More than 500 nurse practitioners and physician assistants from 42 states came to Vanderbilt University Medical Center from Sept. 9 to 13 for the eighth annual ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp.

The event, which took place at the Student Life Center and the Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA) Lab in Light Hall, was an opportunity for critical care nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) to receive specialized critical care training to improve patient care.

“This is one of the only conferences in the country that provides focused education for critical care NPs and PAs,” said April Kapu, DNP, RN, associate nursing officer for VUMC Advanced Practice and director of the Office of Advanced Practice. Co-chairs for this annual event are Janna Landsperger, ACNP, medical intensive care nurse practitioner, and Billy Cameron, MSN, ACNP, surgical intensive care nurse practitioner.

A busy week of sessions and hands-on activities included an Advanced Practice Leadership Summit and reception, two days of adult and pediatric informational sessions at the Student Life Center, two ultrasound workshops and several skills labs. In the latter, participants responded to real-world simulations with mannequins in scenarios such as

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I hope fall is off to a wonderful start for everyone and that you had an enjoyable summer full of friends and family. We have much to be excited about in this issue.

Our annual ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp was the biggest ever and drew more than 500 people from around the country. This phenomenal program reflects the tireless work of our advanced practice professionals at Vanderbilt, who now number more than 1,200!

This issue also spotlights our latest recipients of The DAISY Awards. These three nurses exemplify excellence in compassionate patient and family care. Congratulations to them for making Vanderbilt such a special place.

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to complete the latest “Defining Personalized Care” module about listening. It is a fun way to spend 10 minutes and offers valuable information.

Enjoy this issue,
as central line insertion, ultrasound use, airway management and emergency response. This year’s boot camp added more emphasis on ECMO, a special device that temporarily takes over the functions of the lungs and heart.

A rapidly growing field of health care providers, NPs and PAs make up more than 300,000 providers nationwide and more than 1,200 at Vanderbilt alone. These providers are educated in nationally accredited programs, clinically trained and board certified in their area of practice.

Boot camp faculty include critical care NPs, PAs and physicians from multiple departments at Vanderbilt who volunteer their time as well as professionals from institutions nationwide.

“It’s really important for us to bring experts from their respective fields of practice to be on our conference faculty,” Cameron said. “Whether they are here at VUMC or other institutions in the country, they are able to bring unique aspects of new evidence or their own research that hopefully relate to the learners and help toward implementation of new ideas in critical care.”

“Our goal is that in educating NPs and PAs that patient care and critical care is improved,” Landsperger said. “We have probably impacted 1,500 NPs and PAs over the last eight years. Giving them the education that they need is in a small way contributing to improved patient outcomes.”

Kapu said the learning extends beyond boot camp. “We partner with people who come to boot camp in research studies, publications, and educational conferences,” she said. “You will notice a lot of Vanderbilt NPs and PAs have authored publications in critical care.”

Boot camp would not be possible without the dedication of VUMC’s own NPs and PAs, who plan the event each year as soon as the last one ends.

Each year, the conference honors the late Arthur Wheeler, MD, who was medical director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit and a champion of critical care NPs and PAs.

“We started boot camp in 2012 under Art’s mentorship, and one of his many legacies is his commitment to improving continuing education for NPs and PAs working in critical care,” Landsperger said. “In continuing this conference, we hope to advance NP/PA delivered critical care across the country.”

Attendees of the 2019 ACNP/PA Critical Care Boot Camp hone their skills in Vanderbilt’s Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA) lab.
SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Timothy Gray Fulton, BSN, RN
Unit: Medical Intensive Care Unit
Entity: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

From the nomination: “My mother was admitted to the MICU (with) respiratory arrest caused by disseminated histoplasmosis. She stayed there until she passed away. We had several wonderful nurses during her stay but Timothy stands out as being the best. He would spend hours by mother’s bedside treating her for her rapid atrial fibrillation, pain and different medical problems that arose during her stay. He was always readily available to give the needed medicine for her heart rate or make a warm compress and/or ice pack to help with her pain. He would help to reposition her as often as she asked and sometimes this would be every few minutes. He would provide warm blankets and a listening ear.”

Brigitte Williams, BSN, RN
Unit: Cancer Infusion Center
Entity: The Vanderbilt Clinic

From the nomination: “Thanks to the care of a network of doctors and nurses at Vanderbilt, I am a cancer survivor. ... Although I had ‘survived’ chemo and radiation prior to surgery, I was still apprehensive about beginning chemo, given all I had heard about debilitating side effects that others had experienced. Brigitte greeted my wife and me with a sincere heartfelt warmth. In addition to soliciting and addressing all our technical questions, she initiated a genuine relationship with us.”

Sara Anderson, MSN, RN
Unit: Float Pool
Entity: Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

From the nomination: “Our newly adopted daughter was unexpectedly admitted to Vanderbilt after a heart cath. We were informed that she would need open heart surgery to receive a shunt as soon as possible. ... Sara Anderson walked into our room in the PCICU and was immediately a ray of sunshine. ... Sara went above and beyond to make sure that our daughter's time in the PCICU was as stress-free as possible.”

WANT TO NOMINATE A NURSE?
Scan the QRcode or go to www.VUMCDAISY.com.
TAKE ‘DEFINING PERSONALIZED CARE’ MODULE NOW

The newest segment of Defining Personalized Care — Elevating Our Culture of Service focuses on sharpening our engaged listening skills. Listening is a powerful tool that helps build trust, show we care and create meaningful connections.

“Listen to Understand” takes 10 minutes to complete. The movie scenes, games and interactive exercises in this app-inspired segment make learning fun and impactful. This segment helps us better engage as listeners through asking clarifying questions and focusing on the speaker’s message by taking a moment to stop and pause and removing distractions.

Topics include The Power of Listening, Rate the Listening, Check Your Filters and Boost Your Service. Leader and participant guides include resources and fun exercises to promote discussion and reinforce key learnings.

Follow these steps to access the module:

2. Search for “Defining Personalized Care.”
3. Select “Listen to Understand.”