

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

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MSN, RN,
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KAPU BEGINS NEW ROLE AT VUSN

April Kapu, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, FCCM, FAAN, has left her role as Associate Nursing Officer for VUMC Advanced Practice and director of the Office of Advance Practice, and begun a new position as Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN).

Kapu reports to Pam Jones, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships at VUSN. Kapu will continue to teach in VUSN's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program.

"It is an honor to join such an esteemed group of faculty," Kapu said. "They are all highly respected, accomplished and well-known. We have a fantastic new dean (Pamela R. Jeffries, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, FSSH) who is innovative and focused on the future of the university, faculty and students. It is very exciting to be part of the School of Nursing at this particular time."

Her new academic role, which began July 1, will help strengthen VUSN's clinical and community programs as well as its continued partnership with VUMC. School of Nursing faculty oversee several VUMC community-based clinics, including the Vanderbilt Birth Center (formerly

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I hope each and every one of you is enjoying your summer. After a very busy and unusual year, my hope is that you have the opportunity to recharge, reconnect and recommit to your priceless mission at Vanderbilt.

There is much good news to share this month. First, I would like to congratulate April Kapu for her new position as Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. We certainly will miss

April in her full-time role at VUMC, but I am excited that we will continue to work together in our continuing partnership on the Vanderbilt campus.

I am also excited to announce the latest group of recipients of The DAISY Award. I am always inspired by the incredible stories of care and compassion from our recipients. Please join me in congratulating them.

Enjoy this issue,

Baby+Company), Vanderbilt Midwives Melrose, Metro Nashville Public Schools clinics and various primary care clinics. These clinics provide a rich teaching environment for students.

In addition, she will partner with VUMC to support the preceptor matching program for student placement. This is an important part of the VUMC/VUSN partnership as many VUSN students complete their practicum at VUMC and many of them are hired by the Medical Center.

"April's expertise in expanding the role of APRNs to meet health care needs for the VUMC medical enterprise has given her a unique perspective that will help us strategize new ways to deliver quality health care through nurse-led clinics and initiatives," Jones said. "VUSN and VUMC have a long history of nurse-managed care, and we are excited about continued innovation and development."

In addition to her new role, Kapu began her term as president of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) on July 1 and is now responsible for leading the nation's largest association of nurse practitioners — more than 325,000 people — for the next two years. In that office,

she will represent advanced practice nursing with peer professionals, in the media and with policymakers.

Jeffries said that in addition to her vital role as associate dean, Kapu's work as president of the AANP will benefit nursing and nursing students. "In her AANP role, April advocates for the nursing profession in the media and with policymakers," Jeffries said. "Now, more than ever before, government and other organizations are aware of the contributions of nurses — so now is the time for nurses to focus on shaping health care policy. April's work will be a strong model for our students at the same time that it generates change."

Over the last 16 years at VUMC, Kapu was instrumental in the development of the adult critical care nurse practitioner program and the growth of overall advanced practice from 350 to over 1,400 people.

"April has worked tirelessly with physician and nursing leaders to strengthen the advanced practice leadership track, paving the way for many APRNs to pursue leadership roles and enrich our Magnet-designated culture," said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, VUMC Executive Chief Nursing Officer. "Her experience and expertise in practice

and leadership will continue to strengthen the rich collaborative partnership between the School of Nursing and the growing VUMC enterprise. Please join me in congratulating April in her new position and future journey here at Vanderbilt."

Kapu, who has been a VUSN faculty member for the last decade, has represented Vanderbilt nationally through numerous presentations and publications. She has led many research studies and has been inducted as fellow to AANP as well as the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the American Academy of Nursing.

Over the past 15 months, Kapu has worked in the COVID-19 command center to support labor management throughout the pandemic, cross-training, hiring and managing hundreds of new employees.

Plans are underway to launch a national search for VUMC's next advanced practice leader. In the interim, Michelle Terrell, DNP, APRN, PNP will lead the regional and ambulatory work of the Office of Advanced Practice. Jill Kinch, MMHC, APRN, PNP will oversee the Office of Advanced practice, support the adult inpatient enterprise and serve as representative of advanced practice on the Nursing Enterprise Cabinet.

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



Erin Leap, RN

Unit: Medical Infusion Clinic

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: “Erin was the first infusion nurse I met when I came to the clinic for breast cancer treatment. It was obvious that I was scared and she smiled at me and said, ‘We will get you through this.’ Throughout the past year, Erin has been an advocate for me when I needed help communicating concerns with my doctors, a source of comfort and reassurance when my treatment plan changed and a beacon of hope when I needed peace and reassurance the most.”



Hannah Ritter Lee, MSN, RN, AGPCNP

Unit: Adult Urology Clinic

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: “At our appointment, I had indicated my strong opposition to pursuing any further testing (biopsy) about my increased PSA levels. But she wouldn’t take no for an answer, and called me a day or two later and persuaded me to have an MRI done. That resulted in clear issues, and I then agreed to the biopsy ... Had it not been for her patience with this stubborn patient, I might have neglected this for years, and the situation could have become much worse. She is greatly appreciated.”

Sara Gray, BSN, RN

Unit: 8 South

Entity: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

From the nomination: “Rather than write it off to her being 94 and post-heart attack on Thursday, Sara noticed that my mother seemed out of it, almost unresponsive with all-over body pain. The slightest touch was excruciating. Sara noticed she had not been urinating much and thought maybe she should check with ultrasound and found a huge urine buildup. Notified doc, did a catheter and she had an immediate change in pain level and alertness. ... She (Sara) is one in a million and should be recognized as such.”



SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



Regina Copeland, RN

Unit: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

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

From the nomination: "A 24-weeker born at Vanderbilt ... had an eight-month stay in the NICU with a host of complications relating to her prematurity ultimately leading to her death. ... Regina was the first person to hand this mother her micro-preemie to hold for the very first time; the most cherished moment for a NICU nurse to be a part of, thus creating a lifelong bond with the family. Regina was also the last person to hand this mother her dying child. She was invited into this sacred space and cared for this baby and family until their daughter's last breath ... This is what a Vanderbilt nurse looks like. No parent is every prepared for the loss of their child but for this family, the comfort and care that Regina Copeland provided left them at peace with the loss of their sweet daughter."

Alex Bristow, RN

Unit: Labor & Delivery

Entity: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

From the nomination: "I came to the hospital at 35 weeks pregnant with premature rupture of membranes. ... Alex Bristow came in and immediately meshed with me and my husband's unique way of using humor, movie quotes and distraction to cope with anxieties. She was funny when we needed funny, straightforward when we needed education, reassuring when we needed comfort. ... Alex's incredible skill and knowledge were matched by her heart and kindness. My husband and I will never forget her and have entered into parenthood on such a fantastic foot because of the care we received from Alex."



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