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# **Words of Welcome**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am honored and humbled to present to you the 2022 Nursing Annual Report. This Nursing Annual Report is only a snapshot of this year's many contributions but will provide a glimpse into the remarkable care we provide each day. Care that exceeds expectations and pursues excellence relentlessly.

At Connecticut Children's, nurses are empowered to be leaders, advocates and innovators, and we pursue ways to improve and grow each day. I continue to be astounded by the magnitude of great work and am thrilled to compile these examples to share.

In July 2022, the Nurse Residency Program also received its very first accreditation from the ANCC Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP). The nurses who have joined the workforce in the past three years have been profoundly impacted by the effects of the pandemic both academically and in clinical practice. These nurses have continued to choose nursing and I am so proud of all our nurse residents and their amazing contributions to the profession.

In addition to the new team members in our workforce, we have an army of nurses who have steadfastly and faithfully served our patients and families for years, many of whom have been with us since our doors opened in 1996. We have a solid foundation and backbone of extraordinary pediatric nursing experts. These nurses drive nursing excellence through transformational leadership, research, shared governance, professional development, and clinical expertise.

Behind each of the moments we are about to share is the commitment to learn more, improve outcomes and empower individuals to seek innovative solutions. We are leaders and teammates in advancing the quality of care. We choose to be here for the children and their families and they drive our commitment, they fuel our passion, and they push us to fight harder for them each day.

Our vivid imagination and innovative spirit is what makes the nurses at Connecticut Children's so special. We are transforming children's health and well-being as One Team. It is what makes us unique. It is an experience. It is a feeling. It is a promise.

With respect and admiration,

Sorah Matry



Sarah Matney MSOL, BSN, RN, CPON, CENP

Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations, Connecticut Children's



Since our last report in 2016, the Nursing Practice Council (NPC) has continued its work to affect change that is reflective of the evolution of nursing as a whole. We continue to refocus our efforts and prioritizing our goals to meet the common needs voiced by nurses across the institution. Our goal is that you can recognize the change and accomplishments highlighted in this report despite the challenges felt across healthcare over the past several years.

Our priority continues to be addressing nursing recognition, satisfaction and commitment at Connecticut Children's. We hope that in the coming years we are able to continue to contribute to the accomplishment of this very important goal as we continue to determine the types of recognition our peers find truly meaningful.

In efforts to show appreciation to our colleagues, the cheer cart and cheer basket continue to bring enjoyment to nursing units and other teams throughout the organization. With the pandemic affecting all aspects of our lives, we switched to virtual meetings.

The 2022 Nursing Annual Meeting and Nurses Week were successfully held back in person and appreciated by all involved. We are continuously evaluating the feedback generated by nurses to further impact changes.

We continue to collaborate with the nursing shared governance groups to bring positive changes to the organization. NPC is working with these nurses-driven groups to restructure and strengthen the nursing voice and engagement. We are focused on providing insights on behalf of nurses throughout the organization to deliver feedback on resources like the professional development tool and professional practice model.

We feel fulfilled by the work we have done and continue to do, as evidenced by this annual report. We continue to strive towards our Magnet re-designation and are proud of the work our nurses do each and every day. We know that times have been challenging for nurses across the organization and hope that knowing you have a team of nurses who continue to work for you. We are honored to represent nurses at Connecticut Children's.



Alyson Mason BSN, RN, CLC NPC Co-Chair



Erin Scanlon MSN, RN, CNML, CPN NPC Co-Chair



# Advanced Practice Providers: **Developing a Presence**

It has been quite a remarkable journey for the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) group at Connecticut Children's and I am honored to have our accomplishments shared alongside those of our nursing colleagues. The APP workforce has grown significantly in recent years in response to a physician shortage and the 2003 implementation of resident duty work hour restrictions. These factors have resulted in academic medical centers hiring more Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants. At Connecticut Children's, there were less than 20 APPs when we opened in 1996; now there are 180 APPs deployed in 38 different clinical divisions.

In May 2020, the Office of Advanced Practice Providers (OAPP) was established within Connecticut Children's to identify and address APP challenges, opportunities, retain APPs and decrease turnover by increasing APP engagement and morale. Our vision is to develop Connecticut Children's as the premier pediatric academic medical center in the country for Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) to work, grow, and develop their career.

Much work has been done to support and accelerate the visibility of nurse practitioners and physician assistants at Connecticut Children's. My colleague Garry Lapidus, PA-C and I serve as Co-Directors for the OAPP. We report to Juan Salazar (Physician-in-Chief), Christine Finck (Surgeon-in-Chief) and Sarah Matney (Chief Nursing Officer).

6

In addition, the APP Co-Directors have a voting seat on the CCSG Board of Directors and coordinate their efforts closely with James Moore (President, CCSG). Our gratitude for their support extends beyond measure.

Shortly after the OAPP was established, an APP Advisory Council was created. This group leverages expertise to guide the OAPP and provide information and recommendations. Members of this council are asked to do the following:

- Shape the future of the OAPP by sharing areas of expertise, feedback, and insight regarding professional practice and program development for the APPs
- Develop leadership skills through leading and participating in a committee or special project from planning to completion
- Serve as an advocate for the OAPP
- Represent and network with APP colleagues throughout the organization



Basia Adams, DNP, APRN - APPs (PHM)

# **APP Advisory Council Highlights**

# **Education and Training Committee**

Chair: Christina Giudice, APRN

Activities include planning and implementing the quarterly APP Grand Rounds: Summit series, and annual APP summit.

# **Transition to Practice Committee**Chair: Elizabeth Oblon, PA-C

Activities include initiatives to improve onboarding and transition to practice for new APP team members. This group is currently developing/conducting a survey to identify challenges/opportunities and will implement

## **Communication/Marketing Activities**

Chair: Pam Fanning, PA-C

Activities include production of quarterly APP newsletter, development of APP web content, and APP video development and production. Visit www.connecticutchildrens.org/careers/advanced-practice-provider-careers

## **Professional Advancement Model Activities**

Chair: Meredith Lake, APRN

Activities include research to build a model for Connecticut Children's APPs to recognize and reward above and beyond contributions for APRNs and PAs and assist with implementation/evaluation of this process.

## **APP Excellence Awards**

new initiatives pending survey results.

We have also recognized three outstanding APPs at our first APP Excellence Awards dinner held November 9, 2022. This event celebrated the nine nominees and three awardees. The three awards recognize select APPs for exemplary demonstration of Connecticut Children's values in their clinical practice and interaction with patients and team members. Representing our executive management team, Drs. Juan Salazar, Christine Finck, and James Moore provided welcoming remarks and applauded the event that acknowledged the outstanding achievements of our colleagues. Others in attendance included APP Advisory Council members, award nominators, friends, and family. It was our first awards dinner and by all accounts a great success!

#### **NOMINEES:**

Maureen Fearon, APRN,
Endocrinology
Kevin Fitzsimmons, PA-C
Orthopedics/Sports Medicine
Brian Landry, PA-C,
Neonatology

Jennifer Long, APRN,
Neonatology
Molly Mable, PA-C,
Radiology
Rebecca Strong, APRN,
Otolaryngology

Heidi Sweeney, APRN, Gastroenterology Patricia Trehey, APRN, Neonatology Amanda Zuse, APRN, Hematology/Oncology

## **AWARD WINNERS:**



Christina Giudice, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC APRN (Pediatric Hospital Medicine)



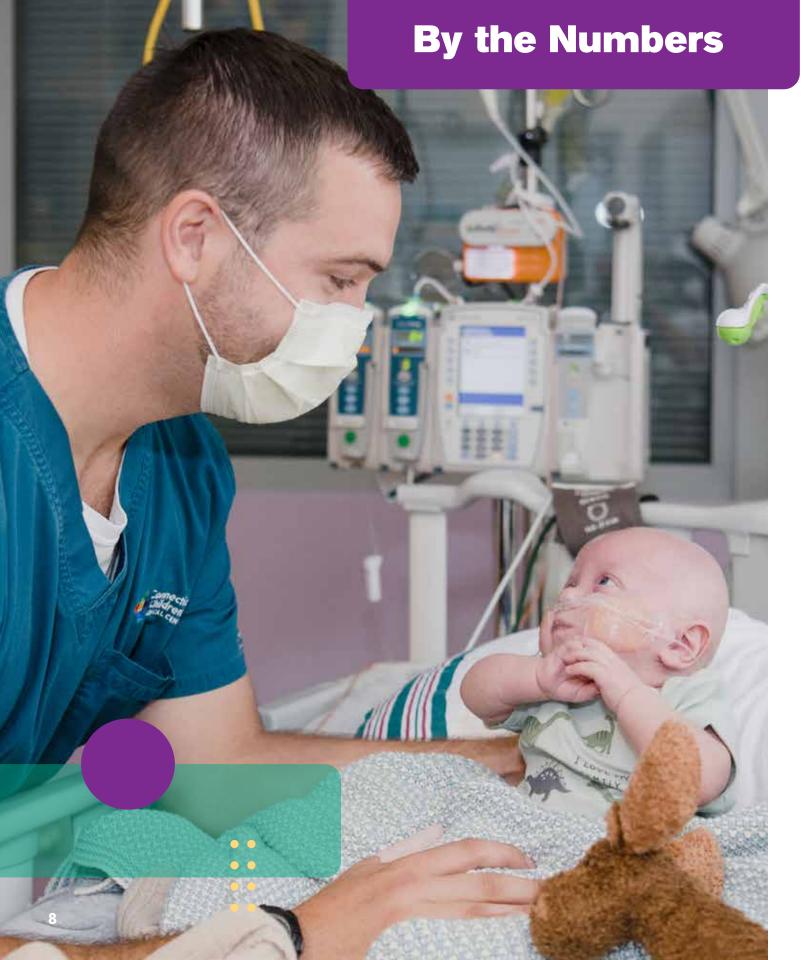
Whitney Fairchild, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
APRN (Cardiology)



Elizabeth Campbell PA-C (General Surgery)



The growth of APPs has been impressive and will continue to be a driving force in healthcare. We hope the initiatives supported this year will improve the overall enagement of this group at Connecticut Children's. In turn, this will impact the quality and accessibility of care for our patients and families across the region. We are looking forward to more growth and an even brighter future in 2023.



2,840

**Team Members** 

**153** 

**Volunteers** 

**187** 

**Licensed Beds** 

11,284

**Total Admissions** 

10,072

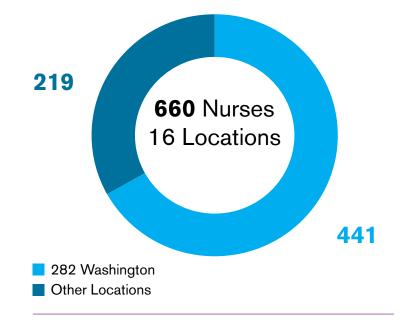
**Surgeries** 

41,482

**Emergency Dept Visits** 

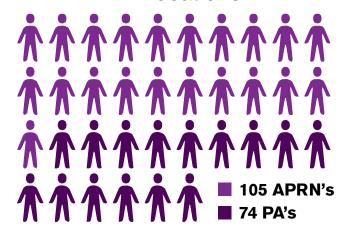
197,929

**Outpatient Visits** 



# **179 Advanced Practioners**

22 Locations









# **The DAISY Nurse Leader Award™**

### **NOMINEES:**

Gwen Beaudoin, BSN, RN, CPN
Erin Boyle, BSN, RN
Eileen Ciccone, MSN, RN, CPN, WCC
Shannon Grad, MSN, RN, NEA-BC

Marge Julian, MSN, RN Mary Lussier, BSN, RN, IBCLC Beth Palazzo, BSN, RN, CPHON Tara Phillips, BSN, RN, CPN Kate Porrini, MSN, RN Katie Ruane, BSN, RN, CNML

#### **WINNERS:**



Eileen Ciccone MSN, RN, CPN, WCC



Katie Ruane BSN, RN, CNML

# **The DAISY Award**<sup>™</sup>

## **WINNERS:**



Tara Dailey BSN, RN, CPN, MS6



Stacy Forsyth BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, NICU East



Tricia Giscombe RN, Urology



. . . .

