

2025

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



AACN Pioneering Spirit Award

Thomas S. Ahrens

Thomas S. Ahrens, PhD, RN, FAAN, is a leader in critical care and technology application, particularly related to sepsis, hemodynamic monitoring and capnography. He is chief scientist and learning officer of Viven Health, an interactive web-based program designed to help the public develop safe health practices.

Ahrens has published extensively, including five books and over 100 papers. His book “Hemodynamic Waveform Analysis” is considered by many to be the finest clinical guide on this topic, and “Essentials of Oxygenation” was an *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year. He is a well-known speaker on critical care topics for national and international audiences, and his NTI sessions have been among some of the most popular.

The Society of Critical Care Medicine awarded Ahrens a Presidential Citation for his contributions to the organization. He is also a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. In 2006, the academy selected him as an Edge Runner, an award that recognizes nurse-designed models of care. He served as AACN’s representative to the Surviving Sepsis Campaign from 2006 to 2008, and in 2008, he was awarded AACN’s Flame of Excellence for his sustained contributions to acute and critical care nursing.

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