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A newsletter  
from the office  
of the Executive  
Chief Nursing  
Officer

Marilyn Dubree,  
MSN, RN,  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

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## CRITICAL CARE BOOT CAMP GOES VIRTUAL

About 250 nurse practitioners and physician assistants nationwide gathered over Zoom from Sept. 2-4 for the ninth annual ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp, the first in its history to be entirely virtual, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event was an opportunity for critical care nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) to receive specialized critical care training to improve patient care. It began with an Advanced Practice Leadership Summit and virtual reception, followed by two days of digital informational sessions featuring 26 speakers.

The Sept. 3 sessions focused on fundamental critical care, with sessions such as “Common Neurologic Emergencies for the Non-Neurologist” and “Heart Mechanics: Left Heart Failure and the Devices that Support.” The Sept. 4 sessions focused on critical care for COVID-19 patients, including “Epidemiology and Pathogenesis of COVID Outbreak” and “Patient and Family Centered Care during a Pandemic.”

Participants, mostly recent graduates and early career professionals, come from all over the country and their feedback helps inspire topics.

Boot camp faculty include critical care NPs, PAs and physicians from multiple departments at Vanderbilt who volunteer their time as well as

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It has been so gratifying to see the ingenuity of our nurses, as events shift from in-person to virtual. This issue spotlights the ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp, which made the transition to a digital event “attended” by nurses all over the country.

Also in this issue, a nurse in our adult COVID-19 unit, Cody Hamilton, made a special outreach to the Metro Nashville Police Department to talk about the importance of wearing masks.

Our Nursing Education and Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice efforts continue to gain national attention. The

Association for Nursing Professional Development featured an article from VUMC Nursing Education and the *Journal of Nursing Administration* ran an article from Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice in its July/August issue. Kudos to all who made this possible.

Lastly, please read about how donations made during the pandemic are being put to good use. Thank you for all of your efforts.

Enjoy this issue,

professionals from institutions nationwide.

April Kapu, DNP, RN, associate nursing officer for VUMC Advanced Practice and director of the Office of Advanced Practice, said she and other organizers realized by May that the event would have to be converted to virtual or canceled due to the worsening coronavirus crisis. Every speaker invited prior to the pandemic agreed to convert their presentation to a virtual one.

"It was pretty overwhelming to see everybody willing to come back amidst being incredibly busy," she said. "All are actively working in critical care. Everybody said the same thing: They didn't want to see a year go by without Boot Camp."

Registrants for the conference will have special access to the information provided in the sessions, even after they are over.

"We're recording all of the events so that the registrants can go back and watch each session through the end of the year, because we know a lot of people are actively working and can't stay all day long for two whole days," Kapu said.

Some yearly events, such as the hands-on skills labs for adult and pediatric audiences, were canceled this year due to



The 2020 ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp was held over Zoom.

the virtual format.

"The in-person boot camp is one of a kind," said Todd Rice, MD, MSc, associate professor of Medicine in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and one of the presenters at the Boot Camp. "It truly is the premier conference for advanced practice providers. And it provides hands-on, simulation and didactic training — it is all-encompassing.

"The virtual format won't be able to have some of these features, but it still is set up to maintain the Boot Camp reputation as the most up-to-date educational conference available."

Rice, vice president for Clinical Trial Innovation and Operations in the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR), also directs the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) and the Medical ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) Program and leads VUMC's

MICU strategy for the care of COVID-19 patients.

VUMC is a national leader in advanced practice nursing. The Boot Camp is one of the only conferences in the country that provides focused education for critical care NPs and PAs, who make up more than 300,000 clinicians nationwide and more than 1,200 at Vanderbilt alone.

"Our Boot Camp gives VUMC's advanced practice professionals the opportunity to share our deep well of experience with a national audience," said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, Executive Chief Nursing Officer. "Our mission has never been more important than during this health crisis, and it is so impressive to see VUMC maintain its leadership role in this virtual format."

Each year, the conference honors the late Arthur Wheeler, MD, who was medical director of the MICU and a champion of critical care NPs and PAs.

"There were many thoughts of appreciation and support for boot camp as well as one another throughout COVID19," Kapu said. "One attendee said 'The speakers were so engaging, that it didn't feel like virtual at all.'"

## NURSE SPEAKS TO POLICE ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF MASKS

Cody Hamilton, BSN, RN, clinical staff leader in the adult COVID-19 unit, spoke to the Metro Nashville Police Department (MNP) in August about the importance of wearing masks to combat the spread of the virus.

Hamilton, who previously spoke at Nashville Mayor John Cooper's COVID-19 news conference in July, thanked officers, who had begun to enforce the city's ordinance requiring masks in public.