Jaime Kramer BSN, RN, MS7



Niha Locke BSN, RN, IBCLC, PICU



Steve Mahier BSN, RN, CCRN, PICU



Kody Mooney BSN, RN, MS6



Allie Ouellette RN, CPN, MS8



Janine Rose BSN, RN, CPN, Neurosurgery



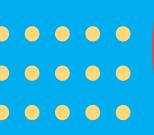
**Leah Schneider** BSN, RN, MS7



Janine Sullivan BSN, RN, IBCLC, NICU West



BSN, RN, CCRN, PICU





# **Nightingale Awards**

# for Excellence in Nursing

### **2022 Nominees**

Kara Arndt BSN, RN, C-EFM, CPN, ONC Jennifer Beaudoin BSN, RN Phyllis Bebyn BSN, RN, CPN Tracy Creatore

Marie Desjarlais MSN, RN, CPN, CWOCN Debbie Ellis BSN, RN Jennafer Euen BSN, RN, CPN, PED-BC. WCC Sarah Lavalette BSN. RN

Nicole Lewie BSN, RN, CPN, IBCLC Jennifer Long MSN, APRN, NNP-BC Derek Martin BSN, RN Samantha Mendez BSN, RN

Barbara Mulholland BSN, RN, CPN Lisa Pierce BSN, RN, IBCLC Alyssa Ruddy, RN Allison Williams BSN, RN, WCC Amanda Zuse MSN, APRN, CPNP-BC

## **2022 Winners**

BSN. RN. CIC



**Basia Adams** DNP. APRN. PNP-BC



**Comalita Elliott** BSN, RN, CDE



Felicia Tam, RN

## **2021 Winners**

**Taryn Hamre** DNP, APRN, CPHON. FNP-BC **Lauren Hurley** MSN, RN Sarah Visker

MSN, RN, RN-BC

# **Angel Awards** Dedicated to PCA's, MA's, PCP's & Techs

## **2022 Winners**



**Phillip Aiello** 



Lymaris Cruz-Urbina



**Seithy Mercado** 

# 2021 Winners

Pam Masella **Lucy Weidner James Wiggins Carmen Williams** Raul Vasquez



**Terrance Perry** 



Claribel Vega

# 

# **Sunshine Award**

# **Outstanding PCA/TECH**



**2022 Winner** 

Millie Figueroa PCA on MS8

#### **American Academy of Nursing**

Vittner, Dorothy, PhD, RN, FAAN (2021, October). Inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

**Excellence in Nursing: Pediatric Faculty Awards** Jamie Choate, BSN, RN received the Excellence in Nursing, 2021 Pediatric Faculty Awards, Department of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

### 2020-21 Nursing Research & Evidence-Based **Practice Awards**

The Research and Evidence-Based Practice Central Council awarded nurses who demonstrated outstanding effort in nursing research, evidence-based practice, and nursing publication. The Most Engaged in Nursing Research Award went to the following nurses: Amy Ciarlo, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Milena Frazer BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Mary Keller, MSN, RN, CPHON; Mary Lussier, BSN, RN, IBCLC; & Hendriana Nielsen, BSN, RD, RN, CCRP, CPN.

The Nursing Manuscript Award was awarded to Amy Ciarlo, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, & Milena Frazer BSN, RN, RNC-NIC for their paper titled, Reducing Admission Hypothermia in Neonates Born Less Than 32 Weeks or 1500g, published in the Journal of Advances in Neonatal Care.

The New Research Project Award was awarded to Mary Keller, MSN, RN, CPHON as principal investigator on the project, Identifying the Needs of Children with Cancer and their Parents at the End of Active Treatment. Two teams of nurses were awarded the Evidence-Based Practice Project Award. For the project, Standardizing Orthostatic

Vital Signs, Julia Lopes, MSN, RN; Nikki Mendelson, BSN, RN; & Aimee Bareiss, BSN, RN were recognized. The second team included Heather Rae, BSN, RN; Katie Lord, BSN, RN; & Leigh Hart, BSN, RN, CPHON for their project titled, Removal of Etoposide Filter.

Kody Mooney, BSN, RN and Tessa Kehoe, BSN, RN were recipients of the New Graduate Nurse Researcher Award for their enthusiasm related to research and evidence-based practice.

Wendy Wheeler, Critical Care Transport Nurse was awarded the COVID-19 Civilian Response Medal



# **National Recognition**

# **Magnet**

Connecticut Children's nursing begins the journey towards our second Magnet designation! Our Magnet document will be submitted in 2023 compiled of stories of



Connecticut Children's RNs, APRNs, and nurse leaders throughout the organization.

# **Clinical Advancements**

## **Moving to Level 1**

Heather Boudle – 1, Sedation
Jenifer Long – 1, Sedation
Randyll Robidoux – 1, Sedation
Hanna Basile – 1, MS8
Tracey Murphy – 1, NICU
Alicia Marquis – 1, NICU
Veronica Roczniak – 1, NICU
Veronica Roczniak – 1, NICU
April Loisneau -1, NICU
Maria Tompkins – 1, ED
Jaime McCurry-1, Endocrinology
Emily Lewis-1, Endocrinology
Ashley Bowman-1, Central Office/Float Pool

### Moving to Level 2

Julia Gardner – 2, Ambulatory Lisa Fichera – 2, NICU Katherine Malan – 2, Float Pool James Hallowell – 2, ASC Stephanie Baldino – 2, ASC Doreen O'Connell – 2, PACU Tiffany Morytko -2, OR Theresa DeSocio -2, PACU Mary DeSocio -2, OR Francine Rossing – 2, OR Kristyn Ryan – 2, MS7 Kara Arndt- 2. Orthopedics

## **Moving to Level 3**

Erin Scanlon - 3, PICU

# **Preceptor Awards**



2022 Preceptors of the Year Andrea Briatico, MA (Infusion Center) Missy Cohen, RN (MS8) Brittany Raffles, RN (OR)

# Nurse Residency Program Receives Accreditation as a Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP)!



Connecticut Children's has received accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) through its Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP). This is the highest recognition an organization can be awarded by the ANCC for a transition to practice program and a true testament to our commitment for nursing excellence. Our evidence-based nursing residency curriculum offers residents a collaborative learning environment to successfully transition into clinical practice. Residents are given the opportunity to work alongside experienced staff and learn in a real-life setting to be better prepared and more confident as they enter the workforce.



# 2022 Women's Choice Award<sup>®</sup> Best Children's Hospital

Connecticut Children's has been named as a Best Children's Hospital by the Women's Choice Award®, America's trusted referral source for the best in healthcare. Connecticut Children's also received this award in 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017.



