

NURSING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Transforming patient care through professional practice

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A newsletter
from the office
of the Executive
Chief Nursing
Officer

Marilyn Dubree,
MSN, RN,
NE-BC, FAAN

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KEADY NAMED SYSTEM CNO

Following an extensive national search, Karen Keady, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive with the University of Rochester Medical Center, has been named System Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Keady will join VUMC on July 1.

Keady succeeds VUMC's Executive Chief Nursing Officer, Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, who is retiring from her responsibilities as Executive Chief Nursing Officer but will remain with VUMC in a part-time role.

Keady will report to C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Health System Officer, and will be responsible for overseeing all nursing operations for the Vanderbilt Health system.

"I am delighted to welcome Dr. Keady to VUMC to serve in this critical role. Karen joins us with an outstanding reputation of advocacy for the nurses she served at the University of Rochester," said Pinson. "The contributions of our incredible, caring nurses are beyond measure. It was vital to select the right individual to succeed Marilyn. I want to express my gratitude to the members of the search committee

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In this issue, I am pleased to announce my successor in the system chief nursing officer position, Karen Keady, PhD, RN, NEA-BC. Karen, who will join us in July, comes to VUMC from University of Rochester Medical Center, where she is Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive.

Karen was selected after an extensive national search and is an outstanding nursing leader in the academic and clinical settings. Let us all give her a very warm Vanderbilt welcome.

I am happy to say that I will not be leaving, but rather assuming a part-time role at

VUMC. I am assisting in all aspects of this transition.

Also in this issue, you will read about the latest recipients of The DAISY Award. Congratulations to all these remarkable nurses. Lastly, please save the dates for several upcoming Nurses Week events including our inaugural Nursing Grand Rounds. A full listing is inside.

Enjoy this issue,

tee for their wisdom and outstanding work to identify Dr. Keady.”

Jenny Slayton, DNP, RN, Senior Vice President for Quality, Safety and Risk Prevention, led the search committee who identified Keady from a number of distinguished candidates.

“Karen is an energetic, passionate leader committed to nursing and the continued advancement of Vanderbilt Health. She has exceptional experience in leading nursing in the academic and community setting. She uses innovative approaches to nursing and partnering with physicians and care teams across the patient continuum and in the community,” said Slayton.

Other members of the search committee include Megan Cockrum, RN, Jon Howell, RN, LaSheryl Brown, BSN, RN, Marilyn Smith, DNP, MSN, RN, Deonna Taylor, PhD, MSN, Laura Beth Brown, MSN, RN, Ronald Alvarez, MD, MBA, Donald Brady, MD, Cecelia Theobald, MD, MPH, Pamela Jeffries, PhD, RN, and Margaret Rush, MD, MMHC.

Keady is joining VUMC after six years as the University of Rochester Medical Center’s (URMC) nursing leader. At URMC, Keady led initiatives to redesign nursing care delivery



Keady

models and wellness and resiliency programs. She also implemented creative incentive plans, as well as new nursing education and professional development opportunities. URMC’s Strong Memorial Hospital was just awarded its fifth consecutive Magnet designation.

“The search committee reviewed a variety of strong candidates for the position of System Chief Nursing Officer. Dr. Keady stood out as a leader with experience and knowledge that will help VUMC grow as it addresses the opportunities and challenges of today’s health care environment,” said Pamela R. Jeffries, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH, Dean of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, who served on the search committee. “Her experience in the academic medical setting, collaborative style and support for nurses make her a great partner for the School of Nursing. I look for-

ward to working with her on a variety of initiatives.”

Keady spent the majority of her career at Johns Hopkins University where she steadily advanced through the health system from her first role as a clinical nurse in the Neuroscience Critical Care Unit. After a series of successive promotions Keady was serving as Vice President of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer for Johns Hopkins’ Howard County General Hospital before joining URMC.

Keady earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Towson State College of Nursing and later earned a Master of Science in Nursing and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Vanderbilt team. The organizational commitment to innovation in health care and dedication to providing excellence in nursing care is truly inspiring. The Vanderbilt mission and priorities align perfectly with my own values. The opportunity to be part of a team that is constantly pushing the boundaries of health care while upholding the highest standards is very exciting. I am looking forward to working in such a dynamic environment with great people,” said Keady.

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Angela Adetunji, RN

Unit: Medical Center East Recovery

Entity: Vanderbilt University Hospital

From the nomination: “I cannot say enough positive and affirming things about Ms. Angie. Wow! God’s gift to the nursing profession. Smart, knowledgeable, insightful, capable, compassionate, down to earth and, most importantly, kind. I am so grateful that I was assigned to her on PostOp Day Zero. She gave me all her attention — no request was ignored, she anticipated things I didn’t know I needed and she brought a smile and encouraging word every time she walked into the room. ... She is an incredible nursing professional and an exemplary human being.”



