 Doses a Year"

Sponsor: UPLINZA/Amgen | **Location:** Brennan's

June 10th: "Asymmetrical High Flow Therapy"

Sponsor: Fisher and Paykel Healthcare | **Location:** Sixty Vines

SAN ANTONIO

April 29th: "A Review of the Emblaveo™ Data"

Sponsor: Emblaveo | **Location:** Ruth's Chris Steak House

May 20th: "Modular Nutrition and The MAR where can we go from here"

Sponsor: Medtrition | **Location:** Maggiano's Little Italy

June 24th: "Procalcitonin: Clinical Compass"

Sponsor: Thermo Fisher | **Location:** Paesanos 1604

WARM WELCOME TO:

Robert Witherspoon – New regional coordinator for the Dallas area

Looking forward to more meetings in the Dallas area soon!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Recruiting a regional coordinator for Houston

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is excited to share that the SCCM Texas Chapter continues to be the largest Chapter in SCCM, at 531 members strong! This continued membership reflects the incredible engagement, expertise, and enthusiasm of critical care professionals across Texas. Thank you to every member who continues to support the Chapter and help build such a vibrant professional community.



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

The committee has been working behind the scenes with SCCM national to improve how we track renewals and communicate with members. Over the past several months, we have implemented updated methods to better monitor membership status, identify upcoming renewals earlier, and encourage members to maintain continuous Chapter involvement. These efforts are designed to make renewals smoother while helping us stay connected with all of you throughout the year.

We have also completed a significant update and cleanup of our Chapter mailing lists within Constant Contact to improve communication accuracy and reduce duplicate or outdated contact information. As part of this process, we want to remind members of one important detail: unsubscribing from a single Chapter email campaign will unsubscribe you from *all* SCCM Texas Chapter email communications, including important announcements, elections, programming updates, symposium information, and membership notifications. If you accidentally unsubscribe or stop receiving emails, please reach out so we can help reconnect you with Chapter communications.

And finally—everyone's favorite reminder—it's time once again to nominate your unit for the Membership Committee's **Taco Giveaway!** We love recognizing the amazing teamwork happening across Texas ICUs, and this has quickly become one of our most popular membership engagement events. If your unit has outstanding SCCM Texas Chapter participation, strong member involvement, or simply deserves some taco-fueled appreciation, we want to hear from you. Keep an eye on Chapter communications and social media for nomination details and upcoming giveaway announcements.

Thank you again for being part of the SCCM Texas Chapter. Your participation, mentorship, and support continue to make this organization stronger every year. If you have questions about membership, renewals, or ways to become more involved, the Membership Committee is always happy to help at **membership@sccmtexaschapter.org**.

SCCM TEXAS CHAPTER TACO GIVEAWAY

Nominate your unit today!

1 winner will be selected to receive Mexican food catering for their unit*. Must be a member to win.

<https://forms.gle/5ncF893ZeZTuiSHJ8>

ENTRY DEADLINE:
JULY 10



*Up to 30 people

TACO TUESDAY IS A SURVEY AWAY!
NEED TO JOIN/RENEW YOUR TEXAS
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP TO WIN?

<https://sccm.org/member-center/join/renew-or-upgrade>





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

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is an important committee for the chapter. Its most essential and fun function is recognizing members' work in their respective disciplines and academic, professional, and community contributions.

The primary functions of the committee are:

- Acknowledge chapter leaders and members for accomplishments and contributions to the chapters and to critically ill and injured patients over the past year
- Develop and update the online nomination process
- Annually receive and review nominations
- Select and present the award recipients to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
- On an annual basis, review and revise the standing operating procedure.

The chapter has established the following annual awards for the members:

- Outstanding Member Award
- Excellence Awards
- Professional Development Awards

For more information about the awards and being part of a fun committee, contact **Frances Okpaluba, MS, AGACNP-BC, CCRN**, Chair, and **Olga C. Rodriguez, DNP, COL, MSN, RN, CPHQ**, Co-chair.



Community Engagement Committee



Anne Rain Brown,
PharmD, FCCM



The Community Engagement Committee successfully planned and executed a **RESCUE** event in Houston at a local swim club, where we were able to educate the community on bystander CPR and water safety. Lifeguards and families joined in on the fun! Special thanks to all of volunteers including **Daniel Arellano, Lucy Banh and Melanie Madorsky**.

Do you have a great volunteer opportunity or need additional support for your current volunteer efforts? Let us know how the chapter can assist you in your endeavors. Please reach out to Anne Rain Brown at **communityengagement@sccmtexaschapter.org** with any ideas or suggestions.



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