

2024

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



AACN Pioneering Spirit Award

Ruth Kleinpell

Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNAP, MCCM, is a national leader in nursing role development and the attainment of full scope of practice for advanced practice nurse practitioners.

Her decades of groundbreaking research on advanced practice nursing roles, patient outcomes in hospitalized older adults, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on intensive care unit (ICU) clinicians provide a solid base of evidence to support nurses' full scope of practice goals.

Kleinpell is associate dean for clinical scholarship, Independence Foundation chair of nursing education, and a professor at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She has been the principal investigator for many funded research projects and currently serves as project director for a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute-funded initiative aimed at promoting patient and family engagement in research in the ICU.

In 2017, she served as president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, one of only three nurses elected in the organization's 46-year history. Kleinpell is a longtime research contributor to AACN publications and served as a column writer for *American Journal of Critical Care* for more than 10 years. She is on the Critical Care board of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Institute of Medicine of Chicago board.

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