46TH ANNUAL

KANSAS RESPIRATORY CARE SOCIETY

SPRING CONFERENCE



BREATHING NEW LIFE:

A ROARING FUTURE

APRIL 7-8, 2026

WICHITA, KANSAS

Schedule

Tuesday, April 7th

07:00-07:50	**Registration and light Breakfast will be served Hotel Guest Breakfast Buffet**
07:50-08:00	Welcome—Julia Downs, President
08:00-08:50	Dr. Kimberly Molik: "Difficult Airways, Case Study and Tracheomalacia"
08:50-09:40	Erika Troutman—"Resiliency & Mindset"
09:40-09:55	**Break**
09:55-10:45	Justin Misuraca—"Morale Courage"
10:45-11:35	Dr. Hunninghake—"Let's Talk About ECMO"
11:35-11:45	**Therapist of the Year**
11:45-13:35	**Vendor Reception and Lunch**
13:35-14:25	Dr. Yammine—"Endobronchial valves"
14:25-15:15	Lawrence Stein—"Leading the Way: Developing the APRT Program and Guiding Practitioners Toward Advanced Practice Readiness"
15:15-15:30	Daily Closing announcements
15:30-17:00	**Sputum Bowl/Networking Meet and Greet**
19:00-??	Old Town n your own

Wednesday, April 8th

07:00-07:50	**Registration and light Breakfast will be served Hotel Guest Breakfast Buffet**
07:50-08:00	Welcome and Announcements, Julia Downs, President
08:00-08:50	Dr. Cynthia Hayek – "Pulmonary Hypertension and use of nitric oxide"
08:50-09:40	Dr Anwar K. Jones—"Topic TBA"
09:40-09:55	**Break**
09:55-10:45	Chad Pezzan- – "Alternative Methods for Surfactant Therapy in the Neonate"
10:45-11:35	Lori Tinkler—"NBRC Update on Credentialling Test Updates Coming 2027"
11:35-12:05	**Break/Box Lunch at your table**
12:05-12:55	Julia Downs/Lacey Ninemire—"KRCS/ PACT Panel"
12:55-13:45	Aerogen Speaker TBA
13:45-14:00	Closing and CEU certificates
14:30-17:00	Board of Directors Meeting

Continuing Education

This program is approved for 12 hours (6 on Tuesday and 6 on Wednesday) of Kansas Respiratory Continuing Education, by the Kansas Respiratory Care Society, a chartered affiliate of the AARC. Approval of 10 CRCE by the AARC is pending. All participants are required to sign-in for each morning and afternoon session and can pick up their certificates of attendance at the conclusion of the seminar. Prorated education hours may be obtained each day for those participants leaving prior to the end of the conference. **No money will be refunded to participants who leave early.**

Vender Recognition

It is through the generous contributions of vendors that we are able to provide this seminar. The vendors help offset the cost of speakers and special events such as the student reception and social event. Be sure to thank your sales representatives for their support of this years event.

Vendor Reception

Join us for our annual vendor reception. Peruse the vendors hall for state-of-the-art ventilators and equipment.
Food and drinks will be served.
Doors open at 11:35 and will remain open until 13:35 when the next speaker begins.
Please spend time with our vendors and tell them thank you for their support.

Registration & Cancellation

Advance registration through April 4th, comes with a registration discount. You need to register online at krcs.org. You can pay worry-free with any credit card or through PayPal. Late registration at the door will require you to fill out the registration form and bring with you to the door. Advanced online registration will end Friday, April 3, 2026.
A full refund will be granted to those requesting a refund prior to March 30, 2026. A cancellation received on or after March 30, 2026 will be subject to a $30.00 processing fee.

The content of the conference is subject to change without notice.

Faculty

Dr. Anwar K. Jones, MD, FAAP
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
University of Kansas School of Medicine
Children's Mercy
Wichita, KS

Lori Tinkler, MBA, ICE-CCP
Chief Executive Officer
The National Board for Respiratory Care
Overland Park, KS

Erika Troutman, MSN, RN
Chief Nursing and Chief Operating Officer
Ascension Via Christi Hospital, St. Teresa
Wichita, KS

Justin Misuraca, MS/MHA, RRT-ACCS. RRT-NPS, C-NPT
Account Manager
Tri-anim Health Services
Dublin, Ohio

Dr. Ronald E. Hunninghake, MD
ECMO Co-Medical Director
Wesley Medical Center
Wichita, KS

Dr. Youssef Yammine, MD
Pulmonologist Ascension Medical Group
ICU Medical Director Ascension Via Christi
Wichita, KS

