

# 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,  
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## THREE MAGNET VISITS ANNOUNCED

Magnet Site Visit dates have been announced for Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH) and Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital (VPH). The visits will occur over three consecutive weeks.

Children's Hospital will have its visit from Aug. 10-12, VUH from Aug. 16-19 and VPH from Aug. 22-24. Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics previously had a site visit in March.

"Magnet culture has been deeply embedded in Vanderbilt for many years," said Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC. "We are excited to demonstrate how our Vanderbilt nurses provide excellent, compassionate care to our patients and families."

The purpose of the site visits is for the appraisers to validate the submitted information and Vanderbilt's culture by listening to as many nursing and staff members as possible.

Each of the previous three Magnet journeys required one site visit for VUMC. However, starting with this designation process, separate site visits are required for each entity. Following the site visits, the Commission on Magnet Recognition is expected to announce the outcome of VUMC's fourth Magnet designation for each entity.

I hope each of you is enjoying an excellent summer. We have very exciting news to share: All three of our remaining Magnet site visits have been scheduled, and they will all take place in August.

Our colleagues in Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, Vanderbilt University Hospital and Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital have worked tirelessly to prepare for these important visits. We look forward to showcasing how Vanderbilt Nursing provides excellent care to our patients and families.

In this issue, please read about the upcoming retirements of Karen Hughart and Chris Wilson. It has been my pleasure to work with them, and I wish them a very happy retirement.

Last but most definitely not least, we salute the latest group of recipients of The DAISY Award. Please read their inspiring stories.

Enjoy this issue,

## HUGHART RETIRING FROM NURSING INFORMATICS

**K**aren Hughart, MSN, RN, senior director of Nursing Informatics, is retiring at the end of July after 45 years at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Hughart, a longtime informatics expert who leads a department that manages nursing systems throughout VUMC, was instrumental in the rollout of Epic clinical systems in recent years. But her full-time informatics specialization was actually a second career, happening after two decades as a pediatric nurse.

Hughart said she wanted to be a nurse since she was 16 years old, when she worked for a camp for disabled children in Kansas City. After graduating from Murray State University in 1977, she started on S-3400 of the Round Wing, which was then the children's wing of the main Vanderbilt University Hospital, in the building that is now Medical Center North.

Her transition from bedside nurse to Nursing Informatics expert was a product of happenstance. The pediatric section of the hospital had just acquired new computers, and "we didn't know how to use those computers," Hughart said. As it happened, Hughart was in graduate school at Vanderbilt

University, and her practicum project was to write a computer manual and present recom-



Hughart

mendations to a nursing executive group. The day Hughart was on the agenda to address the group was also on the day the group was appointing four nurses to a committee that would select the first hospital information system.

"And I just happened to be there, and they said, 'Well, Karen knows about computers, let's put her on the group.' And so, it all grew out of that," she said. "I always tell people it's about being at the right place at the right time."

For a time, Hughart worked partly in pediatrics and partly in informatics, until the late 1990s, when she transitioned to full-time informatics work.

When Hughart started at Vanderbilt, patient records were all on paper. She oversaw the transition to electronic records, first using systems that were developed in-house at Vanderbilt, to today's vendor-based systems such as Epic. Her department supports

many other systems clinicians use to provide patient care.

Recently, Hughart is proud of Nursing Informatics' effort to create disaster-mode documentation standards during the COVID-19 pandemic. The standards allow nurses to reduce documentation requirements during crisis situations, allowing them to focus on the most important documentation and save time for patient care. Hospitals around the country have adopted Vanderbilt's standards, as have Epic customers.

"I'm very proud of the team," she said. "We have a lot of certified, mostly masters-prepared nursing informatics specialists on the team. We've done a lot of work over the years to develop their expertise and the services that we provide."

Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, said Hughart will be greatly missed.

"Karen has developed unmatched expertise in her many years of leading our Nursing Informatics efforts," she said. "It has been my pleasure to work with her on many projects throughout our enterprise, always with the goal of providing better care for our patients and families. I wish her the very best."

## WILSON RETIRING FROM NURSING EDUCATION

Chris Wilson, MSN, RN, NP-D-BC, senior director of Nursing Education and Professional Development, is retiring at the end of July, 45 years after she first came to Vanderbilt as a student nurse.

Wilson was a rising senior at the University of Evansville (Indiana), when she joined a summer nursing program at the Medical Center. She fell in love with Vanderbilt and started a four-decade-long career as a nurse.

For Wilson, it seemed like destiny. Her mother was a nurse, and three of her four sisters also became nurses. "I like to think I was kind of born into it," she said.

Wilson started out as a pediatric nurse. "It was challenging and stimulating and a great growth opportunity," she said.

Wilson married in 1983 and left Vanderbilt for seven years, working at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis while she pursued her master's degree in Nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She also worked at a pediatric home care agency before returning to pediatric care at Vanderbilt in 1990.

