

A Unified Vision for Global Neurosurgery — Boston Declaration 2025



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Abstract

Emerging from the foundational efforts of the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (2015) and the Bogota Declaration (2016), the Boston Declaration 2025 marks a transformative milestone in the Global Neurosurgery movement. It calls for equitable, timely, and affordable neurosurgical care across all regions, especially in low-resource settings. Central to this vision is the active inclusion of Neuroscience Nurses—recognized as frontline caregivers, educators, and advocates—within the neurosurgical nexus.

The Boston Declaration uniquely positions Neuroscience Nurses as central architects in this transformation. Nurses serve as essential links across the continuum of care, contributing to frontline service delivery, capacity building, education, policy advocacy, and health system integration. Their inclusion ensures a person-centered approach rooted in lived experience and local context.

The Declaration grounded in for an expanded neurosurgical ecosystem that embraces interdisciplinary collaboration—spanning clinicians, engineers, policymakers, and communities—and encourages innovation through data, artificial intelligence, and sustainability. It underscores the urgency of building resilient care systems to address the global neurosurgical burden.

As a global blueprint for neurosurgical equity, the Boston Declaration invites all Neuroscience Nurses and professional societies to take an active role in this collective endeavour. Through shared commitment, we can drive transformative progress that reshapes global neurosurgical care and affirms the essential role of nurses in leading change.

KEYWORDS: Neuroscience Nurses in action, Leadership, Advocacy, Policy, Boston Declaration, LIMCs.

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Introduction

Inaugural Global Neuroscience Nurses (GNN) Council was created in 2021 within the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) subsection of Global Neurosurgery Forum, formerly known as Global Neurosurgery Committee. The publication of the 2015 Lancet Commission on Global Surgery highlighted the critical gap in access to basic surgical and anesthesia care, particularly in low-resource settings, where the unmet demand has led to increased morbidity and mortality from otherwise preventable conditions. Despite the evident and growing need for essential surgical services, such program development remained largely absent in global health agendas at the time (Meara et al., 2015). Similarly, the 2016 Bogota declaration (WFNS Congress Bogotá, 2022), served as the first formal initiative charting the state of the Neurosurgical care needs for capacity building, fair, and accessible care (Dewan et al, 2018), and the seeds of the Global Neurosurgery movement were formally planted. Rapid changes in technological advancement, globalization, and healthcare environment calls for action oriented, transformative, and synergistic healthcare models. The Global Neurosurgery movement aimed to address unmet needs of neurosurgical care around the globe, focusing on low-resources environment with an aim to provide timely, accessible, affordable care to all who need it and workforce capacity building (Aukrust & Chen,2023; Park KB, Johnson WD, Dempsey, 2016; Rosseau et al, 2020). In the 10th year of the Global Surgery Commission Report, the Boston Declaration was held in 2025, which is an unparalleled historical a *grassroots* initiative serves as a conduit to build the Global Neurosurgical Ecosystem

to achieve its objectives and drive the social change worldwide.

The main objectives of the Boston Declaration are to drive a unified vision for the next phase of Global Neurosurgery, propelling the expansion of the Neurosurgical ecosystem to encompass beyond the Neurosurgeons include but not limited to registered nurses (RN), policy makers, governments, industry, rehabilitation professionals, primary care providers, students, Biomedical Engineers and more. It galvanizes decisive undertaking, engagement, and commitments from all major stakeholders, and calls for a creation of a robust, systematic framework to drive enterprise-wide coordination to lead and accelerate transformative Neurosurgical care (Gupta et al, 2024; Thango et al, 2024).

The Boston Declaration with its unprecedented scope and significance provides a road map for progress in Global Neurosurgery with Neuroscience Nurses at the forefront of its delivery and implementation. The Boston Declaration set to achieving its goals by all nations embracing and applying it universally, recognizing diverse national realities, healthcare capacities, and levels of development, while respecting local policies and priorities. Nurses play a pivotal role in achieving these Global Neurosurgical goals and targets, which unite developed and developing countries.

Why Neuroscience Nurses Should Be Part of the Boston Declaration

The Boston Declaration 2025 marks a monumental step in the evolution of Global Neurosurgery. As the world unites to address the growing need for accessible, affordable, and

quality neurosurgical care, Nurses, especially Neuroscience Nurses, are positioned to be critical drivers of this transformation. Their inclusion in the Boston Declaration is essential for the following reasons:

1. Frontline Care Providers in Neurosurgical Settings

Nurses are often the first point of contact for patients undergoing neurosurgical procedures. Nurses are the only healthcare providers who are with individuals 24/7, and they are integral to the patient care continuum, from preoperative assessments to postoperative recovery (Inshutiyimana et al, 2025; Savion, Porat, & Shoshanet, 2013). Their involvement in the Boston Declaration ensures that patient-centered care remains at the forefront of the Global Neurosurgical movement.

2. Advocates for Accessible and Affordable Care

The Boston Declaration calls for a shift towards accessible and equitable neurosurgical care worldwide, especially in low resource settings (Gupta et al, 2024). Nurses are vital in advocating for and delivering care to underserved populations, ensuring that healthcare delivery is not only available but also equitable. They can actively participate in addressing the unmet needs of populations in both developed and developing nations, bridging gaps in care delivery (Dossey, Rosa, & Beck, 2019).

