

Sepsis Conference 2026:



SEPSIS is no Picnic!

October 22, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. CT

Hurst Conference Center

1601 Campus Drive
Hurst, TX 76054



SPEAKERS

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8:05 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“Sepsis 2026: The first hour, the following 72, and the rest of their life”

Dr. Dhruvangkumar Modi

ICU Medical Director, Texas Health Presbyterian Denton

Dhruvangkumar Modi, MD, is a pulmonary and critical care physician and the ICU Medical Director at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton. He serves as Chair of Acute Care Medicine Service Line and Physician Leadership Policy Council at Texas Health Resources. He is also a core faculty and fellowship coordinator at Texas Health HEB Internal Medicine Residency program and in charge of POCUS and Simulation curriculum. He is a private practice physician working for Exceed Healthcare. He is known to be a collaborator and recently implemented host response test in early identification of sepsis at Texas Health Denton.

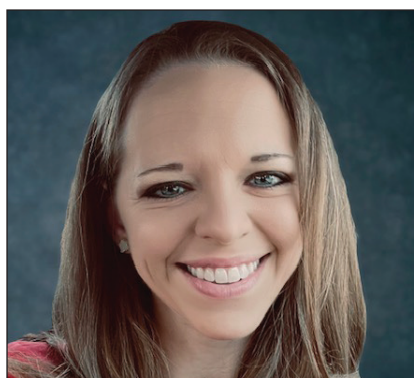
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8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

“Nutritional Support of the Septic Patient”

Kristin Guhr

Nutrition Instructor, Tarrant County College

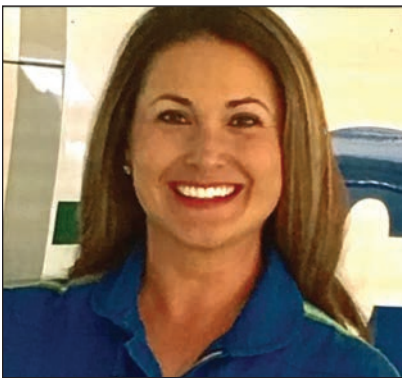
Kristin Guhr is a Registered Dietitian with 12 years of experience in clinical nutrition. She has spent six years providing bedside nutrition care, primarily serving critically ill patients in intensive care, progressive care, and medical-surgical units. In 2025, Kristin joined Tarrant County College as a Nutrition Instructor, where she is dedicated to preparing future nutrition professionals. While she enjoys teaching, her commitment to patient care led her to maintain a clinical role with Methodist Health System. She is passionate about implementing evidence-based nutrition therapy to improve patient outcomes.

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9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

“Conquering Pediatric Sepsis: It's a Team Approach”

Erin Schultz

Pediatric Critical Care Nurse,
Cook Children's Medical Center

Erin Schulz has been a pediatric critical care nurse for 25 years at Cook Children’s Medical Center. Her nursing background includes PICU, Nurse Residency Program, and Teddy Bear Transport Team. Erin is a graduate of Texas Christian University School of Nursing and completed her master’s degree in Nursing Education at Walden University in 2012. She has also serves as adjunct faculty in the nursing program at Texas Christian University. Erin rejoined Teddy Bear Transport Team at Cooks several years ago as one of their Outreach Educators. In her current role, Erin travels to hospitals, free-standing emergency departments, and facilities all over Texas and Oklahoma educating staff about pediatric and neonatal emergency care. Erin is a PALS Instructor, STABLE Instructor and NRP Instructor at Cook.

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10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

“From Data to Direction: Elevating Sepsis Programs”

Malika Qureshi, MBA, BSN, RN, CPHQ

Sepsis Program Coordinator,
JPS Health Network Center

Malika Qureshi serves as the Sepsis Program Coordinator at JPS Health Network. After 18 years in nursing, she still views healthcare through the lens she learned at the bedside, “We don’t improve care to meet a metric. We use a metric to improve care.” Known for translating complexity into action, Malika connects frontline care with data, technology, evidence, and strategy to understand problems at their source and turn gaps into change. Her approach: move with purpose, measure what matters, and build systems that give clinicians what they need to provide the exceptional care patients deserve. Whether leveraging predictive analytics, redesigning processes, or advancing sepsis strategy, success is found where it matters most: in the outcomes and experiences of patients and families. Outside of work, Malika is raising two boys, lifting heavy things, collecting entirely too many sneakers, and learning that progress lives in the process - the lessons, intentional choices, and small gains along the way change your trajectory.

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11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

“Sepsis-3 in Practice: Designing a Pre-Bill Validation Program That Improves Quality and Compliance”

**Guzel Wardell, RN, BSN, MBA,
CCDS, CCS, LSSYB**

CDI Director, Methodist Health System

Guzel Wardell is the CDI director at Methodist Health System (MHS). She brings nearly 20 years of healthcare experience, including 14 years dedicated to advancing Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI). Wardell played a key role in pioneering the CDI program within MHS, leading physician education initiatives, developing CDI training, and fostering strong collaboration with quality and coding departments. In 2017, she established a clinical DRG downgrade appeal process to support revenue integrity efforts. Wardell’s background also includes experience in utilization review (UR) and medical necessity, further strengthening documentation accuracy, regulatory compliance, and overall revenue integrity.

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12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

“Maternal Sepsis”

Dr. Jennifer Lopez

Associate Program Director, OBGYN Residency Program,
JPS Health Network

Dr. Jennifer Lopez serves as the Associate Program Director for the OBGYN Residency Program at JPS Health Network. She completed her OBGYN residency at JPS in 2022, where she developed a deep passion for women’s health and the opportunity to support women through every stage of their lives. Dr. Lopez earned her undergraduate degree from Boston University before attending Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) for medical school. She is passionate about mentorship, education and helping the next generation of physicians grow into confident and compassionate providers. Clinically, her interests include adolescent gynecology and comprehensive women’s health. She’s especially passionate about advocating for and empowering women. Dr. Lopez was born in Quito, Ecuador and raised in Keller, Texas. Outside of medicine, she loves traveling, Orange Theory Fitness, attending concerts and cheering on her favorite teams at sporting events.

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1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**“Surviving Sepsis Campaign 2026 Guideline
Updates and Sepsis Mimics”**

**Dr. Jocelyn Zee DO, FCCP, FAAFP,
SFHM**

Program Director, JPS Health Network

Dr. Jocelyn Zee is a family medicine-trained critical care physician, Professor of Medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and TCU Burnett School of Medicine, and Program Director of the JPS Transitional Year Residency Program. Dr. Zee holds additional certifications in Critical Care Echocardiography and Critical Care Ultrasonography. She is a graduate of the TCU-JPS Physician Leadership Program and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP), Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians (FAAFP), and Senior Fellow in Hospital Medicine (SFHM). She has been named a Top Doctor by Fort Worth Magazine and 360 West Magazine for multiple consecutive years. A passionate advocate for high-quality care of critically ill patients, Dr. Zee has served as Physician Champion and Co-Chair of the JPS Sepsis Committee since 2018, seeing the health system's sepsis program through its initial Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification and two successful recertification surveys.

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2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

“Kidney Injury in the Septic Patient”

Dr. Michael R. Wiederkehr

Chief of Nephrology,
Baylor University Medical Center Dallas

Dr. Michael R. Wiederkehr is an experienced nephrologist and Chief of Nephrology affiliated with Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. He specializes in internal medicine and kidney care, with nearly four decades of medical experience. He received his medical degree from the University of Zurich Medical School, Switzerland in 1988. He served his residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in 1994. He achieved his medical fellowship in nephrology from UT Southwestern in 1997. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology.