



17th Annual Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Nursing Research Conference

Nursing Science in Action: The Power of Nurses Innovating for the Future

Day 1

Thursday, October 29, 2026

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Virtual Opening Session & Poster
Presentations

Welcome & Networking Reception

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

The Brent House Atrium
1514 Jefferson Highway
Jefferson, LA 70121

Day 2

In Person Conference

Friday, October 30, 2026

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

The Gayle and Tom Benson
Cancer Center
1515 River Road
Jefferson, LA 70121

6th Floor Conference Center

Early Bird Registration - Full conference

July 18, 2026 – October 1, 2026 (Full conference includes
Day 1 Virtual Opening Session and Poster Presentations,
Welcome & Networking Reception, and Day 2 in-person
Conference) Ochsner Employees, Students, and Faculty
= **\$100.00**

Early Bird - Full Conference Non-Ochsner attendees = **\$135**

Early Bird - Virtual only (Virtual only registration includes
Day 1 Virtual Opening Session and Poster Presentations) All
attendees = **\$25.00**

[Click here](#) to
reserve seats
or scan the
QR Code.



**Keynote Address: AI in Nursing:
From Promise to Practice and
Guardrails in Between**



Dr. Maxim Topaz, PhD, RN,
MA, FAAN, FIAHSI, FACMI

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Maxim Topaz, PhD, RN, MA, FAAN, FIAHSI, FACMI is a tenured Associate Professor at Columbia University School of Nursing, a Senior Research Scientist at VNS Health, and Health AI researcher. His career began as a combat medic and registered nurse, which shaped his commitment to improving patient care through technology. A Fulbright Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and among the first nurse scientists to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Topaz bridges the gap between clinical practice and cutting-edge AI. His research focuses on developing AI-based tools for patient prioritization and risk prediction, with particular emphasis on home healthcare and unbiased AI. He is an international keynote speaker, past president of MEDINFO, co-chair of an NIH AI review section, and is recognized among Stanford's top 2% of scientists in Health Informatics. **Highlights:** 220+ publications • \$25M+ in research funding • 30+ grants • Top 2% Stanford Scientists

Questions? Please contact nursing.research@ochsner.org; CNE: Applied for.

Dear all,

Early bird registration is now open for the 2026 Ochsner Evidence-Based Practice and Nursing Research Conference. This year's theme, "Nursing Science in Action: The Power of Nurses Innovating for the Future," reflects the conference's focus on advancing healthcare practice and outcomes through innovation, collaboration and shared learning. We encourage you to register early to reserve your spot. [You can find event details and register on the 2026 Conference Website.](#)

Conference Highlights

- **Day 1 October 29, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Virtual): Opening session and poster presentations, accessible from anywhere.** There's an optional group watch opportunity where you can view the virtual program in person from Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans in Monroe Hall.
- **Day 1 Evening October 29, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm (In Person): Welcome and networking reception.** The reception is opened to all registrants and will be held at Ochsner Medical Center- New Orleans in the Brent House Atrium. Once you register for the conference, you must RSVP to attend the reception. You will receive a form to RSVP once you register.
- **Day 2 October 30, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm (In Person): Full conference program.**
- **Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Maxim Topaz, PhD, RN, MA, FAAN, FIAHSI, FACMI — "AI in Nursing: From Promise to Practice and the Guardrails in Between"
- **Tablescapes Contest:** This year's theme is **"The Future of Nursing."** The contest is open to groups of four or more who register. We invite participants to showcase their creativity and team spirit through a nurse-inspired tablescape. Funds raised through the conference support the **Nursing Empowerment Fund**, which helps power the future of nursing at Ochsner and in our community.

Last year's participants highlighted:

- Strong educational content and standout speakers
- Excellent planning, venue, food and vendors
- Positive atmosphere, networking opportunities and relevance to practice

We look forward to welcoming you and to providing a platform for nurses to share best practices!

- [Register and reserve your seat on the 2026 Conference Website.](#) You may also scan the QR code in this flyer to register.
- Please share this invitation with your teams and colleagues.
- If you have any questions, we are happy to help. Please contact Maria at marie.nix@ochsner.org, Deidra at ddudley@ochsner.org or email nursing.research@ochsner.org.

With gratitude,

2026 Conference Planning Committee

Deidra Dudley, Ann Lockhart, Annelies J Harrison, Dawn Bernard, Jeffrey Hamilton, Kendall Young, Kim Vachon, Mary Anne Toledano, Tricia Broussard, Lisa Begault, Maira Harris, Paige Balfantz, Sarah Owens and Maria Nix

Hotel Accommodations:

- If you are traveling, we recommend the Brent House Hotel (www.brenthouse.com) - (to reserve a room use the links below for a special conference rate)
- Location: 1512 Jefferson Hwy, Jefferson, Louisiana 70121
- Discounted room block for conference attendees through Sept. 28, 2026
- Free parking
- Check in any time after 3 pm on Oct. 29th + Check out by 12:00 pm on Oct. 30th
- Ochsner Employees, click here to RSVP and reserve a hotel room (cost center or credit card): [Ochsner employee hotel reservation form.](#)
- Non-Ochsner attendees, make your reservation here: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110490?groupID=5402510>