

April 2020



A newsletter
from the office of
the Executive
Chief Nursing
Officer

Marilyn Dubree,
MSN, RN,
NE-BC

Kapu named president-elect of AANP

April Kapu, DNP, APRN, associate nursing officer for VUMC Advanced Practice has been named president-elect of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Kapu, who is also professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN), will begin her term June 28. The AANP is the largest organization of nurse practitioners in the country, with more than 106,000 members.

"I owe a great debt of gratitude to my nursing and physician mentors here at Vanderbilt, as well as to the amazing advanced practice professionals I am privileged to work with each and every day," Kapu said.

"Our work here at VUMC has been nationally recognized, highlighting the value of APRN practice and strong advanced practice infrastructure. As president-elect for AANP, I will work to improve national programs, conferences, and initiatives supporting clinical practice, education, research and leadership in advanced practice."

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It is difficult to even begin to thank the incredible nursing community at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for the innovation, dedication and compassion you've shown during the COVID-19 crisis. Our nurses have been in the forefront of the response, preparing for patients for months before the first positive patient arrived, caring for patients as they have arrived and evolving to meet fast-changing needs.

In this issue, we recognize several nurses who have taken leading roles. Congratulations to April Kapu, who was just named president-elect of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. We recog-

nize our certified nurses, who came together in March for the Certified Nurses Day photo in the days before social distancing.

Lastly, we recognize the first quarter recipients of The DAISY Award, who continue to show us the essence of compassionate care.

Meanwhile, please continue the nursing excellence that represents Vanderbilt Nursing. I am so grateful to every VUMC nurse for all that you are doing during this challenging time.

Thank you,

KAPU NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF AANP
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Nurse practitioners and their advanced practice colleagues, physician assistants, make up more than 300,000 clinicians nationwide and more than 1,200 at Vanderbilt alone.

These clinicians are educated in nationally accredited programs, clinically trained and board certified in their area of practice.

"This is a major honor that recognizes April's leadership and VUMC's strong position as a center of excellence for advanced practice nurses," said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, VUMC Executive Chief Nursing Officer.

"April is a tireless advocate



April Kapu

forward to the good work that she will do as president of this prestigious organization. The country needs advanced practice professionals more than ever as we navigate the COVID-19 situation, and April is the right person to lead."

Kapu joined Vanderbilt more than 15 years ago and received her master's and doctorate degrees at VUSN.

for nurses to practice at the very top of their license and a treasured colleague. I look forward

"I can't think of a better leader for AANP than April," said Linda Norman, DSN, RN, VUSN dean and Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. "I've worked with her as a colleague and as an alumna. She's an articulate, passionate advocate for advanced practice nursing, with a vision for the role of APRNs in health care policy and practice.

"Her critical care and leadership experience will be invaluable as AANP and other stakeholders evaluate the future role of nurse practitioners in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis."



Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer joined certified nurses from throughout VUMC for the annual Certified Nurses Day photo. (photo taken before social distancing measures)

VUMC to acquire Nashville location of Baby+Company

To provide additional maternity care and a full spectrum of birthing experience options for patients, Vanderbilt University Medical Center has announced plans to acquire the Nashville location of Baby+Company, a freestanding birthing center that emphasizes a family-centered, low-intervention approach to delivery for uncomplicated pregnancies.

The center, whose operations will be transferred to VUMC on May 1, is the only licensed birthing center in Tennessee. The acquisition will make VUMC the only academic medical center in the country with an accredited out-of-hospital birthing center.

“Vanderbilt is a leader in innovative health care offerings. Our collaboration with Baby+Company has been very successful, and we are excited to bring the birth center care model into our current offerings for women’s health services,” said C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Health System Officer for VUMC.

