



# Canadian Critical Care Society

THE VOICE OF CRITICAL CARE

20 Crown Steel Dr. Unit 6  
Markham, ON L3R 9X9  
Phone: 905-415-3917  
Website:

[www.canadiancriticalcare.org](http://www.canadiancriticalcare.org)

PRESIDENT  
*Bojan Paunovic*

Dear Chair Awards Selection Committee

SECRETARY  
*Karen Burns*

We are writing this letter, as Past President and current President of the Canadian Critical Care Society (CCCS) in support of Dr. Karen Burns' application for a Chair Award in Sex and Gender Science in the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health.

TREASURER  
*Peter Brindley*

PAST PRESIDENT  
*Alison Fox-Robichaud*

Dr. Burns is a valuable member of the CCCS and the Canadian critical care community. She has held several leadership positions in the CCCS and is currently a member of both the CCCS and Canadian Critical Care Trials Group (CCCTG) executive committees. Her research has advanced knowledge in weaning critically ill patients from invasive mechanical ventilation. In addition, she has conducted primary research to characterize the unique challenges of implementing research in the intensive care unit (ICU) setting. Her studies including randomized trials, systematic reviews, national and international surveys, and large-scale observational studies have informed clinical practice and advanced research methodology.

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As the previous Scientific Director of the CCCS, Dr. Burns worked with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons to conduct a national survey to characterize gender differences in career satisfaction between men and women intensivists. She found that women intensivists had significantly lower career satisfaction and experienced significantly more frequent symptoms of burnout and incivility. She led the development of a Diversity Policy and a Code of Conduct Policy for the CCCS and the CCCTG. The Diversity Policy was the first of its kind and has been adopted by international critical care societies. Dr Burns also worked with analysts at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to evaluate whether gender differences existed across institutes in grant and personnel award funding. Dr Burns' passion for advancing patient care, research methodology, and sex and gender science are unquestionable.

In the context of the studies within her proposed research program, Dr. Burns will advance the conduct and reporting of sex and gender based analysis in critical care. Her methodology experience and passion for issues of equity and diversity make her an ideal candidate for this award. She has the skills, methodologic expertise, and leadership skills to advance sex and gender science nationally and internationally. Her work will enhance the visibility of sex and gender science in critical care and train the next generation of critical care researchers in sex and gender based analysis.

Dr. Burns is a leader within the Canadian critical care community. She is enrolled in training programs to strengthen this natural leadership ability. She actively seeks mentorship and feedback to enhance her leadership journey. The CCCS is



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committed to demonstrating national leadership in equity, diversity and inclusion and we see Dr. Burns having an integral role in developing a sustainable plan.

Generally, we see the role of the CCCS to attest to the importance of work and how we can contribute to knowledge translation. We will aid Dr. Burns in advancing sex and gender science through our meetings, communications, and on our CCCS website. We will facilitate access to key stakeholders across the country and provide feedback and support as she implements the studies within her research program. More importantly, we will contribute to dissemination of her study results to the Canadian critical care community.

The CCCS is dedicated to promoting research, education and patient care in Critical Care Medicine and we believe that transitions to critical care are research and education priorities. We believe that advocacy is an important role for the Society, and we speak vigorously for Critical Care in Canada. We have an active web and social media presence. Our official journal is the Canadian Anesthesia Journal. Ultimately, we will also incorporate key principles into various national education initiatives, including training objectives for the Royal College, continuing medical education activities, and review courses for our trainees. We will work with the research team to develop resources as their research program evolves by inviting their input and feedback.

In summary, we believe that Dr. Burns' proposed program of research has enormous potential to impact how future research in critical care is designed and implemented. Dr. Burns is a highly experienced Clinician Scientist and exceptional research methodologist with a track record of success. She is an outstanding candidate for a CIHR Chair Award in Sex and Gender Science and has the full support of the CCCS.

We strongly and without reservation support Dr. Burns' application for a CIHR Chair Award.

With Kind Regards,

Bojan Paunovic  
President, CCCS

Alison Fox-Robichaud  
Past President, CCCS