

AARC Strategic Direction 2026–2028

Vision

The AARC will be the leading organization to advance the profession of respiratory care worldwide.

Strategy

The AARC will serve its members and engage, elevate, advocate, and educate the respiratory care profession

Mission

The AARC is the foremost professional association promoting respiratory therapists.



ENGAGE

Maximize membership value and engagement



ELEVATE

Expand influence and impact of RTs



ADVOCATE

Advance health policy and legislation



EDUCATE

Develop and advance the RT workforce

OBJECTIVES

- 1A. Foster leadership skills at the chartered affiliates level through tools, resources, and educational offerings.
- 1B. Effectively communicate the AARC message.
- 1C. Optimize, develop, and implement value-added benefits, programs and resources with relevance to diverse needs of members and which incentivize long-term membership.
- 1D. Cultivate a sense of belonging for all members.

OBJECTIVES

- 2A. Showcase professional impact through patient experiences and quantified data.
- 2B. Develop tools and resources to support front-line leaders.
- 2C. Continue producing evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines based on the needs and trends of the profession.
- 2D. Highlight varied career paths in the profession.
- 2E. Examine and optimize leadership structure for AARC publications.
- 2F. Promote value of Apex Designation recognition and participation.
- 2G. Identify key research priorities and advance respiratory therapists as researchers.

OBJECTIVES

- 3A. Enhance partnerships and professional collaborations to advance health policy strategy.
- 3B. Partner with federal agencies to monitor and address RT workforce shortages.
- 3C. Strengthen AARC and VHA partnership to expand work within the Veteran population.
- 3D. Support state legislative adoption of APRT licensure and program expansion.
- 3E. Continue developing federal and state legislative policies that advance respiratory therapy initiatives, such as compact licensure, RRT to entry, and the SOAR Act.
- 3F. Champion high-quality respiratory care through recognition programs, potentially including accreditation programs.

OBJECTIVES

- 4A. Advance RT education and research through scholarships and grants.
- 4B. Develop micro credentials to expand career opportunities and enhancement.
- 4C. Enhance AARC professional development programs, such as leadership, research, and quality assurance and improvement programs.
- 4D. Enhance tools and resources to support faculty and clinical educators.
- 4E. Recruit and support RT students and graduates through professional development and leadership opportunities (e.g., NextGen RT Network, volunteer opportunities, career path resources, etc.).
- 4F. Continue producing high-level educational content relevant to the RT professional's needs and career journey.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Increase membership by at least 3% while maintaining 90% retention.



Increase output from research grants and awards.



Increase RT advocacy engagement by at least 10%.



Drive policy changes to improve reimbursement and expand patient access to respiratory care.



Increase the number of graduates from accredited RT programs by at least 3%.



Increase the number of organizations with an Apex designation by at least 25%.