

FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA



HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



OCTOBER 12-14, 2026

MONDAY OCTOBER 12

7:00am–7:00pm

SUPPLIER REGISTRATION

11:30am–4:00pm

PROVIDER REGISTRATION

This special Provider Registration is for all Hospital O.R. & Surgical Leaders and GPO Executives. Relax and enjoy a light meal and networking with your peers as you register for the conference. Lunch for Providers will be served between 11:30am and 3:00pm.

Sponsored By:



11:30am–4:00pm

SUPPLIER SHOWCASE

Select Suppliers will showcase their products, services and technology. Showcases are designed to provide a limited number of supplier attendees with an opportunity to demonstrate their products, services and solutions for the provider executives.

To maximize this experience for everyone, all Providers and only Supplier attendees from companies with a showcase exhibit will be permitted into the showcase area. Please contact us to learn how you can participate. Please note that lunch is not provided for Suppliers or Showcase exhibitors. There are several restaurant outlets in the hotel which are available at your convenience.

2:00pm–2:30pm

SUPPLIER ORIENTATION

All Suppliers are welcome to attend this orientation meeting. This informational orientation meeting is an excellent opportunity for first time Supplier attendees to gain a clear understanding of our conference, specifically the **Reverse Expo** and how it works.

4:15pm–5:30pm

PROVIDER ORIENTATION & SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

All Hospital O.R. & Surgical Leaders and GPO Executives are required to attend this orientation meeting, which will provide important information pertaining to the conference and introduce a few of our sponsors.

5:30pm–6:00pm

WELCOME RECEPTION

6:00pm–8:00pm

VIP LOUNGE & HOSPITALITY SUITES

(Providers Only and Sponsors of the VIP Lounge)

Join us for the most exclusive event of the conference, custom designed to maximize networking opportunities. Come to relax, enjoy chef prepared bites and specialty drinks, while connecting with your provider colleagues in a fun and casual atmosphere. This is the ideal place to unwind at the end of the first day!

Sponsored By:



HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



TUESDAY OCTOBER 13

7:00am–6:00pm

REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

Our Registration Desk will be staffed throughout the conference. If you have questions or need assistance with anything, please stop by and let us know. We are happy to help.

7:00am–8:00am

BREAKFAST (ALL ATTENDEES)

8:00am–9:30am



OPENING REMARKS & KEYNOTE ADDRESS (ALL ATTENDEES)

THE BUCKET LIST LIFE - CREATE MORE EXPERIENCES, SHARE MORE STORIES, AND LIVE MORE FULFILLED

KENYON SALO

One of only five members on the Denver Broncos Thunderstorm Skydive Team, Kenyon Salo is seen each week flying into Broncos Stadium at 60+mph, ending with a soft tip-toe landing on the ten-yard line. With over 6000 skydives under his belt and travels that have taken him all around the world, he's determined to live life to the fullest and help others do the same.

Through his passions for adventure, storytelling, and connecting with people, he found a simple process to guide others on a path to what most of us crave - living a more fulfilled life. In this session, you'll receive actionable steps that will help you, both personally and professionally, to achieve anything you desire.

We hope you're as excited as we are and look forward to seeing you at the event soon!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *How to Create More Experiences - Everything we do in this life is an experience. How we see the world, move about in this world and feel alive in this world. Experiences are about self. It's about creating your own experience, but also creating great experiences for others in your life, career and/or business.*
- *Encouragement to Share More Stories - Every company, organization and person has a powerful story. It's the ability to share that story with others in a way that people want to be around you, share with you in return and do business with you.*
- *Methods to Live More Fulfilled by Helping Others - Ultimately this is why we are on the planet. To help others, be of service and to make a difference. Helping others is about community.*

9:30am–9:45am

NETWORKING BREAK

HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



TUESDAY OCTOBER 13

10:00am–12:00pm

reverse expo SESSION 1

The Hospital O.R. & Surgical Leaders and GPO Executives host the exhibit booths in this very unique **Reverse Expo**.