# 2022-23 U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospital

Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a 2022-2023 Best Children's Hospital, children and families are at the center of attention in each of our 30 highly recognized subspecialties. Staffed by 1,000 top medical



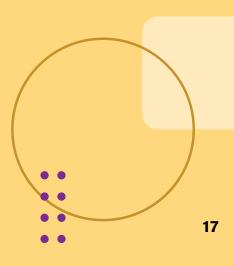
and surgical experts at locations conveniently located throughout the region, we are ready to meet your family's health needs wherever you call home. Connecticut Children's is proud to announce that its neonatology is the state's top ranked program. Connecticut Children's Division of Neonatology provides exceptional newborn care - and a supportive, compassionate experience for families when they need it most. With care in 14 NICUs and delivery units, the peace of mind new parents deserve is conveniently close to home. Our Care Alliance partnerships with adult health systems allow us to deliver neonatal care that is the best in the region. We are always at the forefront of research, constantly looking to advance treatments for the most pre-term and highrisk of infants. In addition to its neonatology ranking, Connecticut Children's was also ranked in the Top 50 programs nationally in Gastroenterology and GI Surgery and Urology. Connecticut Children's will always treat your child as Number One - everywhere, every time!

# **Nurse's Week Celebrations**





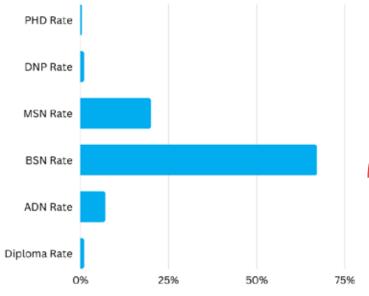






# **Nurse Education – Degrees**

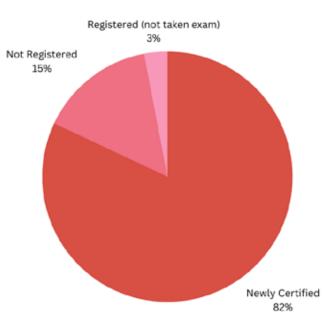
Highest Level of Nursing Education (Hospital-wide)



# 89% BSN OR HIGHER

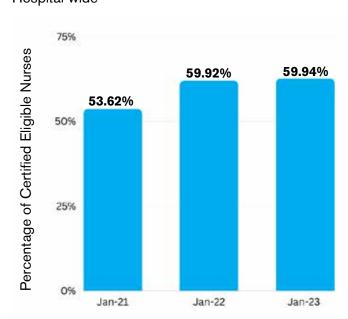
# **Review Course Results**

Goal: 85% of nurses who attended a review course will subsequently obtain their specialty certification





Hospital-wide





# **Student Nurse Intern**

Under the direct supervision of a Registered Nurse as part of an inpatient/hospital unit, Student Nurse Interns (SNIs) perform a variety of routine direct patient care, environmental, and administrative support activities to promote the health, safety, and comfort of patients and families. SNIs also participate in weekly educational sessions to further their understanding of the inner workings of Connecticut Children's and the art of nursing. Topics include Palliative Care, Organ Donation, Introduction to PICU/NICU, Social Media Do's and Don'ts and Risk Management.

2021

ED:

Serena McCoy Carolyn Vasquez

MS6:

Alyssa Donahue Olivia Fiore

MS7:

Rachel Blackwell Caroline Hamilton

MS8:

Chelsea Bergamini Maribella Sousa

NICU: Emma Agli

Lola (Dorothy) Kane

PICU:

Kamron Ghorheshi Samantha Oris **2022** 

ED: Michaela Bedard Erin Edgar

MS6:

Florencia Caces Giovanna Pascale Julia Semmel Alexus Trudeau

MS7:

Rachel Farrugia Amayia Giscombe

Cara Hess Corinne Raphino

MS8:

Aliza Kennelly Alexandra Leitao Jillian Parmelee Mikayla Raffone

• •

• •

NICU:

Laura Jepson Abigail Wilding

PERIOP: Jessica Berry Millicent Hines

Taylor Leavitt PICU:

Millie Baldinger Meghan Domanico



The Susan D. Flynn Pediatric Oncology Nursing Fellowship program is intended to help stimulate the career interest and foster the professional development of potential Pediatric Oncology Nurses. The program is focused on the critically important field of Oncology Nursing. The Fellowship enhances the Student Nurse Intern's core clinical education through direct involvement with Oncology patient care, expert training in compassionate care, and exposure to related patient care duties and services that typify Oncology nurses' valuable role and important inter-relationships with other members of the healthcare team. Opportunities to attend various pertinent internal educational programs and meetings with key team members at Connecticut Children's provide additional learning experiences for the Student Nurse Intern. The Flynn Fellowship Student Nurse Intern functions as a Patient Care Assistant, under the direct supervision of a Registered Nurse, and is provided with a comprehensive scope of direct observational and learning experiences related to Oncology Nursing.

# **2021 Renata Abiali,** BSN, RN **Amanda Brocki,** BSN, RN



**Zachary Hogan** BSN, RN



**Quyen Le** BSN, RN



Olivia LoGiudice BSN, RN



# **Academic Partnerships**

# 2021-2022 Nursing School Affiliations

# **Undergraduate & Graduate**

- Capital Community College
- Central Connecticut State University
- Charter Oak State College
- Fairfield University
- Goodwin University
- Quinnipiac University
- Sacred Heart University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Hartford
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Saint Joseph
- Western Connecticut State University
- Yale University

# Number of Undergraduate Clinical Groups Placed by Semester

## Spring 2022

- Fairfield University 2
- •Goodwin University 1
- •Quinnipiac University 5
- ·Sacred Heart University 4
- •Southern Connecticut State University 1
- •University of Connecticut 4
- •University of Hartford 4

## **Summer 2022**

- Fairfield University 1
- •Goodwin University 3
- Quinnipiac University 5
- ·Southern Connecticut State University 1
- •University of Connecticut 5







Connecticut Institute for Nursing Research & Evidence Based Practice

# **Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice Fellowship**

The Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Fellowship is an 18-month program offered by the Institute for Nursing Research and Evidenced-Based Practice (INR). Since its inception in 2015, 25 nurse fellows have graduated from the fellowship program. In 2022, the fellowship program expanded and with the support of Clinical Operations and the Office of Advanced Practice Providers the program was opened to advanced practice providers, clinicians, and allied-health professionals. Fellows receive didactic content, protocol development support, and project mentoring throughout the course of the program. The purpose of the program is to assist teams of staff nurses, nurse leaders, nurse educators, advanced practice providers (APPs), and allied health team members to develop a relevant research or evidence-based practice project that will result in achieving best patient or institutional outcomes with the greatest likelihood of success.

