

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,
MSN, RN,
NE-BC

VUMC NURSES WORKING IN GUYANA

Vanderbilt University Medical Center nurses are receiving recognition for administering a bachelor's degree in emergency nursing program for nurses at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) in the South American country of Guyana, the first of its kind in the Caribbean region and perhaps the world. The program was developed in collaboration with GPHC and the University of Guyana.

Jessica Van Meter, DNP, RN APN-BC, CCRN A-EMT, a Vanderbilt LifeFlight nurse who directs the program, is being honored for her work at the second annual International Nurses Day event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on May 11.

A class of 15 Guyanese nurses are scheduled to graduate in November with the new bachelor's degree, which will be awarded by the University of Guyana. It will be the culmination of nearly 10 years of planning by Vanderbilt nurses and their counterparts in Guyana. Another 14 students are in their first year of the program, for a total of 29 students.

The goal of the two-year bachelor's degree program is to improve

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

VUMC nurses working in Guyana

Foss retires after three decades leading MICU

Certified Nurses Day photo

Nurses Week 2018

We all know that Vanderbilt nurses make an impact far beyond our Medical Center campus. In this issue, you will read about our nurses who are playing a major role in the South American country of Guyana, leading a new bachelor's degree program in Emergency Nursing.

The program has even caught the attention of the United Nations, which will honor Jessica Van Meter, our program director, on International Nurses Day, May 11. Kudos to Jessica for this recognition.

In the last month, we celebrated Julie

Foss for three decades in the MICU. It has been such a pleasure working with Julie and we wish her the best on her retirement.

We recently celebrated our certified nurses with our annual photo, which is inside. Finally, it's almost time for Nurses Week, and there are important details inside. Please prepare to join us for a fun week of events.

Enjoy this issue,

the quality of nursing care, which came at the request of medical professionals in the developing country, said Ali Grubbs, MSN, RN, nurse manager on the Neurosciences unit located on 6 North and 6 South at Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital.

“This is about the patient,” she said. “This program came from a need to take care of patients.”

Nurses in the program, who range in age from 22 to 50, work in a challenging environment of patients with tropical infectious diseases like malaria and dengue, as well as trauma, snakebites and complicated pregnancies. They care for pediatric patients, cardiac and stroke patients, and a high number of attempted suicides via pesticide poisoning. Guyana has the highest per capita suicide rate in the world.

GPHC is a free public hospital and the largest hospital in Guyana, a country bordering Venezuela on the Atlantic Ocean, roughly two times the size of Tennessee with a popu-

lation comparable to Davidson County. Most patients receive care from government-run medical facilities in the capital, Georgetown, some taking days to reach the city from homes in rural areas.

The emergency nursing curriculum focuses on the

emergencies and fundamentals of shock and sepsis.

Second-year residents participate in specialty-based rotations to such units as OB/maternity, intensive care and pediatrics. They also participate in a community health rotation at a rural hospital and ride-along with emergency medical personnel. Each student participates in a quality improvement project designed to improve delivery of patient care prior to graduation.

One of the biggest changes to nursing practice there has been to incorporate basic life support (BLS) and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) into nursing practice. As a result, the Accident and Emergency Department has the highest percentage of nurses trained in CPR and advanced life support in the hospital.

“We also strive to incorporate research and evidence-based practice, leadership and professionalism and pharmacology into the curriculum on a quarterly basis,” said Van Meter, who spends part of her time each month in Guyana.



Vanderbilt emergency nurses working in Guyana include, left to right: Sally Dye, BSN, RN, CEN; Jessica Van Meter, DNP, APN-BC, AEMT; and Ali Grubbs, MSN, RN.

fundamentals of critical patient care assessment and triage, development of nursing skills and procedures, as well as a range of didactic lectures that encompass both clinical pathophysiology as well as aspects of advanced nursing practice. Lectures include a wide range of topics such as airway management, pain emergencies, burn care and resuscitation, toxicology, fluid and electrolyte emergencies, pediatric and neonatal

FOSS RETIRES AFTER THREE DECADES LEADING MICU

Julie Foss, MSN, RN, NE-BC, retired in February after managing the MICU at Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital for nearly 30 years, a job on a high-stress unit that she never tired of.

“I love the challenge of it,” Foss said. “We see such a variety of different patient populations and different diseases and conditions and even after 29 and a half years of being a manager there, when I listen to report in the morning, there are new things. There are new diseases.”

Foss’ passion for nursing goes back much farther – to her teenage years growing up in Waterloo, Iowa.

“My mom and my grandmother always talked about me being a nurse and they thought that that would be a really cool thing for me to do,” she said. “When I was in junior high, I started to work as a candy striper and did that for four hours almost every Saturday. During that time I just really realized that I liked being in the hospital. I liked working with people and maybe making their day a little bit better.”

From Waterloo, she went to a three-year hospital diploma

program at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, then to Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. There she realized that she needed



Robin Steaban, Julie Foss and Marilyn Dubree at a retirement party for Foss in Langford Auditorium lobby.

more education. She moved to the University of Iowa to get her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN), and set her sights on warmer climates to the south to get her graduate degree. An internist she had worked with in Waterloo suggested Vanderbilt, citing the research underway in hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

She started work in B-3100 in the old Vanderbilt Hospital, now Medical Center North. There were six ICU beds – five of them in one room and one private room. She grew up with the unit, which has 35 beds in the current hospital.

“Critical care at Vanderbilt is really different than it was in the 1980s,” said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer. “One thing has been really constant and that is Julie’s leadership to help nurses, young residents, doctors, nursing leaders and administrators know how to do the right thing for the people that we serve.”

“From the bottom of our heart we appreciate you so much. Thank you so much; you have touched so many lives.”

“It’s the manager who creates a culture and sets a tone of excellence in patient care, for collaboration and for staff involvement in decision making. Julie has done all of this,” said Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital and Clinics. “She has been uncompromising in expecting nursing and medical teams to deliver extraordinary patient care. This is consistently demonstrated by the outcomes of care in the MICU.”



The Certified Nurses 2018 scrapbook may be found at
<https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/nursenewsletters/2018VUMCCertifiedNursesScrapbook>

Save the Dates
Nurses Week Events
A message from Marilyn Dubree

State of Nursing Address 2018
 Tuesday, May 22nd from 8:30am-9:30am in Light Hall 208

Nursing Honors 2018
 Friday, May 25th from 3pm-4pm in Langford Auditorium
Reception to follow in Lobby

Research Nurses Poster Session 2018
 Friday, May 4th from 12pm – 2pm in Light Hall North Lobby

Blessing of Hands 2018

<p><u>Children’s Hospital Chapel</u> May 8, Tuesday, 4pm – 5pm May 9, Wednesday, 7:15am – 8:15am May 10, Thursday, 12pm – 1pm May 11, Friday 2:30am – 3:30am May 12, Saturday, 12pm – 1pm</p>	<p><u>VUH Rhea Chapel</u> May 22, Tuesday, 6am – 7am May 23, Wednesday, 6pm – 7pm May 24, Thursday, 12pm – 1pm <u>One Hundred Oaks Conf Room</u> May 22, Tuesday, 11am – 1pm</p>
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More locations coming soon!

More information at www.vanderbiltnursing.com