"Thank you, guys, for what you guys are doing out there, which must feel kind of like an impossible task at times,"

Hamilton told the officers.

Hamilton described how he had seen COVID-19 patients



Cody Hamilton, BSN, RN, speaks to the Metro Nashville Police Department about masking.

of all ages, with and without chronic health issues and comorbidities. He described how families have had to say goodbye to loved ones over iPads and phone screens.

"By wearing a mask, we protect ourselves, we protect our loved ones," Hamilton said. "There are people who don't work in these areas and we wear masks to keep them safe and to keep ourselves safe. So, I just really thank you guys for what you're doing because it is making a huge difference whether you really realize it or not. It's making a positive impact out of such a negative situation."

A video of Hamilton's speech can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-LahUNfu3c&feature=youtu.be>.

## ANPD FEATURES VUMC NURSING EDUCATION ARTICLE

Members of VUMC's Department of Nursing Education and Professional Development are featured in an article on the website for the Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD).

The article, "Collaborative Partnerships Excel in the Face of COVID-19," is featured on the "Trendlines" blog at <https://www.anpd.org/p/bl/et/blogid=1004&blogaid=1815>.

Authors of the article are Susan Smith, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, FNP, Vanderbilt University

Medical Center; Marissa Lemley-Brown, MSN, RN, CPN, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt; Lesley Worsley-Hynd, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt; and Heaven Jones, MSN, RN, Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital.

The article details how communicable disease outbreaks are "a unique opportunity for nursing professional development (NPD) practitioners to excel in the facilitation of collaborative partnerships and the provision of quality interprofessional care."

The authors talk about how VUMC nurse educators responded to the Ebola outbreak six years ago by launching personal protective equipment training and emergency preparedness response, and how a specialized Communicable Disease Response Unit (CDRU) was launched. It was this unit that was called up when the COVID-19 pandemic reached VUMC early this year.

## JONA SPOTLIGHTS VUMC NURSING RESEARCH JOURNAL

An article about the formation of *The Empowered Nurse*, a twice-yearly peer-reviewed journal about nursing research at VUMC, was featured in July/August 2020 issue of *The Journal of Nursing Administration* (JONA).

The article is entitled, “Empowering Nurses: Creation of a Peer-Reviewed Journal as a Catalyst for Innovative Nursing Research and Enhancing Evidence-Based Nursing Practice.”

“An internal peer-reviewed journal was created to promote high-quality nursing practice, improve patient outcomes, and inspire nurses at an academic medical center,” the article says. “The goal of the journal was to increase nurses’ utilization of evidence-based practice (EBP).”

The article’s authors are Elizabeth B. Card, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CPAN, CCRP, FASPAN; Nancy Wells, DNSc, RN, FAAN; Stephanie N. Abbu, DNP, RN, CNML; Janet M. Myers, DNP, APRN,

FNP/GNP-BC, ADM-BC, CDE, NE-BC; Traci D. Denton, MSN, BA, RN, CCRN, CPPS; and Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC.

All VUMC nurses, at all levels, are invited to submit articles about nursing research to *The Empowered Nurse*, which was first printed in 2018. The journal, which includes multiple articles, abstracts and research presentation posters, was the brainchild of Card and Wells, who retired in 2017 after 25 years as director of Nursing Research for VUMC.

Card educated leadership, advanced practice and staff nurses in the peer review process to support the publication. She said the Evidence Based Practice and Nursing Research Department had several goals for the journal, which was the culmination of two years of preparation.

For one, it connects nurses working on projects throughout the enterprise who may not know one another. The

journal supports nurses who disseminate research from Vanderbilt to get feedback and helps nurses become better writers and students of research literature. It educates nurses in skills and competencies needed for finding, understanding and applying the evidence to their practice.

Ultimately, the journal is intended to inspire nurses who may have never considered the opportunity to become researchers. Vanderbilt nurses can get mentorship and support throughout the research process from the Evidence Based Practice and Nursing Research department.

“I am extremely proud of VUMC nurses who came together to form the editorial board for ‘The Empowered Nurse’ to move this from being an innovative idea into becoming an internal peer review journal now celebrating three years in publication.”



### NURSES PUT DONATIONS TO GOOD USE

The Body Shop donated 10,000 units of product to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the beginning of the pandemic to show their support for front-line health care workers. The Central Labor Pool team distributed the products across the Medical Center during May and June. With products left over, some of the nurses in the PICU suggested that the Ronald McDonald House families were always in need of supplies. Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree reached out to Liz Piercy with Ronald McDonald House Charities and they were very grateful to be selected to receive the remaining donation. Vanderbilt nurses, in the foreground, are: (left to right) Ashlyn Miniatt, Missy Hunt and Rachel Johnson.