

October 2018



A newsletter
from the office
of the Executive
Chief Nursing
Officer

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MSN, RN,
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ADVANCED PRACTICE BOOT CAMP GROWS

More than 300 nurse practitioners and physician assistants from 40 states visited the Vanderbilt University Medical Center campus from Sept. 11 to 14 to attend the seventh annual Acute Care Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Critical Care Boot Camp.

The popular event provides specialized critical care training where attendees can learn, network and advance their skills and clinical practice to improve patient care. The event was held in the Vanderbilt University Student Life Center and the Center for Experiential Learning (CELA) in Light Hall.

The faculty leading the sessions included critical care nurse practitioners (ACNPs), physician assistants (PAs), pharmacists and physicians representing all of the intensive care units at VUMC, as well as expert lecturers from other organizations and health systems.

“Our first conference was held in 2012 in the Round Wing of Medical Center North with only 50 attendees,” said April Kapu, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, Associate Nursing Officer for VUMC Advanced Practice and Director of the Office of Advanced Practice. “Workshop sessions were already sold out by April, and we were completely sold out by June. We don’t have any major advertising, just word of mouth.”

Kapu serves as the boot camp’s program director, and co-organizers are Janna Landsperger, ACNP, Medical Intensive Care nurse practitioner,

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I am constantly reminded that we work in a remarkable place. In the last month, more than 300 nurse practitioners and physician assistants from across the country came to VUMC for the annual ACNP/PA Boot Camp. Please read about the phenomenal growth of this program and of the numbers of APRNs and PAs at Vanderbilt - more than 1,000!

In this issue, we recognize our PCICU for receiving the prestigious Bronze Level Beacon award from the American

Association of Critical Care nurses. This designation recognizes how VUMC nurses are providing the very best in patient and family care. My congratulations to all involved for this honor.

Lastly, please prepare to join us for Octoberfest from Oct. 22 to 24. Details are inside.

Enjoy this issue,

and Billy Cameron, MSN, ACNP, Surgical Intensive Care nurse practitioner.

“This is one of my favorite weeks of the year as we provide these hardworking clinicians with excellent education to advance their skills in caring for ICU patients,” said Landsperger.

The boot camp’s four days are packed with training sessions and hands-on activities. The week began with an

Adult Critical Care Ultrasound Workshop, a focus session first added in 2017. During the workshop, led by Brooke Bailey, ACNP, attendees learned how to most effectively use bedside ultrasound to assist in areas such as fluid management and heart function assessment.

An additional pre-conference event was the third annual Advanced Practice Leadership Summit, which allowed team leaders, directors and chief nursing officers to come together for evidence-based leadership development and practical topics such as developing advanced practice-specific pro-

ductivity models, quality measures, staffing and clinical advancement models.

The boot camp for comprehensive critical care, which is the main event, included lec-



During simulation-based training at the CELA lab, participants in the ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp receive guidance on specialized procedures.

tures and panel discussions, with breakout sessions and pediatric-specific content. A highlight for many of those attending was the hands-on learning at the CELA lab, led by Jeff Barton, PA. Participants practiced critical care skills with mannequins during clinical scenarios such as central line insertion, ultrasound, airway management and emergency response.

Much of how the workshop is configured is based on the advice of the group’s former mentor, the late Arthur P. “Art” Wheeler, MD, Professor of Medicine and the longtime

director of VUMC’s Adult Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). Wheeler died of cancer in late 2015, but his support of advanced practice providers in the intensive care setting contin-

ues to be one of his many legacies.

Kapu said there are more than 300,000 advanced practice registered nurses nationwide, and more than 1,000 practice at VUMC.

Advanced practice registered nurses include certified registered nurse anesthetists, nurse

practitioners, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists. These practitioners are educated in nationally accredited programs and are clinically trained and board certified in their area of practice. In addition, VUMC employs more than 60 physician assistants, another growing profession.

“The thing that has impressed me the most about boot camp this year was everyone’s level of engagement,” said Cameron. “Without any shadow of doubt, this conference can serve as an agent of change, and we look at it as that.”