Despite the COVID pandemic, three nurses completed the fellowship program for the 2019-2021 cohort. Marie Desjarlais, MSN, RN, CPN, CWOCN (Clinical Nurse III, Surgery) completed her evidence-based project titled, Evidence-Based Self-Care Recommendations for Teens with Pilonidal Sinus Disease. Kristi lacuone, BSN, RN, CPN (Nurse Manager, MedSurg 6) and Sarah Visker, MSN, RN-BC (Manager, Clinical Integration) completed their project, Leveraging the Nursing Impact Dashboard to Drive Quality Improvement.





# 2022-2023 Research & EBP Fellows

### CHRISTINA GIUDICE, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC (PMH) & CATHY SULLIVAN, MD (PMH)

Study of Patients Presenting to an Acute Care Pediatric Hospital Identified With Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders

## NANNETTE KYER, BSN, RN, IBCLC (NICU) & SILVANA MICHAEL, MSN, RN, IBCLC (NICU)

The Impact of Prenatal Breastfeeding Education on Pumping Frequency at One Month Postpartum Among Mothers of Pre-Term NICU Patients

#### KIMBERLEY ROCHE, MSN, PPCNP-BC, APRN (Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders)

Development of an Evidenced-Based Employee Wellness Program at Connecticut Children's

. . . .

## DYLAN ROMAN, DPT (Physical Therapy) & ADAM WEAVER, DPT (Physical Therapy)

The Relationship between Early Outcomes and Long Term Function Following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction in Adolescents

VIRGINIA VAN EPPS, M.ED., CCC-SLP (Speech Therapy), JODI URZUA, MS, CCC-SLP (Speech Therapy), MORGAN VOLLERO, MS, CCC-SLP (Speech Therapy), EMMA MENDILLO, MA, CCC-SLP (Speech Therapy), & MARY DORTENZIO, MS, CCC-SLP (Speech Therapy)

Frequency of Speech Therapy and Outcomes in Speech-Language Pathology

# **Nursing Research & EBP Accomplishments**

# Publications, Presentations, Grants and Awards

10/01/2020 - 9/30/2022 Nurse Authors are **bolded** 

### **NURSING PUBLICATIONS**

Apanovitch, A. R., McGrath, J. M., McGlothen-Bell, K., & Briere, C. E. (2021). Neonatal intensive care unit admission temperatures of infants 1500 g or more: The cold truth. *Advances in Neonatal Care, 21(3),* 214–221. https://doi.org/10.1097/ANC.0000000000000000787

Callahan, C., Fisher, B., **Conway Keller, M.**, & Skeens, M. (2022). COG cancer control trials: A focus on infection prevention. *APHON Counts* 36(1), 18-19.

Deer, R. R., Rock, M. A., Vasilevsky, N., Carmody, L., Rando, H., Anzalone, A. J., Basson, M. D., Bennett, T. D., Bergquist, T., Boudreau, E. A., Bramante, C. T., Byrd, J. B., Callahan, T. J., Chan, L. E., Chu, H., Chute, C. G., Coleman, B. D., Davis, H. E., Gagnier, J., ... Perry, M. A., ...Robinson, P. N. (2021). Characterizing Long COVID: Deep Phenotype of a Complex Condition. EBioMedicine, 74, 103722. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2021.103722

Condren, M. M., Kavanagh, K., & Mulholland, B. (2022). Caregiver Perceptions of a Tracheostomy "Go-Bag" Standardization Initiative. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, S0891- 5245(22)00143-2. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2022.05.018

**Dibble, M.** (2022). Reimagining preceptor education: The rapid pivot/change process to a virtual format. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 38(1), 42-45. https://www.doi.org/10.1097/NND.0000000000000828 Eller, O. C., Glidden, N., Knight, B., McKearney, N.,

Perry, M., Bernier Carney, K. M., Starkweather, A., Young, E. E., Baumbauer, K. M. (2021). A role for global DNA methylation level and IL2 expression

from acute to chronic low back pain. *Frontiers in Pain Research*, 2, 744148. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpain.2021.744148

Ellis, D. (2021, August 9). At the forefront of newborn screening. *Advancing Kids*. https://advancingkids. org/2021/08/09/at-the-forefront-of-newborn-screening/

Eze, B., Kumar, S., Yang, Y., Kilcoyne, J., Starkweather, A., **Perry, M. A.** (2022). Bias in musculoskeletal pain management and bias-targeted interventions to improve pain outcomes: A scoping review. *Orthopedic Nursing*, 41(2), 137–145. https://doi.org/10.1097/NOR.00000000000000033

Fabrizio, V., Trzaski, J. M., Brownell, E. A., Esposito, P., Lainwala, S., **Lussier, M. M.,** & Hagadorn, J. I. (2020). Individualized versus standard diet fortification for growth and development in preterm infants receiving human milk. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 11. https://doi.org//10.1002/14651858. CD013465.pub2

Fairchild, W., Tam, F., Wentland, B., Macioce, C., Brimacombe, M., Bopp, J., Heller, F., Upadhyay, S., & Hinderer, K. A. (2022). Self-management in adults with ACHD. *Journal of the American Colleges of Cardiology*, 79(9\_Supplement), 1369. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0735-1097(22)02360-9



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#### **PODIUM PRESENTATIONS**

Adams, B. (2022, April). From Nothing to Something: Anchoring an Advanced Practice Nursing Infrastructure. Podium presentation at the AONL 2022: Inspiring Leaders Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Boyd, T., Engelke, K., & Lake, M. (2021, October). It's a Mab Mab Mab Mab World. Virtual podium presentation at the APHON 2021 Annual Conference.

Briere, C.E., Kankaew, S., Mwalingo, T., & Clohisy, J. (2022, October). Optimizing Human Milk Composition for Preterm Infants: The Impact of Storage on Cellular Components. The 21st ISRHML Conference of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation, Panama City, Panama.



