

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

NEW CNO NAMED FOR MONROE CARELL

Gretchen K.D. McCullough, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, has been named chief nursing officer of Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

McCullough, who will start March 6, comes to Vanderbilt from OHSU Health: Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon, where she serves as associate chief nursing officer for Women's and Children's Services. She will succeed current Monroe Carell CNO Kathie Krause, MSN, RN, NNP-BC, NEA, who is retiring in the spring.

McCullough's selection comes after a nationwide search process overseen by Michele Hassleblad, DNP, RN, NE-BC, Vice President for Adult Ambulatory Nursing, who led a multidisciplinary, systemwide search committee for the CNO position.

"We are excited to welcome Gretchen to the Monroe Carell team. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in both inpatient and ambulatory pediatrics as well as regional expansion of pediatric services," said Meg Rush, MD, MMHC, President of Monroe Carell.

"While at Doernbecher, Gretchen has demonstrated leadership of numerous safety and quality initiatives, navigated a successful Magnet redesignation, established nurse residency and fellowship onboarding programs, and led both unit and hospital expansion of programs and facil-

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We have a full issue of great news to share, so let's get right to it!

First, I would like to warmly welcome Gretchen K.D. McCullough, our new chief nursing officer at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital. Gretchen will be joining us in March as she moves across the country from Portland, Oregon. We are so pleased that she is bringing her experience as a transformational leader to our children and families at Monroe Carell.

Next, please read about an inspirational talk about "Nursing Your Purpose," which

kicked off our Advanced Practice Grand Rounds for the 2023 season.

In other news, Beth Sparks was named to the AAACN Workplace Safety Task Force. Congratulations, Beth, on this important appointment. And please prepare to celebrate our certified nurses and nominate your colleagues for our upcoming nursing awards in May.

Enjoy this issue,

ities. She is passionate about innovative care, quality and safety, and mentorship, all of which will build upon the foundation of her predecessors as we look forward to moving to the next level of nursing at Monroe Carell," Rush said

McCullough joined OHSU as senior nursing director for Women's and Neonatal Services before becoming the inaugural associate chief nursing officer for Women's and Children's Services. During her time at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, McCullough was proud to celebrate numerous quality outcomes highlighted in OHSU's third Magnet designation, as well as expansion of novel services including community hospital outreach, NICU and Pediatric Acute Care Units, and programs including Oregon's first full-service fetal surgery program.

In 2021, she was named the Advanced Nurse Leader of the Year by the Northwest Organization of Nursing Leaders for her many efforts providing stability to teams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am thrilled to welcome Gretchen to this important leadership role at Monroe Carell," said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer for



McCullough

and families in a rapidly-growing segment of health care, and I could not be more pleased to have her as a colleague."

McCullough said she has admired Vanderbilt Health's and Monroe Carell's national reputation, which attracted her to the CNO position. She was also drawn to Monroe Carell's strong outreach work to deliver health care in rural communities and to underserved populations and to bring care closer to where families live.

"One of the things that is critical to me in any job that I consider is that it has to have, as a part of the work, the ability to impact care in rural communities," she said. "I was also so struck by the quality of people that are present on the teams at Monroe Carell. At risk of simplifying it, it feels like such a good group of humans."

As she begins her new role at Monroe Carell, McCullough will spend her first 90 days on a listening tour, hearing from nurses, teams and families to

Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "Gretchen has a terrific background of designing for patients

understand and assess top priorities and areas of focus.

"I've been so impressed with the quality of practice and the care that is coming out of Monroe Carell, and I have a lot of joy and excitement to join the team," she said.

A native of Oakland, Maryland, and raised in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, McCullough completed an initial course of undergraduate study at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She remained in Pennsylvania and went on to get an associate degree of nursing from Harrisburg Area Community College and a Master of Science in Nursing, Administration.

McCullough is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an Advanced Nurse Executive.

Prior to joining Doernbecher Children's Hospital, McCullough worked in various capacities across diverse health care environments in Pennsylvania, including academic, hospital and ambulatory settings. Before moving to Oregon, among many roles, she served as senior director, Ambulatory Operations: Children's Services, Women's Services, and Dermatology Services for Penn State Health and Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

GRAND ROUNDS KICKOFF: 'NURSING YOUR PURPOSE'

Advanced practice nurses, physician assistants and Medical Center leaders gathered in Light Hall on Jan. 17 for the kickoff of the 2023 series of Advanced Practice Grand Rounds, a monthly educational series organized by the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of Advanced Practice.

The session, the first kickoff in person after two years of virtual presentations, featured a keynote address from Kristy Sinkfield, MEd, Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion. Sinkfield, an 18-year veteran of Vanderbilt and a 2020 Five Pillar Leader Award winner, gave the presentation "Nursing Your Purpose: Finding Deep Meaning in Our Work."