Maddy Barber, BSN, RN

Unit: Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Entity: Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

From the nomination: “Our sweet girl passed away. Even though the situation was horrible and unfortunate, it couldn’t have gone better. Maddy was so compassionate and caring the entire time. I personally cope with dark humor and she was very on beat with me and I loved that. ... She answered every question we had with a clear and loving response. She explained the situation and everything that was going on so well and what to expect. There were moments where she caught us, the parents, alone and asked multiple times if we were OK, if we need anything, and if we ever wanted time alone with our daughter, that she could make that happen and we don’t have to worry. She was very attentive to reaction, emotion, and overall room vibes. If I ever have to go through death again, myself or another loved one, I would want to have Maddy by my side.”

Rhonda Bryant, LPN

Unit: Inpatient

Entity: Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital

From the nomination: “My husband came to same-day surgery for an arteriogram. He was very nervous because he does not go to the doctor often. Nurse Rhonda went out of her way to make him feel at ease, as she could tell he was extremely nervous. She came into the room many times keeping us updated about where we were in the process and what the next steps were. These updates and checking in helped my husband feel much more at ease than I ever thought was possible.”



SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Joseph Chacon, RN

Unit: Neurological Intensive Care Unit

Entity: Vanderbilt University Hospital

From the nomination: “Joseph was an amazing nurse to my brother the entire shift (7-7). He showed true care and compassion and made my brother and me top priority. He was gentle and kind and allowed my brother every bit of dignity that he could. ... We have been here 14 days so far and while we have been treated very well, Joseph truly went above and beyond and could tell this was something that he does during each shift he works. He is an amazing nurse. There were so many things that he did throughout the night that I cannot begin to list them all, but I can say he exhibited the absolute best nursing care that I have ever witnessed. ... He is truly a gem within your hospital.”



Christian Haefele, RN

Unit: Vanderbilt Transplant Center

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: “To say Christian is outstanding would be merely touching the surface. I am sure he has many, many patients, but he makes the both of us feel like his sole mission is to give (my husband) extraordinary care. Christian knows that a heart transplant can change people in many ways, and he also knows that every patient is different. Instead of opening up a textbook and treating him like any other person, he allows (my husband) to talk through his struggles and concerns. He knows my husband is a proud man who has struggled with many setbacks. He approaches him with dignity, respect, putting him at ease when nothing else seems to help.”

Shana Parks, RN

Unit: Colorectal Surgery Clinic

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: “Shana received a triage call about a patient reporting high ileostomy output and he needed help. In her thorough triage and assessment, the nurse was able to determine the patient was not dehydrated, but possibly had high ostomy output and did have some medication changes that potentially needed to be made. ... The nurse thought creatively and saw the patient did have an ER close to him, but his clinical picture was not emergent. Instead, she called the local ER and asked to speak to a charge nurse. She explained the situation to the charge nurse and asked if they had a disposable handheld urinal they could give to the patient, and she could then teach him how to measure output from the ileostomy. ... This represents not just the kindness but the creativity and relentless pursuit of excellent patient care from our Vanderbilt nurses!”



SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



Chelsey Scott, RN

Unit: Intensive Care Unit

Entity: Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital

From the nomination: “My grandfather was admitted to the ICU in January 2024 with Covid pneumonia and septic shock. At one point during his stay, he was on a ventilator. During that time, Chelsey Scott was one of his nurses. Not only did she provide him with the utmost quality care and respect, she also provided us, his family, with amazing care. She allowed him to have dignity during a time that he was sedated by making sure to care for simple needs like washing his face and combing his hair for him. ... She embodies the heart of a caregiver. She provided calmness during our storm. Her attention to detail and ability to handle the difficult task of being an ICU nurse while also being compassionate to her patients and their families are why she should be the DAISY Award recipient.”



WANT TO NOMINATE A NURSE?

Scan the QR code or go to www.VUMCDAISY.com.



SAVE THE DATES - NURSES WEEK EVENTS

Inaugural Nursing Grand Rounds, “*Fundamental Care: Creating the Value Proposition for Nursing.*” Speaker Devin Carr, DNP, RN, RRT, ACNS-BC, NEA-BC, CPSS, Chief Nursing Officer, MaineHealth - Southern Region, 8 a.m. May 6, Light Hall 214, live stream available.

Blessing of Hands, at each entity, scheduled with your Spiritual Care team or chaplain, see posted times in your area or units. Alternative times may be scheduled on units.

Nursing Honors - Awards are being done locally; photos and videos will be posted on the Nursing website.

Virtual Celebration of Nursing - 8 a.m. May 28

Nurses Week Poster Sessions - Please check with specific entity for virtual poster session times.
Vanderbilt Bedford County Hospital, May 8, VBCH Classroom
Vanderbilt University Hospital, May 7-10, VUH Second Floor Lobby
Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics, May 6-10, Vanderbilt One Hundred Oaks
Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital, May 8, Cafeteria (first floor up from main entrance)
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, May 6, Second floor in front of Seacrest Studios
Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital, May 13, Cedars Cafe
Vanderbilt Behavioral Health, May 9, Conference area, Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital

For more information, please visit www.vanderbiltnursing.com.