



2026 Acute Care Nursing Conference

Advancing Nursing Excellence

Thursday, October 15, 2026

8:00am – 4:00pm



- **In-Person Conference**

Concordia Spectrum Campus
16355 Laguna Canyon Road
Irvine, CA 92618

- **Contact us at**

nursing.education@hoag.org

- **Register At**

hoag.cloud-cme.com/Acute

- **Contact Hours**

7.0

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 17163, for 7.0 contact hours.



Conference

Overview

This accredited nursing conference is designed to provide registered nurses with current healthcare trends in patient care as well as innovative and informative updates specific to nursing care in the hospital setting. During this one-day in-person conference, attendees will benefit from an intimate learning environment in which Hoag faculty and guest speakers will present the latest in patient care and provide practical strategies and tools to improve nursing care, patient outcomes, and advance nursing excellence.

Venue

This one-day in-person conference will be hosted at

Concordia Spectrum Campus
16355 Laguna Canyon Road
Irvine, CA 92618

The Concordia Spectrum Campus is a short walk from Hoag's Irvine Campus.

Program

Description

This one-day in-person conference is designed to provide registered nurses with:

- Current healthcare trends in patient care
- Innovative and informative updates specific to nursing care in the hospital setting

CEU Accreditation

This conference has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, with provider number 17163, for a total of 7 Contact Hours of continuing education credit for registered nurses.



Program Speakers



Kyle Murkey, BS
Hoag
Executive Director, IT Applications



Howie Tran, MD, FACC, FHFSA
Hoag
Director, Advanced Heart Failure



Justin Vechayiem, RN, BSN, SCRNP
Hoag
Stroke Nurse Navigator



Brianne Ortiz, MS, CPXP
Hoag
Experience Specialist



Jacob Turmell, DNP, APRN, NP-C, ACNS-BC
Phillips
Chief Clinical Officer



Kyle Karajankovich MS, RN, NI-BC, CEN, CPHQ
Phillips
Clinical Strategy Lead



Solomon S. Liao, MD
Hoag
Palliative Care Physician

Key Note Speaker

Anusha Wijeyakumar MA, CPC, E-RYT

HOAG WELLNESS CONSULTANT

Anusha Wijeyakumar is an award-winning educator, clinical researcher, and a leading global voice at the urgent intersection of integrative medicine, wellness, and social equity. A twice-honored academic and deeply respected clinician, Anusha serves as the lead Wellness Consultant for Hoag Hospital, where she pioneers the integration of mindfulness into mainstream healthcare.

Her clinical contributions include developing Hoag's inaugural meditation protocol for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. Expanding her clinical authority to a national stage, Anusha is the host and Executive Producer of the upcoming Hoag Women's Health Institute podcast *Take Her Word For It* (launching September 2026), a flagship Hoag Hospital media expansion positioning her as a premier, verified national voice on women's health.

In academia, Anusha is a two-time award-winning Adjunct Professor at San Diego State University (SDSU), an Inclusive Excellence Faculty Fellow and a Course Equity Faculty Fellow. Her scholarship and teaching excellence have earned her top academic honors, including the 2024 SDSU Darlene Shiley Honors Faculty Fellowship and the 2025 SDSU Outstanding Honors College Faculty Award. Anusha's academic achievements were honored at the 2025 SDSU Honors College Graduation Ceremony.

A globally sought-after speaker and media personality, Anusha is a recurring SXSW Featured Speaker (2024 & 2025), her expert commentary has been featured across major national media outlets, including *CBS News*, *InStyle*, *Yahoo News*, and *Yoga Journal*. She serves on the Medical Advisory Board for the national non-profit Living Beyond Breast Cancer and is the author of the critically acclaimed book *Meditation with Intention: Quick & Easy Ways to Create Lasting Peace* (Jan 2021, Llewellyn Worldwide).

Program

Objectives

Identify at least one practical application use of AI in acute Care nursing workflows that reduces documentation burden and improves clinical efficiency.

Presented by Kyle Murkey, BS

Describe the basic function of an LVAD and recognize key nursing priorities for managing patients with an LVAD.

Presented by Howie Tran, MD, FACC, FHFSA

Differentiate between healthcare operations and patient experience and apply insights from a patient's lived hospital experience to enhance the way care is delivered at the bedside.

Presented by Justin Vechayiem, RN, BSN, SCRNP & Brianne Ortiz, MS, CPXP

Describe how telemetry alarm management strategies, combined with clinical decision support solutions, can reduce non-actionable alarms, support timely clinical response, and improve patient safety.

Presented by Jacob Turmell, DNP, APRN, NP-C, ACNS-BC & Kyle Karajankovich, MS, RN, NI-BC, CEN, CPHQ

Able to articulate the use of Ketamine in pain management.

Presented by Solomon S. Liao, MD

Demonstrate the role of nature exposure and gratitude practices in reducing stress, improving mental well-being, and enhancing overall resilience.

Presented by Anusha Wijeyakumr, MA, CPC, E-RYT



Conference Agenda



- 7:30 – 8:00am **Registration & Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 8:05am **Welcome**
- 8:05 – 9:05am **AI in Acute Care Nursing**
Kyle Murkey, BS
- 9:05 – 10:05am **LVAD Therapy for Advanced Heart Failure**
Howie Tran, MD, FACC, FHFS
- 10:05 – 10:20am **Break**
- 10:20 – 11:50am **When Clinicians Become Patients: Lessons in Experience and Care**
Justin Vechayiem, RN, BSN, SCRNP & Brianne Ortiz, MS, CPXP
Brianne Ortiz, MS, CPXP
- 11:50 – 12:50pm **Lunch & Exhibits**
Lunch will be provided to all registrants
- 12:50 – 1:50pm **From Alarm Fatigue to Action**
Jacob Turmell, DNP, APRN, NP-C, ACNS-BC
Kyle Karajankovich, MS, RN, NI-BC, CEN, CPHQ
- 1:50 – 2:50pm **Ketamine for Pain**
Solomon S. Liao, MD
- 2:50 – 3:00pm **Break**
- 3:00 – 4:00pm **Healing in Nature and the Practice of Gratitude**
Anusha Wijeyakumar, MA, CPC, E-RYT
- 4:00 – 4:05pm **Closing Remarks**



Registration Information

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7 Contact Hours

VENUE
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Irvine, CA 92618

REGISTRATION

Register online at hoag.cloud-cme.com/Acute. Registration includes light breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

- RNs and Students – \$85
- Hoag RNs – Complementary with Discount Code provided by Nursing Education. Hoag staff **MUST** use their Hoag credential sign-in information to register.

HOST

Please contact Nursing Education for all general questions regarding this conference by email: Nursing.Education@hoag.org

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This conference is intended for Registered Nurses with an interest in recent advances in the care of acute patients. Students enrolled in a registered nursing program who have interest in acute care are invited to attend this program.

FAMILY/GUEST ATTENDANCE POLICY

All conference activities are exclusively reserved for registered conference attendees only.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Please come dressed in business casual with closed toed shoes.

CANCELLATIONS

3% administrative fee will apply to all cancellations. Written cancellations will be accepted until October 7, 2026. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after October 7, 2026. Refunds will not be honored for no-shows.