Sinkfield interviewed a variety of VUMC's Advanced Practice Providers (APP) to find out why they're passionate about their jobs and shared what she learned. A common thread, as one clinical nurse midwife put it, was "remember your why," Sinkfield recounted. "Your own story, what brought you to now, your mentors, your family, the importance of our simple interactions with patients. They are meaningful and have a significant potential to be impactful. Our interactions, your interactions, change



Sinkfield

lives." added: "Remembering our why helps put things back in perspective, and doing so can remind us of our original purpose."

Another nurse found deep meaning in the emergency department, helping people with limited resources. Her advice: "Identify what you love, and try to do more of that."

Inspired by the APP stories, Sinkfield encouraged attendees to share their own.

"All of you have a story to tell," she said. "But I do hope you would take some time to meet those you don't know. Learn their story. Share with each other."

Sinkfield's presentation, which was also streamed live, was just the first of a monthly series of grand rounds topics. The next presentation, "The Trach/PEG Service: How Nurse Practitioner-Driven Services Improve Patient Care," will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, in 202 Light Hall. Virtual options are avail-

able for all the presentations.

"Advanced Practice professionals continue to grow in response to VUMC's expansion of services to meet the needs of a growing Middle Tennessee," said Brent Dunworth, DNP, MBA, APRN, CRNA, NEA-BC, associate nurse executive for Advanced Practice. "This monthly opportunity for our practitioners to pause for some professional development and peer camaraderie is just one of the great benefits that the Office of Advanced Practice provides as a service to the organization. We are thankful for Ms. Sinkfield's talents and remarks this month. She reminded us of the power and connectedness that comes from sharing our personal stories with one another."

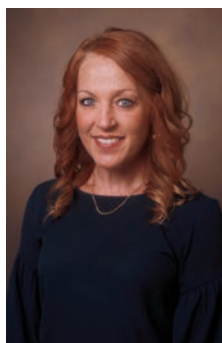
During the kickoff session, the 2023 Advanced Practice Ambassador Award was presented to Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, Hugh Jackson Morgan Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry, and chair of the Department of Medicine. The award honors non-advanced practice providers for their contributions to the profession.

For more information about Advanced Practice Grand Rounds and the Office of Advanced Practice, visit <https://www.vumc.org/nursing-oap/welcome>.

SPARKS NAMED TO AAACN WORK SAFETY TASK FORCE

The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) Board of Directors has appointed Beth Sparks, MSN, RN, CNML, as co-chair of its Workplace Safety Task Force.

Sparks, administrative director in the VUMC Adult Walk-In Clinics, was chosen for her leadership abilities and continued dedication to workplace violence prevention work. She has been actively involved with such initiatives at VUMC since 2014 and has been co-chair of the Vanderbilt Medical Group



Sparks

AAACN task force, is charged with developing tools to address workplace violence prevention and response that will be disseminated for use by ambulatory nursing leaders nationwide within the year.

(V M G) They meet twice monthly, and Workplace Violence Prevention committee Sparks is hopeful they will have some initial resources available for use within the next six months.

Sparks, along with other members of the AAACN task force, is charged with developing tools to address workplace violence prevention and response that will be disseminated for use by ambulatory nursing leaders nationwide within the year. “There is a timely need for these resources,” Sparks said. “Vanderbilt is probably a little bit ahead of the game when it comes to workplace violence prevention efforts. I hope to share those, but more importantly, I look forward to bringing best practices surrounding prevention and response to events of workplace violence back to Vanderbilt.”

TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CERTIFIED NURSES

For 2023, we want to highlight each of our VUMC certified nurses in our annual scrapbook.

Entity representatives will be reaching out to teams for a group photo opportunity. Photo submissions will be accepted for individuals and/or smaller teams.

You can be featured in a group photo, team photo, and/or individually. Submit any style of photo that you feel comfortable sharing (formal

headshots are not required).

For each individual featured, please include the following:

- full name.
- credentials.
- job title.
- work area/department.
- entity.
- number of years certified.
- full title of certification (not just acronym). If multiple certifications, please list.

The deadline for photo submissions is March 1. Extra time is permitted with advance notice. For photo submissions and any questions, please email: sherri.stringfellow@vumc.org.

A scrapbook will be shared in time for Certified Nurses Day, March 19, via Nurse Alerts, online at VanderbiltNursing.com, and other VUMC Nursing Communications.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR NURSES WEEK AWARDS

VUMC nurses are invited to nominate an outstanding colleague for recognition during the 2023 Nurses Week Awards and Recognitions, to be held in May.

Nominations may be made in nine categories, with 15 total awards.

A group or an individual may make nominations and individuals may nominate themselves. The nominator, who does not have to be a nurse, will be asked to

describe and demonstrate the excellence of the person being nominated using key criteria.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, March 3. Award criteria and nomination forms can be found at <https://www.vumc.org/vanderbilt-nursing/nurses-week-celebrations>. Nominations may only be made by VUMC staff, and login is required.