Wilson worked on the fifth floor of what is now Vanderbilt University Hospital, when the floor housed the pediatric pro-

grams and services that would become Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at



Wilson

Vanderbilt prior to its move to a freestanding building. Her interest in nursing education dates to her time in Memphis. After serving as an inpatient manager in the Children's Hospital on her return to Vanderbilt, Wilson eventually joined The Learning Center and later became part of the Nursing Education department, becoming a director and then senior director. As much as she enjoyed pediatrics, she said she found her niche in nursing professional development.

"I love the challenge of thinking strategically about things that will make a difference for staff," she said. "My role is supporting staff so that they can do that really important work of patient care."

Wilson said she was particularly proud of being part of pursuing every Magnet designation that Vanderbilt has received from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The designation is the highest honor an organization can

receive for the provision of nursing care and interprofessional collaboration. VUMC received its first Magnet designation in November 2006, its second in April 2012, third in July 2017, and is currently pursuing its fourth designation.

During Wilson's tenure, she oversaw the launch of the nurse residency program, nursing website, Vanderbilt Professional Nursing Practice Program, nursing tuition assistance benefit and, recently, the nursing student loan repayment benefit. Under Wilson's guidance, the nursing education program has expanded throughout the enterprise.

"We have formal nursing education teams in all of the facilities now, and we have directors leading them, and they're doing amazing work," she said.

Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, said Wilson has been an integral part of nursing at Vanderbilt.

"Chris' commitment to nursing education has enriched our nursing colleagues and ensured excellent care for the patients and families we serve," she said. "She has assembled a leadership team that will carry her legacy for years to come. I wish her the very best in retirement."

# SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Madelinne Metts, BSN, RN**

**Unit: Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU)**

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



**From the nomination:** "Our daughter was 1 month old at the time. She was fresh out of open-heart surgery when her BT shunt was blocked by a clot. Madelinne immediately saw the signs and called a code to start CPR and all lifesaving measures. They were able to bring her back and stabilized her. Shortly after that, while my husband and I were in the room, it happened again. Madelinne recognized it even before the machines started alarming. Another code took place and it took some time to stabilize her again. We were traumatized at what we saw. We were extremely upset and inconsolable for a while. Madelinne was a comfort and light during our darkest moments."



**Michael McAnly, RN**

**Unit: Operating Room**

**Entity: Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital**

**From the nomination:** "I am sharing an experience related to the care of my 17-year-old daughter. During prep for a CT with IV contrast, the radiology tech was able to place the IV initially but ended unsuccessfully when my daughter's vein gave in. Pain and fear took over causing her to attempt to climb off the CT table while crying and begging to stop the procedure. Considering her frantic state, the radiology tech felt it was better to request that the radiology nurse, Michael, make the second attempt in the other arm."

Michael arrived approximately seven minutes after being called, and I noticed immediately that he was in street clothes rather than scrubs. Completely peppered with wet spots from the rain. Michael explained that we caught him just in time as he was still at Kroger next door picking up his groceries and hadn't begun making his way home. Even though his shift had already ended, and he had already left the hospital - Michael selflessly, and without a moment's hesitation, returned to the Radiology Department to care for a patient in need."



# SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Payton Perry, BSN, RN**

**Unit: Labor & Delivery**

**Entity: Vanderbilt University Hospital**

**From the nomination:** “My wife was having a rough day. She started having a miscarriage at 12:30 a.m. (initial presentation was heavy bleeding and abdominal cramps). By 6 a.m. we were in the Vandy ER. ... Payton was kind, patient, understanding, and above all she made my wife and I feel like we were her only patients. Every time we needed anything, Payton was there within a few moments of our call.

If Payton said she would be back in 20 minutes, she was back in 20 minutes. If Payton said she would do something, she never once forgot. When my wife was writhing in pain from the cramps, Payton was there with pain medication immediately. When my wife was crying about the loss of our little girl, Payton was helping console her right along with me in a way that not only didn't feel intrusive or forced, but felt holistic and like she was family. Payton worked tirelessly and compassionately till we left Vandy.”

**Jayla Romain, BSN, RN**

**Unit: 9N Surgical Stepdown**

**Entity: Vanderbilt University Hospital**



**From the nomination:** “I recently had lung surgery to remove a tumor. After the surgery I was taken to the ninth floor at VUMC. This is where I had several angels in nurses uniforms taking care of me. My first encounter with the nurses was Jayla. I was scared and hurting from the surgery and Jayla helped put all those fears behind me. She was very attentive and understanding. She had a very soothing and caring compassion about her, never acted like it was her job that she had to do what she was doing. You could tell she LOVED taking care of people. I am forever grateful she was taking care of me. She listened to my concerns and treated me like family. Jayla is one of the true heroes putting themselves on the line each day to make sure the patients get the best possible care they can and begin the road to healing.”



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