

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,
NE-BC

BOOT CAMP FOCUSES ON CRITICAL CARE

About 200 nurse practitioners and physician assistants from around the country gathered at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel from Aug. 23-24 for the 11th annual ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp, the first time the event has been held in person since 2019.

The event, organized by the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of Advanced Practice, is a conference for critical care nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) to receive specialized critical care training to improve patient care. The lecture-based course educates new providers with relevant evidence based clinical information, and it challenges experienced providers with new research, updated best practice guidelines and thought-provoking discussions. The diverse conference faculty includes physicians, NPs and PAs who are leaders in their disciplines both at Vanderbilt and in health care facilities nationwide.

“We really delve into the research and evidence behind critical illness with the intention to implement interventions at the bedside so we take care of our patients in the best way that we can,” said Caroline Banes, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, co-chair of the event’s committee and lead ICU nurse practitioner for the Trauma Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Jackson to lead Nursing Education at VUMC

Spotlight on Magnet site visits

We have just completed what I like to call our “Magnet month” — three weeks of back-to-back Magnet site visits from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Thank you for all your hard work ensuring the appraisers saw what we see every day — excellent care for our patients and families. We now eagerly await the outcome of our fourth Magnet journey. Please see a collection of photos from the site visits on page 4.

Also in this issue, please read about our recent ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp,

which we were excited to hold in person this year. This premier event brings nurse practitioners and physician assistants from around the country to learn and practice critical care skills.

In other exciting news, Crystal Jackson will lead our nursing education efforts. Congratulations to Crystal as she begins this important position.

Enjoy this issue,

Unlike the last two years, in which the event was held virtually, this year's Boot Camp featured in-person discussions in a variety of areas, including "Top Papers in Critical Care Medicine," "Interpretive Approach to Chest X-Rays" and "Mechanical Ventilation: Modes and Trouble Shooting."

"It was incredibly energizing to have this group of people together, back in person, because there is a camaraderie that you don't really get when you're doing continuing education on Zoom," said Janna Landsperger, MSN, RN, ACNP, co-chair of the event and nurse practitioner in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt University Hospital. "I think we were able to develop a lot of relationships, which is really the heart of Boot Camp."

Participants, many of them recent graduates and early career professionals, come from all over the country, and their feedback helps inspire topics. They also have networking opportunities and leave with a new group of friends and mentors.

"They just love it because, as they describe it, there is not another conference or educational experience similar to what the Boot Camp committee puts on," said Buffy Krauser



Allison Wynes, ACNP-BC, speaks during the ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp. About 200 nurse practitioners and physician assistants participated.

Lupear, DNP, APRN, CRNA, director of Professional Development in the Office of Advanced Practice. "They were thrilled to be there."

In addition to the lectures, the Boot Camp also included a two-day, critical care ultrasound course, organized by Banes, which provided a hands-on opportunity to practice cardiac, lung, and abdominal ultrasound on live models.

"Being able to get back and have that really intimate, one-on-one, hands-on learning is so important, especially in critical care," said Tess Huggins, MSN, RN, AG-ACNP, co-chair of the event and director of Surgical Critical Care Advanced Practice at Vanderbilt University Hospital. "That was really exciting as well."

Each year, the conference honors the late Arthur Wheeler, MD, who was medical director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit and helped launch and

support the event.

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. There are more than 325,000 NPs and 150,000 PAs in the United States today, and more than 1,200 advanced practice providers are at Vanderbilt. These clinicians are educated in nationally accredited programs, clinically trained and board certified in their area of practice.

"Every year, our Critical Care Boot Camp brings new energy to Vanderbilt, educating and enriching advanced practice clinicians both here and throughout the country," said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, executive chief nursing officer. "As our clinicians deepen their knowledge of the latest, evidence-based practice, we continue to improve care for our patients and families."

JACKSON TO LEAD NURSING EDUCATION AT VUMC

Crystal Jackson, MSN, RN, NP-D-BC, has been named senior director of Nursing Education & Professional Development, effective Sept. 1.

Jackson, who is director of Clinical Education & Professional Development for Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics, succeeds Chris Wilson, MSN, RN, NP-D-BC, who retired at the end of July.

Jackson said she is an enthusiastic coach, lifelong learner and promoter of diversity, inclusion and equity in professional development.

"I'm grateful to be able to challenge myself in a new role, continue to add value to the organization, grow and develop professionally, and also continue to help and develop and grow others," she said. "That's really a passion of mine."

A native of St. Louis, Jackson began her career there as a registered nurse at St. John's Mercy Hospital, providing care for medical-surgical (med-surg) patients with a variety of complex diagnoses. She also became a preceptor for new nurses and fell in love with nursing education.

She then moved to SSM Health as Clinical Educator for Med-Surg, and then manager of Nursing Education. In the latter role, she collaborated with nursing leadership at St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis and St. Clare

Hospital-Fenton on nursing education initiatives.

Jackson came to Vanderbilt in 2018 as a nursing education specialist for Medicine,



Specialty Clinics and Walk-In Clinics. A year later, she began a new role as director of Clinical Education & Professional Development for Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics.

Among her efforts, she redesigned the LPN Transition to Practice program, implemented an Adult Ambulatory Nurse residency track and established a core competency-based orientation checklist for the clinics.

Jackson said she was particularly proud of helping create a clinical ladder for medical assistants. All MAs start as MA I and can progress to MA II and MA III, with incremental increases in salary. Obtaining a new level requires a year of educational programs. The system recognizes MAs for continuing education and allows them to work at the peak of their license. It is designed to retain high-quality MAs by recognizing excellence in engagement, clinical skills and research.

"It was a great pleasure to get a chance to work on it,

develop it and then implement it and see how it evolved," she said. "We've had the medical assistant ladder since November of 2021, and that has really impacted a lot of staff in a great way."

Much of Jackson's nursing education work was done during the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring greater use of technology to train nurses virtually. In her new role, Jackson said she would like to explore using more social media, in an appropriate way, to teach nurses.

"If you can learn a recipe on TikTok, you certainly learn about clinical education," she said.

Jackson said she was also excited about building on VUMC's Nurse Residency Program, which trains hundreds of nurses each year. She wants to build further partnerships with nursing schools to further diversity, equity and inclusion in the nurse workforce.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome Crystal to this important role," said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, executive chief nursing officer. "She is passionate about nursing education, has a variety of important experiences and is full of great ideas for training our nurses in the latest, evidence-based practice to care for our patients and families."

SPOTLIGHT ON MAGNET SITE VISITS



Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt



Vanderbilt University Hospital



Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital

