

NURSING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Transforming patient care through professional practice

November 2018



A newsletter
from the office
of the Executive
Chief Nursing
Officer

Marilyn Dubree,
MSN, RN,
NE-BC

IN THIS ISSUE

Spotlight on DAISY Award luncheon

Spiceland gets first CPHNA certification at VUMC

Gabrielson honored at Hidden VUMC Figures event

NURSING RESEARCH SHINES AT OCTOBERFEST

Nursing research took center stage in Light Hall on Oct. 22 during the Research Day Poster Presentations organized by the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and Nursing Research Committee of Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Dozens of people filed by the row of posters in the Preston Research Building Breezeway showcasing a range of nursing research across the Medical Center.

The event was part of “Now Trending: OctoberFest 2018,” a series of presentations from Oct. 22-24 pertaining to current practice standards, evidence-based practice, organizational quality and safety initiatives and the mission of the organization.

The top three posters received monetary awards from the Iota Chapter of nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau, which was founded at VUSN in the 1920s.

The winners were:

- First Place — Rachel Kromer, MSN, RN-BC, NP-C, “Imagining an Orientation Built on Trust”

Kromer said the purpose of the research was to “track progress of unit-based RN orientation, guide preceptors & orientees to create effective goals and drive a meaningful orientation.”

[continued on page 2](#)

We just wrapped up a very busy and productive month for Vanderbilt nursing. In this issue, you will read about Octoberfest, which was a great success that placed a spotlight on nursing education and research.

In addition, we began our rollout of the DAISY Award, an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day. In this issue you can read about our recent luncheon. Please stay tuned to read about our first group of award winners.

Lastly, we posthumously honored Rosamond Gabrielson for her leadership and legacy at VUMC. More details are inside.

As you gather with your families for Thanksgiving, I wish you a warm beginning to the holiday season. Thank you for all your many contributions to our remarkable Medical Center.

Enjoy this issue,

Using a validated tool, Nursing Professional Development practitioners surveyed frontline RNs on inpatient medicine acute care units pre- & post-integration to evaluate the usability of the orientation tools. Prior to integration, 50 percent of RNs agreed that the orientation tools were unnecessarily complex, compared to 0 percent post-integration.

Prior to integration, 54 percent of RNs agreed that the orientation tools were easy to use, compared to 88.9 percent post-integration.

• Second Place — Glendyle Levinkas, BSN, RN, CNOR, “Operating Room (OR) Noise is a health and safety risk: a real time measurement of noise level during critical times of surgery and a multidisciplinary staff’s noise perception in Vanderbilt adult OR”

Levinkas said that noise in the operating room is unregulated but research shows that noise negatively affects individuals and patient safety. 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. Recordings of noise levels during surgical count and anesthesia emergence showed that the average noise level of



the OR was 68 decibels (dB), above the normal conversation level of 60 dB. The maximum noise level was 87 dB (close to the sound of a hairdryer) and peak noise level (the spike of noise) was 106 dB, comparable to the sound of a bulldozer.

“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,” she said.

• Third Place — Jessica Walker DNP, APRN, PMHNP-

BC, RN-BC, “Attitudes of Nursing Staff Toward Patients Who Are Homeless and Have Mental Illness in a Hospital”

Stigmatization of homeless persons by health care workers can lead to low-quality care and negative health outcomes, Walker noted. Homeless persons have increased mortality rates and persons with mental illness have about a 25-year shorter lifespan. Up to one-half of homeless persons have psychiatric illnesses and over

half have substance use disorders.

Walker’s research intended to improve the attitudes of nursing staff in a hospital toward homeless people with mental illness by teaching them about the needs of this population.

Walker found that targeted education at health care providers was effective. “Overall, the attitudes of the participants improved after an educational session about persons who are homeless and have mental illness,” Walker said.

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD LUNCHEON

Vanderbilt nurses gathered at The Vanderbilt Clinic on Oct. 16 to welcome our regional DAISY representative. The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune SYstem) Award is an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day. Several nurses shared their excitement about the award, which debuts at VUMC this year.