3. Unique Role in Capacity Building

Neuroscience Nurses play a crucial role in

the capacity-building efforts outlined in the Boston Declaration. By contributing their expertise in education, training, and mentorship, Nurses help build a skilled workforce that can meet the growing demand for neurosurgical care, as well as prepare local Nursing leadership and advocacy roles especially in resource-limited environments. Nurses can help lead educational initiatives and develop comprehensive training curriculum taking into account for the local culture and available resources that elevate the global standardization of care.

4. Essential to the Success of Collaborative Models

The Boston Declaration emphasizes the need for transformative, action-oriented, and synergistic healthcare models. Nurses have long been champions of interdisciplinary collaboration, working alongside surgeons, physicians, and other healthcare professionals. Their participation in shaping and implementing these models ensures that the care delivery system is both holistic and comprehensive (Ohri et al, 2022).

5. Support for Global Neurosurgical Ecosystem

The Boston Declaration calls for the expansion of the Global Neurosurgical ecosystem beyond the workforce alone, and nurses are central to this expansion along with many other disciplines. Their input helps broaden the definition of the neurosurgical community, ensuring that the needs of patients are met in a multidimensional way that incorporates nursing expertise in patient management, capacity building, education, and advocacy.

6. Advancing Global Social Change

The Boston Declaration aims to achieve social change through the improvement of Neurosurgical care worldwide. Nurses, as trusted healthcare providers (ANA, 2021), are uniquely positioned to lead this change by advocating for social justice in healthcare, ensuring that every individual, regardless of socioeconomic status, political position, proximity to conflict or geographical location, has access to the life-saving benefits of neurosurgical care.

7. Recognizing the Power of Nursing Leadership

Nurses have demonstrated leadership in healthcare settings across the globe, from guiding care delivery to influencing policy. The Boston Declaration recognizes the value of Nursing leadership in advancing healthcare outcomes and acknowledges that Neuroscience Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of its goals, also emphasized in Peshawar Statement (WFNS Global Neurosurgery Conference, 2024). Their expertise, leadership, research skills, and dedication is vital in driving forward the Declaration's vision.

8. Commitment to Universal Application with Local Context

While the Boston Declaration calls for a universal approach to neurosurgical care, it also recognizes the diverse needs, policies, and healthcare capacities of different nations (Dewan et al, 2018). Nurses, with their global network and experience in diverse settings (ANA, 2024; Inshutiymana et al., 2025) are uniquely equipped to adapt the principles of

the Boston Declaration to local contexts, ensuring that the framework is relevant and achievable across varying national realities. Nurses are the indispensable to the Boston Declaration in which they play a critical role in achieving the movement's goals by contributing their expertise, leadership, and commitment to accessible, equitable, and high-quality neurological care for all.

Call to Action All Nurses: Join the Effort for the Boston Declaration

As we embark on an unprecedented moment in Global Neurosurgery with the launch of the *Boston Declaration 2025*, we call on all Neuroscience Nurses, as well as local and global Neuroscience Societies, to join us in this transformative movement. The Boston Declaration is not just a framework for advancing Neurosurgical care—it is a **commitment** for **all stakeholders** to unite and build a future where accessible, affordable, and high-quality Neurosurgical care is available to all, regardless of location or resources. Nurses are essential in shaping a future where every patient, everywhere, has access to the life-saving care they need. The success of the Boston Declaration depends on the active participation and leadership of Nurses on the global stage.

Why Your Participation as Nurses Matters

Neuroscience Nurses are at the forefront of patient care in neurosurgical settings. Your expertise, compassion, and leadership are essential in shaping the future of Global Neurosurgery. By joining the effort to support the Boston Declaration, you will play an active role in:

Advancing Accessible Care: Ensuring that neurosurgical services reach underserved and low-resource populations, making life-saving care equitable and available to everyone.

Driving Global Capacity Building: Contributing to the training and education of a skilled Neurosurgical workforce, while fostering the next generation of healthcare professionals in Neuroscience care.

Co-Creating Synergistic Models of Care:

Leading the charge in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, where nursing leadership help shaping the holistic care models that work in diverse environments.

Championing Social Change: Advocating for justice in healthcare, empowering communities worldwide, and ensuring that every patient, no matter where they live, has access to the care they deserve.

A Unified Call for Collective Action

The Boston Declaration is not a solitary initiative—it is a shared commitment that requires the collective strength and voice of all stakeholders including Neuroscience Nurses and Neuroscience Societies. This movement transcends borders, disciplines, and resources. By **uniting**, we can break the barriers to Global Neurological care, empower local healthcare teams, and drive progress in both developed and developing countries.

Whether you're a practicing Neuroscience Nurse, a Nurse leader, or a member of a National or International Neuroscience Societies, your involvement is crucial to realizing the goals of the Boston Declaration.

Together, we can:

- Support Global Neurosurgery objectives,
- Ensure that Neuroscience Nurses are at the forefront of care delivery and leadership,
- Advocate for policies that improve patient access to neurosurgical services and patient outcomes.
- Contribute to building a sustainable, equitable, and innovative Global Neurosurgical ecosystem.

Join the Movement Today

Global Neuroscience Nurses (GNN) Council and World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN) collaborative invite all Neuroscience Nurses, and the societies that represent them, to come together in this transformative initiative. Add your voice, expertise, and leadership to a movement that will reshape the future of neuroscience and Neuroscience Nursing. Together, we can make the Boston Declaration a reality for patients, healthcare professionals, and communities worldwide.

Be a part of the *Change*. Stand with the *Boston Declaration*.

Interested in joining — contact us at globalneurosciencenurses@gmail.com

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