11:45am–1:00pm

LUNCH

12:15pm–1:15pm

LUNCH & LEARNS (BY INVITATION ONLY)

1:30pm–2:30pm



EDUCATIONAL SESSION

LEADING BEYOND BURNOUT: RENEWING ENERGY, RESILIENCE, AND PURPOSE IN PERIOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP

HAZEL BOYD, MBA

Hazel Boyd is the Operations Manager of Transition and Occupancy Planning at Boston Children's Hospital, where she leads operational planning, activation, and move strategies for new and renovated clinical and administrative spaces. With more than 20 years of experience in perioperative services and healthcare operations, she has held leadership roles spanning sterile processing, supply chain, value analysis, capital planning, construction and design, change management, and clinical technology optimization. A U.S. Army veteran, Hazel began her healthcare career in the operating room and now also supports organizational initiatives in High Reliability training.

Beyond her operational leadership, Hazel serves as a co-chair of employee-led groups that foster engagement, inclusion, and professional development across the organization. She is also passionate about work-life integration and wellness, providing coaching and mentorship to professionals seeking to build sustainable, fulfilling careers. Hazel lives in Boston and is an avid runner and philanthropist.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify key drivers of leadership burnout and explain how mindset, energy management, and leadership behaviors affect personal well-being and team resilience.
- Evaluate their own risk for burnout and leadership strain using a self-assessment tool and reflection exercises to identify priorities for renewal and growth.
- Apply strategies to sustain personal energy, foster healthy work environments, and strengthen long-term engagement for themselves and their teams.

HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



TUESDAY OCTOBER 13

2:45pm–3:45pm



EDUCATIONAL SESSION

LEADING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY: WHAT KEEPS PERIOPERATIVE & SPD LEADERS UP AT NIGHT?

MODERATOR: STEPHEN LOVERN

Stephen Lovern, is Vice President for the Department of Surgery and Anesthesia at Carilion Clinic, where he provides executive leadership for perioperative services across six hospitals, including oversight of surgical services, sterile processing, trauma systems, and clinical operations supporting nearly 70,000 surgical and procedural cases annually.

With more than 25 years of nursing and healthcare leadership experience, Stephen is recognized for leading large-scale organizational transformation through physician partnership, workforce development, and operational strategy. His work has included redesigning enterprise surgical governance, launching new transplant and anesthesiology residency programs, and developing the health system's robotic surgery strategy, expanding the robotic fleet by 50% to support long-term clinical growth. In 2022, he was named to the Whitman Partners' Power Perioperative List for System Senior Directors, recognizing emerging executive leadership in perioperative services.

Stephen began his career as a licensed practical nurse and earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice from James Madison University. In addition to his executive role, he serves as Chairman of the Educational Advisory Board for Health Connect Partners, is adjunct faculty at Radford University Carilion, and mentors future healthcare leaders through service on Doctor of Health Sciences Capstone committees. He is passionate about building cultures of trust, developing leaders, and creating sustainable systems that improve care for patients, clinicians, and communities.

CO-PRESENTER: EDNA GILLIAM, DNP, MSN, MBA, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC

Edna Gilliam is a nationally recognized perioperative and sterile processing executive who serves as Assistant Vice President of Perioperative Services and Sterile Processing for the Delaware Valley at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware. In this role, she provides executive oversight for perioperative services across the Level I pediatric trauma center's main campus and two ambulatory surgery centers in Deptford, New Jersey, and Malvern, Pennsylvania. Deeply committed to pediatric surgical care, Edna leads with a focus on safety, operational excellence, workforce development, and the needs of children and families. Her leadership reflects the belief that healing extends beyond the operating room and is strengthened by high-performing teams, reliable systems, and a culture of partnership. She serves on the advisory education committee for Health Connect Partners' Hospital O.R. and Surgical Conference and as co-chair of the Workforce Development & Leadership Track for the 2026 Periop Leader Week Conference.

Edna's leadership has earned national recognition. She was named to Whitman Partners' Power Perioperative List in 2023, honoring system leaders who address complex operational challenges through scalable, systemwide solutions, and was recognized by Whitman Partners in 2020 as a BIPOC Perioperative Leader to Know. In 2025, she received the OR Manager of the Year award at the OR Manager Conference, and in 2026, her team received Healthcare Purchasing News' Sterile Processing Department of the Year recognition. Edna earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Grand Canyon University, a dual MSN/MBA from Wilmington University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Delaware. She is board certified as a Nurse Executive, Advanced (NEA-BC), and is a Certified Nurse of the Operating Room (CNOR). With 18 years of perioperative experience, Edna entered nursing as a second career, making an intentional transition driven by purpose, meaningful impact, and a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of others.



HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



TUESDAY OCTOBER 13



CO-PRESENTER: ROBERTA J PERMENTER

Roberta J. Permenter serves as Associate Vice President of Surgical Services at Atrium Health Navicent, where she provides executive leadership and strategic oversight for perioperative operations across the organization. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring the delivery of high-quality, safe, and efficient surgical care while aligning clinical operations with organizational goals and regulatory standards.

With extensive experience in surgical services leadership, Ms. Permenter is recognized for her ability to lead complex teams, optimize operational performance, and drive continuous improvement within multidisciplinary environments. She partners closely with physicians, nursing leadership, and executive stakeholders to enhance patient outcomes, improve throughput, and support a culture of accountability, collaboration, and clinical excellence.

Ms. Permenter is known for her results-driven approach, strong operational acumen, and commitment to patient-centered care. Her leadership style emphasizes transparency, staff engagement, and sustainable growth, positioning surgical services at Atrium Health Navicent to meet both current demands and future healthcare challenges



CO-PRESENTER: SHELLY (MICHELE) RANDAZZO, DNP, RN

Shelly (Michele) Randazzo is a senior healthcare executive with more than 14 years of progressive leadership experience in surgical and interventional services across complex, multi-campus hospital systems. She currently serves as Executive Director of Surgical Services and the Interventional Platform at Providence Swedish in the greater Seattle area, where she provides oversight for perioperative, sterile processing, and procedural operations across multiple campuses. Known for her collaborative leadership style and operational discipline, Shelly has led high-performing multidisciplinary teams, advanced quality and productivity standards, and supported strategic initiatives that strengthen patient care, access, and organizational performance.

Shelly's career includes leadership roles at Providence Swedish and Virginia Mason Medical Center, where she directed surgical centers, wound care programs, operating rooms, interventional radiology, cath lab, electrophysiology, endoscopy, and sterile processing services. Her accomplishments include contributing to the strategic planning of a \$1 billion hospital tower, leading development of a new ambulatory surgery center, expanding wound care services across multiple sites, integrating advanced surgical technologies, and overseeing multimillion-dollar budgets. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Systems Leadership from Seattle University, a Master of Nursing in Leadership and Education from the University of Washington Tacoma, and is a registered nurse licensed in Washington State.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *Develop resilient teams, manage change, maintain engagement, and create a high reliability culture in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.*
- *Navigate Joint Commission findings, regulatory expectations, documentation requirements, IFU compliance, and sustain a culture of continuous readiness.*
- *Address staffing shortages, recruitment, retention, burnout, succession planning, and developing the next generation of SPD professionals.*
- *Justify capital investments, demonstrate SPD's value, manage budget constraints, and link operational performance to organizational outcomes.*

HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



4:00pm–5:00pm



EDUCATIONAL SESSION

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK: THE “REAL-WORLD” LEADERSHIP LESSONS THEY DON’T TEACH IN SCHOOL

JEFF WHITEHORN, MBA, LFACHE, ACC

Jeff Whitehorn is a healthcare leadership speaker, executive coach, and former 25- year hospital CEO who helps leaders strengthen culture, inspire teams, and lead with greater effectiveness in today's demanding healthcare environment. Drawing from his experience leading hospitals, Jeff shares practical leadership lessons, real-world stories, and proven strategies that resonate with healthcare executives, physicians, and leadership teams.

Jeff spent more than two decades as a hospital CEO with HCA Healthcare, one of the nation's largest healthcare systems. During his career he led complex healthcare organizations, developed leadership teams, and navigated the real-world challenges healthcare leaders face every day. His presentations combine relatable storytelling, humor, and actionable leadership insights that audiences can immediately apply in their organizations.

Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, and an MBA from the University of Alabama. He is a certified executive coach through the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and a certified facilitator through the Association for Talent Development (ATD). He is also a Lifetime Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

After retiring from hospital leadership in 2017, Jeff founded Whitehorn Coaching & Consulting, where he now works with healthcare leaders and organizations across the country. His passion is helping leaders grow by sharing the lessons learned from decades in the CEO seat—insights that are rarely taught in classrooms but are essential for leadership success.