Conner, T., Davis, A., & Neff, E. (2021, October). Nursing Comfort in Allowing Parents to Hold Infants while Receiving Therapeutic Hypothermia. Virtual podium presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance, Hartford, CT.

Dibble, M., Shafer, M., & Storey, B. (2020, November). Beyond the Classroom: Engaging Adult Learners during a Pandemic. Virtual podium presentation at the Connecticut Hospital Association Meeting.

Ellis, D. (2021, June). Family Engagement at the Newborn Screening (NBS), Genetic Counseling and Advisory Group Level. Virtual podium presentation at The National Family Voices Leadership Conference.

Fairchild, W., Tam, F., Wentland, B., Macioce, C., Brimacombe, M., Bopp, J., Heller, F., Upadhyay, S., Grant, C., & Hinderer, K. (2021, October). Selfmanagement in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease. Virtual oral presentation, 1st Annual Research Symposium, Connecticut Children's.

Fisher, B., Meyer, A., Brown, A., Keller, M. C., McKeown, T., Tiller, J., & Duffy, E. (2022, September). Targeting Patient and Family Education for ALK/MEK Inhibitor Therapy: What We Learned from the COG Nursing Evidenced Based Project. COG concurrent session at APHON 46th Annual Conference and Exhibit, West Palm Beach, FL.

Fisher, B., Meyer, A., Brown, A., Keller, M. C., McKeown, T., Tiller, J., & Duffy, E. (2022, September). Targeting Patient and Family Education for ALK/ MEK Inhibitor Therapy: What We Learned from the COG Nursing Evidenced Based Project. Podium presentation at the 2022 Children's Oncology Group Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Hamre, T. (2021, April). *Pediatric Palliative Care from 30,000 feet.* Virtual podium presentation at the Connecticut Advance Practice Registered Nurse Society Annual Conference.

**Hinderer, K. A.** (2020, October). Research, EBP, and QI, Oh My! Virtual keynote address at the 24th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.



lacuone, K., & Visker, S. (2021, October).

Leveraging the Nursing Impact Dashboard to Drive

Quality Improvement. Virtual podium presentation at
the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference
of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance,
Hartford, CT.

Keller, M. C., & Holden, E. (2022, September). We're Done! Now What? Determining End of Treatment Needs of Childhood Cancer Survivors and their Parents. Podium presentation at APHON 46th Annual Conference and Exhibit, West Palm Beach, FL

Lord, S. (2020, November). Highlights from the European Pressure Injury Advisory Panel Conference. Virtual podium presentation at the Connecticut Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society Meeting.

Shafer, M., Storey, B., & Overton, K. (2020, October). Improving Confidence in Caring for Pediatric Patients in Behavioral Health Crisis Utilizing Teach Back and Simulation Training. Virtual podium presentation at the 24th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Van Dusen, K., & **Wheeler, W.** (2022, September-October). *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.* Podium presentation at Emergency Nursing 2022, Denver, Colorado.

Vance, A., Polfuss, M., Mooney-Doyle, K., **Keller, M.**, Gralton, K., & Giambra, B. (2021, July). *Development of a Family-focused Research Pamphlet*. Virtual podium presentation at the 15th International Family Nursing Conference.

**Visker, S.** (2021, January). *Connecticut Children's - High Trust in IT.* Virtual podium presentation at the Arch Collaborative Virtual Nursing Workshop.

#### **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

Barber, A., Megan, H., & Skinner, B. A. (2021, October). Implementation of Self Care Practices for Nurse Residents and its Effect on Nurse Burnout and Stress. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Bareiss, A., Lopes, J., Mendelson, N., & Wentland, B. (2021, October). Orthostatic Vital Signs: An Evidence-Based Approach to Standardizing Care



in Pediatric and Adolescent Patients. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Bernier-Carney, K., Goodrich, G., Kiza, A., Hinderer, K. A. & Cong, X. (2022, March-April). The Who, When, Why, & How of Specialized Pediatric Palliative Care Referrals: A Scoping Review. Poster presentation at the 34th Annual Scientific Session of ENRS: Charting the Path of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through Nursing Science, Providence, RI.

Briere, C. E., Mwalingo, T., Clohisy, J. Kankaew, S., Srichalerm, T., Ochacher, J., Story, G., Sela, D. & Spencer, R. (2022, October). Investigating Human Milk as a Complex System in the Early Postpartum Period: The Interplay of Sleep Loss and Milk Composition. Poster presentation at the 21st ISRHML Conference of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation, Panama City, Panama.

Briere, C. E., Mwalingo, T., Srichalerm, T., Kankaew, S., & Clohisy, J. (2022, July). Investigating the Associations between Postpartum Sleep Loss and Changes in Human Milk Composition. Poster presentation at Sigma's 33rd International Nursing Research Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Briere, C. E., Mwalingo, T., Srichalerm, T., Kankaew, S., & Clohisy, J. (2022, April). Postpartum Sleep Loss: Investigating the Associations between Sleep, Health, and Human Milk Composition. Poster presentation at the 34th Annual Scientific Session of ENRS: Charting the Path of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through Nursing Science, Providence, RI.

Burdon, E., O'Brien, R., Hinderer, K. A., Hussain, N., & Pappagallo, M. (2020, October). Early Human Milk Fortification. Virtual Poster Presentation at the 24th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance, Hartford, CT.

Burdon, E., **O'Brien, R., Hinderer, K. A.**, Hussein, N., & Pappagallo, M. (2021, March). *Early Human Milk Fortification*. Virtual poster presentation at the ASPEN 2021 Nutrition Science & Practice Virtual Conference.

Ciarlo, A., Frazer, M., & Briere, C-E. (2021, October). Multifactorial Approach to Neonatal Hypothermia Prevention. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance, Hartford, CT.

**Dibble, M. & Storey, B.** (2021, August). Rapid Pivot in a Pandemic: Implementing Engaging Virtual Training Models. Virtual poster presentation at ANPD Annual Convention.

Fairchild, W., Tam, F., Wentland, B., Macioce, C., Brimacombe, M., Bopp, J., Heller, F., Upadhyay, S., & Hinderer, K. A. (2022, April). Self-management in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease. Poster Presentation at the ACC.22: American College of Cardiology's 71st Annual Scientific Session and Expo, Washington, D. C.