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WITH VUMC NURSE LEADERS

Katie Brennan, MSN, RN, CDE, NE-BC

Position: Administrative Director, Medicine Patient Care Center

Work area: Internal Medicine/Primary Care Clinics



How long have you been a nurse leader at Vanderbilt? Since April 2010.

What is your favorite aspect of being a nurse leader? Building strong, engaged teams working together to achieve goals. Watching growth and improvement over time—whether in our clinical staff or in our clinics—continually looking for ways to improve patient care.

What is your No. 1 piece of advice for nurses? Keep your focus on the patient and family—it is a privilege to work as a nurse and to share in the experiences of our patients and families. Continually look for ways to improve rather than accepting the status quo or complaining about problems or frustrations. Seek to find solutions.

What do you do for fun when you're not at work? I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, taking walks, reading, enjoying local music and traveling.



Kathy Moss, MSN, MBA, RN, PMP, NEA-BC

Position: Administrative Director, Nursing and Clinical Support Services

Work area: Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

How long have you been a nurse leader at Vanderbilt? I returned to Vanderbilt in 2010 to lead Nursing and Clinical Support Services in Children's Hospital and later began working with Ambulatory Care in 2013.

What is your favorite aspect of being a nurse leader? I enjoy working with diverse teams and supporting our exceptional staff to provide excellent care for our patients and families.

What is your No. 1 piece of advice for nurses? Cherish your responsibility as the patient's and families' greatest advocate and difference-maker in their lives. Your compassion is invaluable, and the expert skills that you have gained in the nursing profession will prepare you well for any role in your personal or professional journey.

What do you do for fun when you're not at work? I enjoy spending time with my husband and 9-year-old son. We love to play basketball and baseball, swim and watch college sports together. I am a huge Vanderbilt fan – Go 'Dores!

AACN GIVES BRONZE LEVEL BEACON AWARD TO PCICU

The American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) has awarded the Bronze Level Beacon Award to the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU) at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. The Beacon Award is given to nursing units that distinguish themselves by excellence and a commitment to improve patient care.

The PCICU was recognized for superior performance in the categories of leadership, staff engagement, communication, continuous learning, evidence-based practice and patient outcomes.

"I am extremely proud of the nursing staff for this achievement," said Kathie Krause, MSN, RN, NNP-BC, NEA-BC, Chief Nursing Officer for Children's Hospital. "Receiving the Beacon Award illustrates the commitment of the PCICU to excellence in patient care and dedication to

continuous quality improvement. It is such a pleasure to see them recognized by the AACN for their efforts."

Bronze-level recognition, which continues for three years, indicates the unit is developing systematic policies, processes and procedures; identifying opportunities for staff participation; and recognizing the need to develop cycles of evaluation and improvement.

"For patients and families, the designation represents exceptional care through improved outcomes and greater overall satisfaction," according to the AACN. "For nurses, a Beacon Award can mean a positive and supportive work environment with greater collaboration between colleagues and leaders, higher morale and lower turnover. Nurses who work in organizations and units that meet a national standard for excel-

lence consistently report healthier work environments and express higher satisfaction with their job."

The AACN developed the Beacon Award in 2003 in order to give hospitals and health care systems a means to respond to increasing concerns about quality and safety, and to evaluate the continuing evolution of clinical care. Award criteria — which measure systems, outcomes and environments against evidence-based national criteria for excellence — provide a mechanism to initiate patient safety efforts.

The PCICU nursing team, led by manager John David Hughes MMHC, BSN, RN, NE-BC, worked together to apply for this honor.

"I am so proud of our outstanding PCICU nurses," said Executive Chief Nursing Officer Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC. "This honor is richly deserved."

OCTOBERFEST
2018
**NOW
TRENDING**
WHAT'S INFLUENCING YOUR PRACTICE?
An Education Symposium



TOPICS APPLICABLE TO ALL CLINICAL DISCIPLINES
Open to all VUMC Staff

OCTOBERFEST IS HERE

Octoberfest is an education gala from Oct. 22-24, presented by Nursing Education and Professional Development. All events are free to attend, but registration is required. See the full schedule of events at www.vanderbiltnursing.com or search "Octoberfest" in the Learning Exchange.