Jeff is the author of *Leadership Treasure: 25 Bits of Gold Discovered From 25 Years as a CEO*.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *Anticipate the “Untaught” Obstacles: Identify the ten most common real-life leadership challenges that fall outside of traditional academic training and prepare a proactive response plan.*
- *Master the Leader’s “North Star”: Discover the #1 most important responsibility of a leader—the one task that determines the success or failure of the entire organization.*
- *Build a “Street-Smart” Toolbox: Develop a practical set of strategies and “on-the-ground” tips to maintain composure, clarity, and effectiveness when faced with unprecedented challenges.*



HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL

Las Vegas

OCTOBER 12-14, 2026

JOIN US TUESDAY NIGHT FOR DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT AT

SOLEIA

L A S V E G A S

FEATURING DJ

WARREN PEACE

6:30PM - 9:30PM

Soleia (formerly Drai's), on top of the newly rebranded Vanderpump Hotel, is a dazzling, multi-level rooftop hotspot with unparalleled views of the Las Vegas Strip. The venue's 360-degree multi-level experience is reinventing the way guests experience Las Vegas nightlife and takes entertainment to new heights.

With open bars and delicious food, come enjoy an evening of networking while overlooking the famed Bellagio fountains and the heart of the Strip. Musical mash ups from DJ Warren Peace will entertain your senses all night long: you'll hear all your favorites from Motown to Bruno Mars. Don't miss out on HCP's hottest indoor and outdoor rooftop party experience!

Shuttles will run continuously between the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino and Soleia from 6:15pm-9:30pm.

SPONSORED BY:

SIPS



HOSPITAL O.R. & SURGICAL



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14

7:00am–12:30pm

REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

Our Registration Desk will be staffed throughout the conference. If you have questions or need assistance with anything, please stop by and let us know. We are happy to help.

6:45am–7:45am

BREAKFAST (ALL ATTENDEES)

8:15am–9:15am



EDUCATIONAL SESSION

LEADING AI ADOPTION IN THE PERIOPERATIVE SPACE: FROM READY TO LASTING

KARI KOEHLER, MSN, RN

Kari Koehler, MSN, RN, is a nationally recognized healthcare executive and one of the country's most experienced practitioners in virtual nursing and AI-enabled care delivery. Across more than 20 years of clinical leadership – including four years as Chief Nursing Officer and eight years at the executive table at St. Peter's Health – she has moved virtual care from concept to measurable results, designing and scaling a virtual nursing model that delivered more than \$2M in ROI within 18 months, a 50% reduction in RN turnover, and greater than 90% frontline adoption. As well she pioneered the development of Agentic workflows with bedside nursing staff. She was named one of Becker's Hospital Review's Chief Nursing Officers to Know in 2025.

What sets Kari apart is that she has sat on the buyer's side of the table. As a CNO accountable for budget, workforce, and patient outcomes, she personally evaluated, selected, and implemented the same category of AI and virtual care solutions now reaching the perioperative space – and learned firsthand why most implementations stall not on the technology, but on the readiness and adoption work that never happened. Today, partnered with SoundMind Leadership, she advises health system executives and leaders nationwide, conducting organizational readiness assessments for virtual care and AI adoption.

A frequent speaker and advisor, including engagements with the Montana Hospital Association, the University of Utah Regional Symposium, and Bridgemark, Kari brings a rare combination of clinical credibility, operational discipline, and executive fluency. Her work helps leaders evaluate AI from a position of strength, govern vendor relationships rather than be governed by them, and turn go-live into lasting clinical and cultural change.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Assess workforce, patient, and organizational readiness for AI and virtual care in the perioperative environment before engaging a vendor.
- Apply buyer-side evaluation and governance strategies to lead AI vendor selection and rollout from the clinical driver's seat.
- Implement culture- and behavior-based strategies that move an implementation from technical go-live to sustained clinical adoption.

10:00am–12:00pm



The Hospital O.R. & Surgical Leaders and GPO Executives host the exhibit booths in this very unique **Reverse Expo**.