Lawrence Stein, MSRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS
Director of Clinical Education
University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, KS

Dr. Kimberly Molik, MD
Pediatric Trauma Services Director
Wesley Healthcare
Wichita, KS

Dr. Cynthia Hayek, M.D.
Pediatrix Neonatology
Wesley Medical Center
Wichita, KS

Chad Pezzano, MA, RRT-NPS
Pediatric Respiratory Manager & Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Department of Pediatrics at Albany Medical College

Julia Downs, BSHCA, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACC
President Kansas Respiratory Care Society
&
Lacey Ninemeyer, RRT, MHA
PACT Co-Chair Kansas Respiratory Care Sociaety

Objectives

1. Characterize the value of the Respiratory Define the NBRC's role in the profession.
2. Discuss updates to the credentialing system.
3. Define morale courage.
4. Explore things we can do to improve our ability to respond when it's uncomfortable.
5. Learners will demonstrate the ability to pause and reframe a negative thought into a neutral or positive one when facing a setback, measured by a self-reflection journal.
6. Learners will demonstrate the ability to pause and reframe a negative thought into a neutral or positive one when facing a setback, measured by a self-reflection journal.
7. Appropriate recognition of the indications for ECMO.
8. Outline the personal, institutional, and professional milestones involved in developing an APRT program from concept to proposal.
9. Identify actionable steps practicing respiratory therapists can take academically, clinically, and professionally, to prepare for admission and success in an APRT program.
10. Discuss the various methods for identifying which infants maybe at risk for respiratory distress syndrome requiring surfactant replacement therapy and when surfactant replacement therapy should be considered.
11. Upon completion of this lecture, the participants will be able to discuss alternative methods of surfactant delivery, including pros and cons for each method.
12.
13. ?
14. ?
15. ?
16. ?
17. ?
18. ?
19.

Announcements

Tuesday Evening

Welcome to Old Town in Wichita:

This is a chance to get out and socialize and network with your fellow RTs across the state of Kansas. Find out what they have been doing.

Acknowledgements

The KRCS wishes to extend its appreciation to the following companies for their support of this seminar and sponsorships:

Ascension Via Christi Wichita
Speaker Sponsor

National Board for Respiratory Care
Speaker Sponsor

Wesley Medical Center
Speaker Sponsor

Watch Here for more Sponsors and please thank them for their support
Breakfast, Lunch, and Break Sponsors

Student Activities

Tuesday night:
Students are invited to meet at 15:30 in ballroom
To be announced.

Sputum Bowl
For those of you too young to remember the sputum bowl is the Respiratory Therapy version of the Scholastic Bowl, Hi-Q Bowl, or Knowledge Bowl. Make up teams of students and the moderator will give you questions to buzz in to answer. So put together some teams and study your RT History, formulas, pathology, anatomy and ventilator management.

The KRCS offers 3 scholarship/awards for Students and recent grads. Check out the website for additional information.
https://www.krcs.org/educationalscholarships

Announcements

Thank You!

The Kansas Respiratory Care Society humbly expresses our thanks and gratitude for your service, sacrifice, and dedication to your patients and co-workers! Words cannot possibly convey how much we appreciate you and how well you represent our profession.

Thank You!

The Environment

The temperature is difficult to control. For your comfort we suggest you bring a jacket. No smoking is allowed. We request that you turn your pagers and/or cell phones to vibrate or off. This is an adult learning environment; therefore, children are not allowed at the conference.

Accommodations

The KRCS has special pricing at the Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview, 400 W Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67202 If you intend to spend the night, book your room at this link or by calling: 800-325-0720 and provide group number: #10124642 pricing is good through March 5th. So Register Early!
Hotel guest will have a full breakfast option.
We will have a light Breakfast and lunch will be served

2026 KRCS Board of Directors

Julie Downs—President
Charity Clark—Past-President
Melanie Asmussen—Secretary
Josie Roach—Treasurer
—Treasurer-Elect
Kerra Abdullayev—Sr. Delegate
Jessica Callaway—Jr. Delegate
Monica Baden—CEU Evaluator
Curtis Kidwell—Web Master

Trustees:
Sheranda Brown
Marlyce Campbell
Bryson Gilchrist
Jackie Harvey
Mandi McNorton
Lacey Ninemire

Education Committee

Kerra Abdullayev
Monica Baden
Jessica Callaway
Charity Clark
Julia Downs
Shannon Fletcher
Curtis Kidwell
Lindsay Moore
Josie Roach
Jeff Suderman
Kenna Tuckness
Grant White
And the KRCS BOD

Check Back

Thank you for supporting the KRCS — we look forward to seeing you at the conference!