Frazer, M., & Ciarlo, A. (2021, October). *Delivery Room Response Team Leveling*. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Elliott, C. (2020, October). Ambulatory Outreach: Diabetes Education for School Nurses. Accepted for Poster Presentation at 2020 ANCC National Magnet Conference (unable to present due to COVID).

Grant, C., & Clark, M. (2021, October). Congenital Heart Disease Transition Programs: A Narrative Review. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Hart, L., & Kervick, M. (2022, September). Forget the Filter: An Evidence-Based Approach to Etoposide Reactions. Virtual poster presentation at APHON 46th Annual Conference and Exhibit.

Heermance, A. (2021, October). Increasing Compliance with Bedside Safety Checks in a Pediatric Nursing Unit. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Hill, D., Guertin, B., Conforto, T., Lussier, M., Kwasnicki, B., Malik, M., & Johnson, K. (2020, November). *Improving Time to First Hold for Infants* <32 Weeks. Virtual Poster Presentation at the Vermont Oxford Network Improvement Science Virtual Science Expo.

Hill, D., Guertin, B., Conforto, T., Rounds, E., Kyer, N., Murray, J., Goodman, J., Lussier, M., Kwasnicki, B., Malik, M. & Johnson, K. (2021, May). Parental Holding of NICU Patients: Increasing Consistency in and Reducing Time to First Hold. Virtual poster presentation at NEANN Annual Conference 2021.



Lussier, M., Kyer, N., Connors, L., Belanger, S., & Michael, S. (2021, May). Innovative Technology to Improve Patient Feeding Safety. Virtual poster presentation at NEANN Annual Conference 2021.

Molcan, M., & Carter, B. (2021, October). PICU RN ECMO Competency during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Virtual poster presentation at the 25th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference of the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance.

Ray, M. & Baldi, C. (2020, October). Rest is Best: Reducing Pediatric Vital Sign Frequency. Accepted for Poster Presentation at 2020 ANCC National Magnet Conference (unable to present due to COVID).

Sellew, F., & Paula-Santos, K. (2020, October-November). Intranasal Dexmedetomidine: A Better Alternative to Propofol for Sedated Brain Auditory Evoked Response Test. Virtual poster presentation at the Society for Pediatric Sedation 2020 Virtual Conference.

Thakore, S., Ford, B., Codrington, L., Rancourt, J., Herr, J., Molta, S., Tucker, L., Johnson, K., & Golioto, A. (2020, November). A Quality Improvement Initiative to Decrease Delivery Room Intubation in VLBW Neonates. Virtual Poster Presentation at the Vermont Oxford Network Improvement Science Virtual Science Expo.

Wentland, B. (2021, August). Orthostatic Vital Signs: An Evidence-Based Approach to Standardizing Care. Virtual poster presentation at ANPD Annual Convention.

#### **INVITED PODIUM PRESENTATIONS**

Briere, C. E. (2022, September). Neonatal Intensive Care in a Petri Dish: A Nurse Scientist's Career Trajectory in Translational Research. Podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds, Hartford, CT.

Briere, C.E. (2022, May). From Bedside to Bench and Back Again: A Nurse Scientist's Career Trajectory in Translational Research. Podium presentation to CTSA Nurse Scientist Special Interest Group, Worchester, MA.

Conforto, T., & Kyer, N. (2021, October). Improving Time to First Hold: A NICU Quality Improvement Initiative. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds: Sustaining the

Spirit of Inquiry: A Showcase of Nursing's Impact on Research, Evidence, and Improvement at Connecticut Children's, Hartford, CT.

**Dibble, M.** (2021, April). *Nursing Pathways & Opportunities: Nurses Working in Hospital Settings.* Connecticut Nurses Association virtual panel presentation.

**Dibble, M.** (2021, April). *NPD Specialists as Leaders: How to Become One.* Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut ANPD Affiliate Educational Meeting.

Elliott, C., & Hinderer, K. (2022, September). *Insulin Pump Use in Children with Type 1 Diabetes: Over a Decade of Disparities.* Virtual journal club presentation at Connecticut Children's, Hartford, CT.

Ellis, D. (2021, February). Newborn Screening in Connecticut. Podium presentation at Yale Genetics Grand Rounds.

Ellis, D. (2021, March). The Connecticut Newborn Diagnosis & Treatment Network: NICU Overview. Podium presentation to the Connecticut Children's NICU Network.

Ellis, D. (2021, April). The Connecticut Newborn Diagnosis & Treatment Network. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Grand Rounds.

Ellis, D. (2021, June). The Connecticut Newborn Diagnosis & Treatment Network. Podium presentation at the Office of Community Child Health Virtual Lunch & Learn.

Ellis, D. (2021, September). Newborn Screening is Innovation: Engaging Families in the Newborn Screening System. Virtual podium presentation at Expecting Health National Newborn Screening Awareness Month Webinar.

Ellis, D., & Raboin, K. (2021, September).

Connecticut's Newborn Screening System: An Integrated Approach to Improving Long Term Health Outcomes. Virtual webinar presentation for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Ellis, D., & Raboin, K. (2022, June). The Connecticut Newborn Screening Network: Engaging Families AND Providers. Virtual podium presentation at HRSA's Big Table discussion.

Ellis, D., & Raboin, K. (2022, August). The Connecticut Newborn Screening System's Long Term Follow up Program. Virtual podium presentation/national update for Advisory Committee on Heritable Diseases in Newborns & Children (ACHDNC).

**Hinderer, K. A.** (2021, January). Conducting a Literature Search to Support your Question. Virtual podium presentation at the Nursing Research Council Meeting at Hartford Hospital.

**Hinderer, K. A.** (2021, May). *Nursing Pathways & Opportunities: Nurses Working in Unique Settings.* Connecticut Nurses Association virtual panel presentation.

Hinderer, K. A. (2022, February). Strategies for Clinical Nurses: Searching the Literature to Support a Clinical Question. Invited virtual presentation, VA Nebraska Western Iowa, Omaha, NE

**Hinderer, K. A.** (2021, June). *Critical Analysis and Examination of the Literature: Practical Applications for NICU Nurses.* Virtual journal club presentation, Connecticut Children's, Hartford, CT.

Koss, M., & Brink, S. (2022, January). Current Malpractice Environment and Strategies to Mitigate Claims & Losses. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds.

