

NURSING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Transforming patient care through professional practice

March 2020



A newsletter
from the office
of the Executive
Chief Nursing
Officer

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MSN, RN,
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IN THIS ISSUE

Questions and answers with
nurse leaders

Nurse named president of
VUMC's adult hospital

Save the date! Nurses Week
events coming up in May

APRN FELLOWSHIP IS PTAP ACCREDITED

Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner Fellowship has been accredited with distinction as a Practice Transition Program by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation in Practice Transition Programs.

After an extensive evaluation, the ANCC deemed the program as the highest quality with distinction and worthy of public confidence. VUMC has one of only 15 programs nationwide that have received the distinction.

ANCC Accreditation is a voluntary review process intended to strengthen and sustain the quality and integrity of practice transition programs. The accreditation was the result of a lengthy self-study that included information on the history of the program, how it has evolved, successes and challenges, quality outcome data and stories from fellows. The self-study was further affirmed through a four-hour virtual site visit involving fellows, clinical coordinators and executive nursing leadership.

VUMC's 12-month fellowship program supports new advanced

continued on page 2

Our advanced practice registered nurses are the very best in the nation, and continue to gather acclaim. In just the latest recognition, VUMC's Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner fellowship program has been accredited with distinction by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation in Practice Transition Programs. Congratulations to all involved in earning this well-deserved designation.

In this issue, we recognize a new group of nurse leaders — Jolene Ramirez and Lindsay Miller. Please read more about these great

colleagues.

We also welcome Shon Dwyer, our new president of Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital. Not only is she a proven leader, but she also has an extensive background as a nurse!

Lastly, please save the date for our exciting Nurses Week events: the State of Nursing Address, Research Nurses Poster Session and the Nursing Honors.

Enjoy this issue,

practice registered nurses (APRNs) as they transition from student to practice, or from practicing one APRN specialty to another. In the program, fellows receive specific education and skills training to assist them in developing effective decision-making, sound clinical judgment and professional performance.

“To ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of care, a fellowship affords an APRN the ability to gain competence in their area of practice through mentorship, through education and teaching specific to that area of practice,” said Buffy Krauser Lupear, DNP, CRNA, APRN, director of Professional Development in the VUMC Office of Advanced Practice and director of the fellowship program.

“It is a protected environment in which fellows will see patients but also have protected time for scholarly work, whether that is attending conferences or completing a project, as each of them are required to do. It allows them to immerse themselves in clinical practice while gaining knowledge and experience.”



Kapu



Krauser Lupear

The program, which dates to 2016, has graduated three fellows — one in solid organ transplants, one in urology and another in colorectal. One solid organ transplant fellow, one urology fellow and two oncology fellows are currently in the program.

“Our fellowships attract

the best and brightest to VUMC and to working in highly specialized areas of care,” said April Kapu, DNP, RN, ACNP, associate nursing officer for VUMC Advanced Practice and director of the Office of Advanced Practice. “The accreditation provides official recognition of the strength and quality of our program. We are so grateful to our clinical departments, our nursing and physician leaders, to Buffy Krauser Lupear, to the fellowship coordinators, and most especially to the fellows, who are the shining stars of the program.”

The accreditation allows graduates of the program to claim that they participated in an ANCC-accredited APRN Fellowship Program that met rigorous evidence-based criteria.

“This exciting accreditation acknowledges that our fellowship program has set a high standard for excellence in training compassionate, evidence-based advanced practice nurses,” said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer. “The result is improved care for our patients and families.”

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WITH VUMC NURSE LEADERS

Jolene Ramirez, DNP, RN

Position: Associate Nursing Officer

Work area: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital



How long have you been a nurse leader at Vanderbilt? I joined the Vanderbilt team on Feb. 3. Most recently, I was a Chief Nursing Officer/VP of Nursing in the Advocate Aurora Health Care system in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I had 20-plus years of longevity in the organization in nursing leadership.

What is your favorite aspect of being a nurse leader? Being a mentor to novice nurses and leaders and sharing my last 20 years of leadership experience with them as well as giving them opportunities to grow in confidence and structural empowerment of their practice.

What is your No. 1 piece of advice for nurses? Nursing is the most trusted profession and best career there is. You can do so many things to help people, whether it is teaching, leadership, care at the bedside, public health or policy development. Never settle for the status quo. Be a part of making health care better for everyone!

What do you do for fun when you're not at work? I am the owner of a rescue pit bull named Bonnie. We like to explore parks and go for long walks. I am looking forward to learning my way around Nashville.



Lindsay Miller, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Position: Administrative Director, Surgery PCC Outpatient Clinics and Dermatology

Work area: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

How long have you been a nurse leader at Vanderbilt? Five years in June.

What is your favorite aspect of being a nurse leader? I love helping nurses grow, whether it is getting them engaged in shared governance, encouraging certification/ further education, or helping career plan. Working with nurses on their professional development is something I love to do.

What is your No. 1 piece of advice for nurses? Be kind to yourself and each other. Being a nurse is hard. Don't forget to care for yourself and the people you work with.

What do you do for fun when you're not at work? I love to spend time with my husband and daughter. I also love to exercise, paint, read and travel.

NURSE NAMED PRESIDENT OF VUMC'S ADULT HOSPITAL

Shon Dwyer, MBA, RN, Executive director of Michigan Medicine's (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) University Hospital and Frankel Cardiovascular Center, has been named the new president of Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital (VUAH). She joined Vanderbilt University Medical Center on March 2.

As president of VUAH, Dwyer will report to C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Health System Officer for VUMC, and will be responsible for all aspects of the hospital's operational performance.

She will serve as a key member of the Medical Center's senior leadership team, and in close partnership with clinical department chairs and other operational leaders will ensure patient-focused, results-oriented operations throughout the hospital. She will also be responsible for the hospital's long-range objectives, includ-

ing continuing to serve as a major participant in the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network.



Dwyer

Dwyer is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Nursing and earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Michigan's School of Business.

She is a veteran of more than 30 years at Michigan Medicine. In addition to working as an administrative leader, she has held positions in education, quality, compliance, information technology and operations.

"Shon was identified through an extensive national search that included many

highly qualified applicants. She is an accomplished thought leader who, over the course of a distinguished career at Michigan, has held a wide variety of operational and leadership positions and possesses a unique perspective on the complexities of running a large academic flagship hospital," said Pinson. "She is well suited for this integral role on our senior leadership team and I look forward to working with her as we enhance our ability to serve the region's sickest and most complex patients."

Dwyer was a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow and is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Vanderbilt team," Dwyer said. "It will be a true privilege to work for another premier academic medical center that is focused on quality, safety and creating the ideal patient experience."

SAVE THE DATE! NURSES WEEK EVENTS COMING UP IN MAY

Nurses Week will be here before we know it. Please mark your calendars for the following events and prepare to join us for an exciting week of inspirational and educational activities. Everyone is encouraged to attend each of the events.

- **State of Nursing Address 2020** - Tuesday, May 19, from 8 to 9 a.m. in Light Hall 208.
- **Research Nurses Poster Session 2020** - Tuesday, May 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. in Light Hall North Lobby.
- **Nursing Honors 2020** - Friday, May 22, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Langford Auditorium. Reception to follow in lobby.