

May 2019



A newsletter  
from the office  
of the Executive  
Chief Nursing  
Officer

Marilyn Dubree,  
MSN, RN,  
NE-BC

## NOISE STUDY PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE

Research shows that noise negatively affects medical personnel and patient safety, and the operating room is one of the noisiest clinical areas due to information sharing among the clinical team, various technology devices and surgical equipment. Noise in the operating room is unregulated, not monitored and that there is no policy governing it, according to Vanderbilt nurse research. Glendyle Levinskas, BSN, RN, CNOR, and Elizabeth Card, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC, CPAN, CCRP recently presented the findings at an Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) conference in Nashville.

Levinskas presented "Operating Room (OR) Noise is a health and safety risk: a real time measurement of noise level during critical times of surgery and multidisciplinary staff's noise perception in Vanderbilt adult OR."

Levinskas said that the purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of noise and noise reduction strategies on individual and patient safety and to assess OR noise levels during critical times.

"The very heart of the noise intervention is quiet during critical times of surgery, which means no unnecessary conversation, no unnecessary activities, no interruption and may mean no music during critical times," she said.

*continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

Complete Defining Personalized Care module today

Wyatt named president-elect of AORN

Card named president-elect of ASPAN

Nurse gets grant for pediatric patient simulator

Please join us for Nurses Week events

May is my favorite month of the year. It is the month in which we celebrate Nurses Week, I deliver the State of Nursing address, we celebrate nursing research and recognize another group of our remarkable nurses.

I encourage you to attend as many Nurses Week events as possible. I look forward to seeing you.

In this issue, we recognize Glendyle Levinskas, whose research into noise in the operating room is gaining national attention. We recognize two more nurses on the national stage — Dave Wyatt and Elizabeth Card. Dave

was named president-elect of the Association of periOperative Nurses (AORN) and Elizabeth was named president-elect of the American Society for PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN). That means Vanderbilt nurses will be leading the two chief nursing organizations specializing in the care of the surgical patient.

I celebrate the incredible work our nurses do every day. Thank you.

Enjoy this issue,

Levinskas measured noise levels in the OR. Staff perceived the noise level at 60 decibels, the average conversational level, but the maximum noise level was actually 87 dB (close to the sound of a hairdryer).

She stated that it is important to reduce noise that will in turn decrease distractions and miscommunications. The literature states noise and distractions result in medical errors, increased rates of SSI and stress to staff.

For future research, Levinskas plans to create multidisciplinary strategies that will be tested to effectively reduce noise.

Besides Levinskas and Card, other participants in the research were Cynthia Kildgore MSHA, BSN, RN; Oscar Guillamondegui MD, MPH, Steve Hyman, MD, MM; Mathew Fosnot MS, APN, CRNA; Buffy Krauser Lupear DNP, CRNA, APRN; Diane Johnson MSN, RN, NE-BC; Jennifer Payne MSN, RN,

CNOR and Chris Vincent, CSTFA.

“Specialty certified nurses’ expertise in their clinical area combined with understanding a problem can lead them to find and understand the evidence (the literature),” Card said. “At VUMC, these same nurses are empowered to use this knowledge to improve patient care. I am very proud of the work Glendyle has completed on her project and honored to have presented her findings with her at AORN.”

## COMPLETE ‘DEFINING PERSONALIZED CARE’ MODULE TODAY

Join the crowd! About 60% of Vanderbilt University Medical Center employees have already completed the second segment of Defining Personalized Care — Elevating Our Culture of Service, a two-year personalized care journey through exceptional service.

About 85% of the VUMC community has completed the first installment of the initiative, Defining Personalized Care: Be Welcoming. Each segment is designed to be completed in the order they are assigned to employees in the Learning Exchange. Once the Be Welcoming segment is completed, employees are

then able to complete the second segment, Communicate Effectively.

Everyone who completes this topic will have a better understanding of the role body language, tone and word choice play in communication, so we are prepared to improve upon our interactions with one another, our patients and their family members. The segment takes about 15 minutes to com-

plete.

For more information, visit the Elevate website, <https://ww2.mc.vanderbilt.edu/Elevatesite/>.



## WYATT NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF AORN

David Wyatt, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CNOR, Associate Operating Officer of the Perioperative Enterprise at Vanderbilt University Hospital, has been named president-elect of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN). He will serve as president beginning in March 2020.