"The DAISY Award represents the relationship between nurses and patients and their families. Having the opportunity to honor nurses who make such a difference separates us from other organizations." — **Laura Lawson Webb, MSN, RN-BC, Patient Care Services, Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital**

"Our Vanderbilt nurses go above and beyond every day, providing holistic care to our patients and their family members. The DAISY Award says, 'Your compassionate care is noticed. You truly make a difference.'" — **Elizabeth Diesing Cowart, BSN, RN, MICU, Vanderbilt Adult Hospital**

"It is incredible to include an internationally recognized award such as DAISY as part of our nursing recognition, tradition and culture. I am thrilled that so many of my caring and compassionate nursing colleagues will be honored and recognized by patients, families and peers in this way." — **Sara C. Anderson, BSN, RN, Float Pool - Critical Care, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt**

"The DAISY Award is important to me because it celebrates the HEART of nursing. The patients, family members, and colleagues nominate a nurse because of how that nurse touched their heart with their own heart." — **Charlotte Chavous BSN, RN-BC, CSFA, CST, The Vanderbilt Clinics/Vanderbilt Medical Group**



Joanie Jeannette, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE; McKinsey Patterson, BSN, RN; Anderson Bottomy, RN, CCRN, CEN, CSRN; Janet Silvestri, Elizabeth Cowart, BSN, RN



Katie Brennan, MSN, RN, CDE, NE-BC; Joanie Jeannette, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE; Laura Webb, MSN, RN-BC; Janet Silvestri; Andrea Hughie, MSN, RN, NEA-BC



Anderson Bottomy, RN, CCRN, CEN, CSRN (front left) and Elizabeth Cowart, BSN, RN (front right) giving an overview of VUH's DAISY efforts

SPICELAND GETS FIRST CHPNA CERTIFICATION AT VUMC

Randy L. Spiceland, CNA, RCHPNA, a care partner in the Palliative Care Unit, has recently achieved certification as a Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Assistant (CHPNA), thought to be the first such certification at VUMC.

Spiceland said he found the motivation to seek the certification within himself. “I have learned many things about caring for these patients during my last two years at VUMC,” he said. “I wanted to be able to provide the highest level of care to these patients and receiving additional training and knowledge in how to provide this particular type of care

improved my ability to do just that.”

Spiceland provides support and assistance to the palliative care population as well as visiting families and friends. He is also cross-trained as a medical receptionist, a role he practices usually one day per week.

“Providing care and support to our patients and families during a difficult time, both physically and emotionally, is very rewarding,” he said. “I enjoy getting to be a part of a passionate team that delivers that support.”

Rebecca Hixson, BSN, RN, CPHN, Clinical Staff Leader for Palliative Care/Internal Medicine, congratulated

Spiceland on his accomplishment.

“Palliative Care is centered around an interdisciplinary approach to improving quality of life for anyone with a serious illness by early identification and action on patient/family needs; physical, spiritual, psychosocial or otherwise,” she said.

“By advancing his knowledge and expertise in Palliative Care as a certified nursing assistant, Randy has added another advanced layer to that interdisciplinary care we strive to provide for each and every patient to the best of our ability. We could not be more proud of him and this accomplishment.”

GABRIELSON HONORED AT HIDDEN VUMC FIGURES EVENT

The late Rosamond Gabrielson, RN, was honored along with three others at the second annual Hidden VUMC Figures event Oct. 29 in Light Hall, sponsored by the VUMC Office of Diversity Affairs.

Adrienne Ames, MSN, RN, adjunct associate professor of Nursing, introduced Gabrielson, who arrived at VUMC in 1976 as the director of Nursing, immediately following her tenure as president of the American Nurses Association. During her 12 years at Vanderbilt, she helped establish nursing bylaws and staff action committees, which ultimately led to what is now known as shared governance. She retired from Vanderbilt in 1988 and died in 2000. Her legacy left a significant footprint on Vanderbilt nursing.



From left, Jesse Britton Sr., Martha Young and Odessa Settles were recognized for their contributions to the Medical Center at the second annual Hidden VUMC Figures event. Adrienne Ames, MSN, RN, right, spoke on behalf of Rosamond Gabrielson, who was recognized posthumously.