



member SPOTLIGHT



Tener Goodwin Veenema, PhD, MPH, MS, RN, FAAN

*Contributing Scholar, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Professor, Nursing and Public Health in the Department of International
Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

“Gob-smacked,” is an unusual expression, but one that perfectly describes the sensation you come away with when speaking to Dr. Tener Veenema. Her contributions to the nursing profession, public health, and national security are astounding. Genuine and authentic, she shared how humbled she was to be asked to keynote ALSN’s 2020 virtual conference; A Look Back to Move Forward.

Dr. Veenema is an expert in disaster nursing and public health emergency preparedness. She is a contributing scholar with John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is also President & CEO of Tener Consulting, guiding health security policy. The motivation to maintain a rigorous

schedule due to numerous affiliations is grounded in the need to discover and share science that nurses in any health care role can use.

As a child, Dr. Veenema’s basement was a hospital for her many “Barbie®” dolls. She attributes their cures to the voracious reading she did, and continues to do. “My whole life I saw the opportunities that challenges posed, and I would try to figure things out.” Carried through to her professional life she seeks her next project with great curiosity asking, “How do nurses save lives, and what is our role in improving public health?”

This sense of child-like wonder will underscore her key-note presentation. In looking back, Dr. Veenema sees fascinating considerations from the Spanish Flu of 1918 that are still relevant today. The idea of staying outdoors, social distancing, and wearing masks, is just as relevant today to help contain the virus. In looking forward, she will share the importance, of what we have learned from March, 2020 to now. Dr. Veenema will highlight scientifically-based evidence, which she believes, “can only strengthen our response to this fascinating by horrifying pandemic.”

This belief in science and evidence echoes the mission of ALSN. Foundationally, the organization values and showcases research for nurse leaders. In the case of COVID-19, Dr. Veenema believes nurse leaders are held to a higher ethical standard. The harmonious nature of her beliefs and those of the ALSN membership will prove to be an astounding, “gob-smaking” keynote address that the membership will not want to miss.



Which ALSN member do you think we should highlight?
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