

NURSING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Transforming patient care through professional practice

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A newsletter
from the office
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Chief Nursing
Officer

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BOOT CAMP FOCUSES ON CRITICAL CARE

About 250 nurse practitioners and physician associates nationwide gathered over Zoom Sept. 8-9 for the 10th annual ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp, the second consecutive year for the event to be virtual, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event, organized by the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of Advanced Practice, is an annual opportunity for critical care nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician associates (PAs) to receive specialized critical care training to improve patient care.

Unlike last year's event, which focused mostly on COVID-19-related topics, this year's boot camp covered a variety of areas, including acute renal failure, acute hepatic failure, antibiotic therapy and ECMO — in addition to COVID. The boot camp is organized by VUMC's own NPs and PAs, who start planning the event each year as soon as the last one ends. Janna Landsperger, MSN, RN, ACNP, chaired this year's boot camp committee.

"We are thankful for the time and dedication of all the boot camp faculty," Landsperger said. "Their commitment to continuing education helps providers across the country improve patient care."

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Welcome to Fall! It is so good to share this new season with you. As an organization, Vanderbilt is very interested in your wellness. To this end, we have developed a quick, five-minute VUMC Staff Wellness Check-in. This survey is an opportunity for our leaders to hear from staff members on what resources are working to help cope with the recent COVID-19 surge and what additional support is needed to help us continue to care for our patients and families.

I encourage you to participate by selecting the personalized link in the email invitation you have received. The survey is open

through Oct. 12.

In this issue, you will read about our latest ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp, which brings together nurses from around the nation. I am also excited to announce the latest group of recipients of The DAISY Award. Thank you for continuing to inspire me with your work through challenging times, and please be assured of my support.

Enjoy this issue,

Participants, mostly recent graduates and early career professionals, joined from all over the country, and their feedback helps inspire topics. Boot camp faculty include critical care NPs, PAs and physicians from multiple departments at Vanderbilt who volunteer their time as well as professionals from institutions nationwide. Twenty of the faculty members were from Vanderbilt.

“The ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp is the premier conference for advanced practice critical care providers in the United States,” said Todd Rice, MD, MSc, associate professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and one of the presenters at the boot camp. “It combines didactic with simulation and hands-on learning in all facets of critical care. The content is cutting edge, and the speakers are international experts. The topics that are taught are up to date, often controversial, and the boot camp does an amazing job of presenting the available data and the experts’ views on the data.”

Longtime organizer April Kapu, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, recently appointed

associate dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN), said the original plan for the conference was a hybrid of a virtual sessions combined with a limited in-person event. But organizers pivoted to a fully virtual event over the summer as COVID-19 cases climbed locally. Speakers were based in a conference room in Medical Center North.

Kapu, formerly associate nursing officer for VUMC Advanced Practice and director of the Office of Advanced Practice, said she missed seeing people in person, but the virtual format offered several advantages. Participants could chat live and ask questions of speakers during the sessions. It was also an opportunity to network with colleagues after another extraordinary year.

“There was substantial moral support for one another, because every single person who attended had been taking care of COVID patients,” Kapu said. “Everyone knew what everyone else had been going through, even though their hospital may be across the country.”

Each year, the conference honors the late Arthur Wheeler, MD, who was med-

ical director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit and helped launch and support the event.

“Art’s commitment to education and improving patient care will never be forgotten,” Landsperger said.

VUMC is a national leader in advanced practice nursing. The Boot Camp is one of the only conferences in the country that provides focused education for critical care NPs and PAs. There are more than 325,000 NPs and 150,000 PAs in the United States today, and more than 1,400 advanced practice providers are at Vanderbilt. These clinicians are educated in nationally accredited programs, clinically trained and board certified in their area of practice.

“Vanderbilt is a national destination for advanced practice professionals, and the boot camp is our opportunity to share our expertise,” said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer. “Our critical care nurse practitioners and physician colleagues have been an essential part of caring for patients and families during these challenging times. I am so proud to witness their extraordinary leadership.”

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Tyler Eads, BSN, RN

Unit: Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

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



From the nomination: "Tyler went above and beyond in the care of our daughter. This was our third ICU stay and we've been in and out of the hospital for months, and Tyler's care meant so much to us exhausted, concerned parents. Three really important components stood out: his kindness and gentleness toward our baby during every interaction/intervention, the friendly and respectful way he treated us parents, and his proactive and consistent interaction with and escalation to the rest of the care team."



Virginia Freeman, RN

Unit: Vanderbilt Heart & Vascular Institute - Shelbyville

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: "My father suffered a massive MI (heart attack) and developed severe HF (heart failure). It is like walking a tightrope, so to speak, trying to maintain a healthy fluid level. The last time my dad was fluid overloaded, Dr. (Pete) Fong was out of town. His nurse, Virginia, said that she would speak with Dr. Fong and call back with instructions. Virginia called at 7 p.m. from the office. She had stayed in the office until all calls were returned, as promised. This is above and beyond expectation. Anyone else would have put off return calls until the next day. Virginia is someone with a moral code and heart of gold. She treats my dad like her family."

Ronda Mathes, LPN

Unit: Franklin Walk-in Clinic

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics



From the nomination: "Rhonda was my nurse when I came into the walk-in clinic last week and I knew right away that she was a special lady. She is overflowing with kindness and empathy for patients and absolutely loves what she does. I have severe white coat anxiety, and had put off coming in for a serious issue I was having for over a week. Rhonda was so comforting and eased all my anxieties; she even made giving blood a totally painless and, dare I say, almost pleasant experience with her kind words and interesting conversation."

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



Rebecca Jackson Plowman, BSN, RN
Unit: Medical Intensive Care Unit
Entity: Vanderbilt University Hospital

From the nomination: “My husband spent seven weeks in the care of an amazing team of MICU nurses, NPs, and physicians. They treated him like family, cheered when his labs improved, laughed at his goofy jokes, and listened when he told them he was scared. During the last two days of his short life, I met Rebecca Jackson. She welcomed me into her bedside care, encouraged me to warm the purple out of his cold fingers, allowed me to share stories of our 20-year marriage, play some of his favorite songs, and sing to him until the moment he took his final breath... Her words gave me hope, peace, and the ability to give Jason the dignified death he deserved.”

Jamie Runions, RN
Unit: Adult CSL, Team D
Entity: Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital

From the nomination: “This was the fourth time that I have been hospitalized at the Vanderbilt Psych Hospital ... Nurse Jamie treated me as if I had never left in the first place. Nurse Jamie treated me with the utmost respect and compassion. She made me smile and laugh. Every time that Nurse Jamie came to work, she would always ask me how my day went. Not only did she treat me this way, but everyone that she came into contact with as well. Nurse Jamie is a very special individual.”



Camryn Sartory, BSN, RN
Unit: Neurological Intensive Care Unit
Entity: Vanderbilt University Hospital

From the nomination: “The doctors tried everything, but my mom was still in a coma and would never be able to interact with anyone again. She was in a vegetative state and I, as my mom's only child and with no spouse, was put in the hard position of choosing whether or not and when to withdraw care. ... Camryn made herself someone I felt like I could rely on for anything that I needed while my mom was there. She was so friendly, kind and caring. She made a very intense and difficult situation a little more manageable, and for that I'm so grateful.”



WANT TO NOMINATE A NURSE?

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