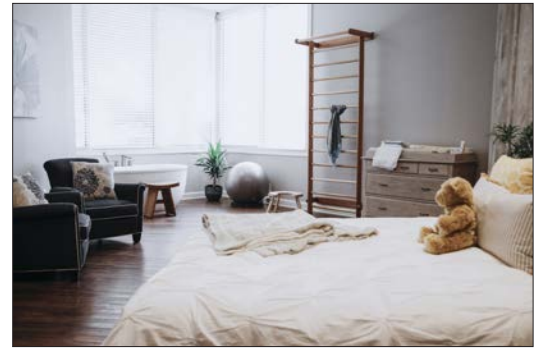
Conveniently located on West End Avenue, Baby+Company lies only 1.5 miles from Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital, providing expectant mothers

with peace of mind knowing highly specialized intervention is quickly accessible if the pregnancy develops complications or becomes high-risk.

Because the Nashville location of Baby+Company has been operated in collaboration with VUMC since it opened in August 2015, patients will continue to receive the same high-quality care delivered by Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) faculty-certified nurse midwives, who currently staff the center.

The center specializes in highly personalized clinical care and a unique birthing experience with comfortable birthing suites, deep soaking tubs for water births, family rooms, a full kitchen and a living room area for families. Clinical services include prenatal, labor and delivery, postpartum and newborn care as well as annual exams, pre-conception and birth control.

“With the acquisition of the Baby+Company birthing center, VUMC Women’s Health will now be able to offer our pregnant patients more options to choose the high-quality maternity and delivery experi-



Baby+Company on West End Avenue.

ence that best fits their needs and desires,” said Ronald Alvarez, MD, Betty and Lonnie S. Burnett Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at VUMC and chair of the department.

Vanderbilt has been on the cutting edge of midwifery-led care since the 1990s, operating the first nurse midwife practice in Nashville and becoming one of the largest training programs in the country.

“VUMC and VUSN have been leading the way for high quality midwifery care for the women and families of Middle Tennessee and training the next generation of certified nurse midwives,” said Pam Jones, DNP, senior associate dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships for VUSN. “The addition of the Baby+Company birth center will provide the full continuum of delivery options and will serve as a national model for excellence.”

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



Jason West, RN

Unit: Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)

Entity: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital



From the nomination: “Jason took excellent care of my father when he was admitted with a fatal heart attack. For three days in a row, Jason was our personal angel. It is obvious he has lots of experience in intense medical scenarios, and I was not surprised to learn he was an EMT prior to becoming an RN. ... I hope the unit realizes what a wonderful asset Jason is and recognizes his heart, his expertise, and his service. I honestly cannot think of anything more Jason could possibly have done for my father or our family. He was an angel to us.”



Elizabeth (Liz) Rice, RN

Unit: Cancer Clinic

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Clinics

From the nomination: “I had my first CT scan after starting treatment at the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center. I was hopeful we would learn my pelvic sarcoma was shrinking. We had just gotten home from a long day at the hospital when we got a call from our oncologist’s nurse, Liz. While she was not at liberty to tell us about the size of the tumor, she needed to inform us that the radiologist discovered a blood clot (DVT) that needed to be addressed ASAP with Lovenox injections. With rush hour traffic and bad weather we would not be able to get back to the hospital before the Vandy pharmacy closed. She sent a prescription to our local pharmacy, but she felt bad that she would not be able to instruct my wife on how to administer the shots. She called back minutes later to tell us she could come to our house on her way home from work if we would like. ... Liz’s compassionate act was just the mercy we needed that day.”

Sarah Tolan, BSN, RN

Unit: Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU)



From the nomination: “When our son was scheduled to have open heart surgery for his complex heart condition in November 2018, we knew it would be tedious and risky. We knew there might be complications, which could extend his expected two-week stay to four weeks or even more. Never could we have anticipated what actually came to pass: 338 days inpatient in the pediatric cardiac ICU. ... I cannot tell you one story about Sarah Tolan because this woman is our Vanderbilt story. She is one of the reasons our son is alive and home with us now, and one of the only reasons he endured the trauma of the past year with a smile on his face. We could never thank Sarah enough for what she’s done for us.”