

Dea Mahanes, DNP, APRN, CCNS, CNRN, CCRN, HEC-C, FNCS

Personal Statement: Board of Directors Nomination

April 27, 2025

Service to NCS

Since joining NCS in 2004, I have consistently demonstrated service and commitment to the organization. I gained valuable experience as a Board of Directors member from 2020-2024. I am seeking a second term to build on that experience and maximize my contributions to the Society.

I currently serve on the FNCS Committee and co-chair the critical care management of traumatic spinal cord injury (tSCI) guidelines workgroup with a physician colleague. Additionally, I am a member of the neuroprognostication writing panel, working with multidisciplinary/multiprofessional collaborators from NCS and DGNI (German Society for Neurointensive and Emergency Medicine) to develop guidelines for neuroprognostication across eight disease processes. I served as first author of neuroprognostication after tSCI guideline, published in 2024.

Examples of previous service include membership on the Nursing Committee, Ethics Committee, Annual Meeting Committee, Goals of Care/Family Data Workgroup for the NINDS Common Data Element Project on Coma and Disorders of Consciousness, and writing panel for devastating brain injury guidelines. I have been an ENLS instructor since 2016.

NCS Committee Leadership

In addition to my current leadership role with the critical care management of tSCI guidelines group, I served as the Practice Track Co-Chair for the 2024 Annual Meeting, and I am the immediate past chair of the FNCS Committee. During my tenure as FNCS chair, the Committee incorporated process improvements based on feedback from both applicants and volunteers and offered educational opportunities for individuals interested in working towards FNCS. My previous leadership roles include chairing the Nursing Committee and serving on the APP Section Leadership Committee. These experiences honed my skills in steering committee initiatives towards impactful outcomes that are aligned with the mission and vision of NCS.

Multidisciplinary/Multiprofessional Collaboration

Collaboration across disciplines and professions is essential to caring for critically ill neuroscience patients and similarly essential to the ongoing success of NCS. As reflected in my NCS service and leadership activities, I have a sustained history of guiding diverse groups and can effectively integrate varying perspectives towards a common goal.

Strengths and Weaknesses

My strengths include proven leadership within NCS and the ability to drive multidisciplinary, multiprofessional initiatives. I enjoy solving complex problems through strategic partnerships, collaboration, and persistence. One of my weaknesses is the tendency to be very detail oriented, which can sometimes lead to late nights as I try to apply the same level of detail to multiple projects. I use strategies such as time-blocking and internal deadlines to improve my ability to focus on and complete each initiative.

Vision for NCS

My vision for NCS is to further our impact on clinical care, research, and education through strategic investment in high-impact activities to ensure that the Society continues to be successful and grow. Specifically, we have opportunities to learn from both members and non-members as we work to better understand the needs of those who care for critically ill neuroscience patients. This understanding will assist with project development and prioritization of initiatives as we move into the future.