Wyatt joined VUMC in 2010 as administrative director of Clinical Perioperative Services. In 2014, he was named Associate Operating Officer and Associate Nursing Officer and was responsible for administrative and clinical leadership for the Adult Surgery Patient Care Center. In October 2018, Wyatt was named to his cur-

rent role in which he is responsible for the overall operational and strategic leadership of the Perioperative Enterprise.

Wyatt was previously elected to serve on the AORN board of directors from 2008-2012. In 2015, he received the AORN

Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing, the highest individual award given by the association in recognition of contributions made in research, education and leadership.

"The selection of Dave in this incredibly influential role is a well-deserved honor and

shines a bright light on the Vanderbilt peri-operative community," said Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Hospital and Clinics.

"It's a great honor to be chosen by my fellow members to serve as president of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses," said Wyatt. "AORN ensures the voices of frontline nurses are heard when it comes to critical issues that impact patient care and the practice of nursing in the perioperative setting. The organization is an invaluable resource for advancing the knowledge and skills of nurses in evidence-based practice."



Wyatt

## CARD NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ASPAN

Elizabeth Card, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC, CPAN, CCVP, nursing research consultant and nurse practitioner, has been named president-elect for the American Society for PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN). She will serve as president beginning in April 2020.

Card joined Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 1994. In her current role, she educates, mentors and coaches nurses in evidence-based practice and research. Before her current role, she served as Clinical Research Nurse Study

Coordinator with the Department of Anesthesiology. She has also served on the ASPAN board of directors as Director of Research.

"I am both humbled and elated by this opportunity," Card said. "I am honored to be following in the footsteps of some very fantastic ASPAN leaders, many of whom mentored me."

Before she begins her term as president, Card will serve

as vice president of ASPAN. As president, she will lead the group through the planning of the national conference, collaborating with other organizations, researchers and governmental bodies requiring input from ASPAN as the global subject matter expert on perianesthesia nursing.

"Nursing specialty organizations serve as a touchstone for care of a specific patient population," Card said. "They serve as a central location of specialty knowledge, education and resources resulting in excellent patient care."



Card

# NURSE GETS GRANT FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENT SIMULATOR

Jennifer Dindo, RN, CPEN, Outreach coordinator for the Comprehensive Regional Pediatric Center (CRPC) at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, received a \$43,000 grant from the Tennessee Highland Rim Health Care Coalition to purchase a Pediatric Patient Simulator to enhance training with other hospitals and EMS providers throughout the state.

The centerpiece of the simulator is a mannequin named Tory that approximates a newborn baby. She simulates the potential complications of trauma-related incidents, including mass casualty incidents, environmental disasters and communicable public health crises.

Tory can reproduce many of the functions of a baby — such as capillary refill, the time that

the color returns to the skin of the sternum after being pressed. Her breath sounds can be changed to mimic a child with respiratory distress.



The Tory patient simulator allows nurses to explore the potential complications of trauma-related incidents.

Central line placement is also closely approximated, and Tory can also be intubated.

“She can simulate pretty much any medical problem that a child can have,” Dindo

said.

As part of the state-certified CRPC, Dindo and her team travel the state, from Memphis to Crossville, conducting trainings at hospital emergency departments and EMS stations. They serve all hospitals that fall under the Highland Rim Healthcare Coalition as well as 56 hospitals statewide and over 75 corresponding EMS agencies. Her team provides on average 90 training events annually reaching over 2,100 providers.

“Approximately 60% of pediatric deaths happen in the first 12 months of life,” she said. “With pediatric volumes being less than 20% in most

Emergency Departments and less than 10% for most EMS services, the ability to provide realistic simulation is paramount in the preparation to care for the critical pediatric patient.”

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR NURSES WEEK ACTIVITIES

Nurses Week is here again, and it's time to celebrate! Please mark your calendars for the following events and prepare to join us for several inspirational and educational activities. Everyone is encouraged to attend each of the events.

- **Research Nurses Poster Session 2019** - Friday, May 17, from noon to 2 p.m. in Light Hall North Lobby.
- **Nursing Awards and Recognition 2019** - Friday, May 17, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Langford Auditorium. Reception to follow in lobby.
- **State of Nursing Address 2019** - Tuesday, May 28, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Light Hall 208.