Kraus, S., Paula Santos, K., Spatcher, A., & Visker, S. (2020, October). *Nursing Shared Governance in a Pediatric Hospital*. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds.

Querim, J., Nielsen, H., & Brungard, S. (2021, October). Clinical Research Nursing Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds: Sustaining the Spirit of Inquiry: A Showcase of Nursing's Impact on Research, Evidence, and Improvement at Connecticut Children's, Hartford, CT.

Santangelo, A., Wesoloskie, T., Cohen, B., & Vonrichthofen, T. (2021, March). A Family Forum: Partnering with Families to Impact the Pediatric Experience. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds.

**Vittner, D.** (2021, January). The Influence of Stress and Burnout on Decision-Making and Family-Centered Care. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds.

Wentland, B. (2021, October). Orthostatic Vital Signs: An Evidence-Based Approach to Standardizing Care in Pediatric and Adolescent Patients. Virtual podium presentation at Connecticut Children's Nursing Grand Rounds: Sustaining the Spirit of Inquiry: A Showcase of Nursing's Impact on Research, Evidence, and Improvement at Connecticut Children's.



#### **GRANTS**

APHON Evidence-Based Practice Grant
Mary Keller, MSN, RN, CPHON was awarded the
APHON EBP grant in December, 2020 as principal
investigator of the project: Developing, Implementing,
and Evaluating an Evidence-Based Psychoeducational
Program that Addresses the End of Treatment Needs
of Children and Adolescents with Cancer and Their
Parents in an Outpatient Hematology/Oncology Clinic
Setting. Project co-investigators include: Lauren
Ayr-Volta, PhD; Drew Needham, BSN, RN, CPHON,
CPN; Courtney King, RN, CPON; Kelly Foy, MS,
CCLS; Lauren Ayr-Volta, PhD; Liz Marconi,; Liz
Holden, BSN, RN, CPHON; Leigh Hart, BSN, RN,
CPON; Karina Engelke MSN, PNP-BC, CPON; &
Katherine A. Hinderer, PhD, RN, CNE, NEA-BC.

Connecticut Nurses Foundation Grant Katherine A. Hinderer, PhD, RN, CNE, NEA-BC was awarded a Sheila Packard Memorial Award as principal investigator for the project: School Nurse Experiences with Behavioral Health in Connecticut

Schools. Project co-investigators include: Laurie Derynioski, RN, CPN; Kevin Borrup, JD, D.Ph.; Steve Rogers, MD; Melissa Santos, PhD; Danielle Chenard, MPH; & Megan Clough.

UConn School of Medicine Faculty Seed Grant
Raina Sinha, MD, Katherine A. Hinderer, PhD,
RN, CNE, NEA-BC; & Marilyn Katz, MD, co-principal
investigators, were awarded the 2021 UConn School
of Medicine Faculty Seed Grant for the project: Barriers
to Gender Parity in Thoracic Surgery Career Selection
during Medical School – A Pilot Study.

# GRANTS WITH NURSES AS COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

#### **Connecticut Department of Public Health**

Karen Rubin, MD was awarded multiple grants from the Connecticut DPH. From project start to April, 2021.

Debra Ellis, BSN, RN served as project coordinator and Katie Raboin, BSN, RN-BC served as nurse analyst on the funded project, Connecticut Newborn Diagnosis and Treatment Network Additional DPH funding for this project was awarded in 2022 with Debra Ellis, BSN, RN as project coordinator and Katie Raboin, BSN, RN-BC as senior analyst, and Meghan Criscuolo, BSN, RN, CPN as nurse analyst. The current funding extends until June of 2025.

## **Health Resources and Services Administration**

Karen Rubin, MD was awarded a HRSA grant in August, 2021 for the project, Connecticut's Newborn Screening System: An Integrated Approach to Improving Long Term Health Outcomes, with Debra Ellis, BSN, RN as project coordinator and Katie Raboin, BSN, RN-BC as nurse analyst.

# The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Karen Rubin, MD was awarded this grant in October, 2020 for the project, Leveraging Telehealth and the Family Voice to deliver on the Promise of Newborn Screening with Debra Ellis, BSN, RN as project coordinator and Katie Raboin, BSN, RN-BC as nurse analyst.





# about our nurses?

Basia Adams, DNP, APRN presented From Nothing to Something: Anchoring an Advanced Practice Infrastructure at the 2022 American Organization of Nurse Leaders conference April 11-14 in San Antonio, TX. Her presentation was selected from a very competitive pool of over 500 abstracts!

Heather Buck, BSN, RN, Assistant Nurse Manager of our PICU, is a former UCONN Women's basketball player and was named to the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Ongoing work of Amy Ciarlo, BS-RNC and Milena Frazer, BS-RNC of the NICU (past graduates of the Nursing Research and EBP Fellowship Program) resulted in a decrease of neonates that presented with hypothermia on admission to the NICU from 31% in 2014 to 1.4% in 2021.

First-time nurse authors, Melissa Dibble, MSN, RN, NPD-BC; Taryn Hamre, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC; & Kim Mancinelli Hough, MSN, RN, CPN published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals in 2022.

Comalita Elliot, BSN, RN, CDE of Endocrinology frequently goes on mission trips to Haiti to provide diabetes education for families in severe poverty situations and works diligently to compile supplies in between each trip and brings them with her.

Whitney Fairchild, MSN, FNP-BC, APRN &

Felicia Tam, RN of Cardiology (also former Nursing Research and EBP Fellows) presented their research study, Self-Management in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease at the 2022 American College of Cardiology Conference, ACC 71st Scientific Session in Washington, DC.

Alex Ford, BSN, RN, pediatric oncology nurse, was named one of USA Today's Women of the Year, which honors women across the country who have made a significant impact. Learn more about how she got into medicine, her path to Connecticut Children's and what has inspired her along the way by reading this interview featured in The Bulletin.

Audrey Heermance, MSN, RN, CNL, of MS 7, graduated from Sacred Heart University's Clinical Nurse Leader program and received the Outstanding Field Placement Award.

Kim Mancinelli Hough, MSN, RN, CPN, of

Perioperative Services wrote a manuscript focused on suicide screening, "Don't Ask, Won't Tell: Suicide Screening in the Pediatric Perioperative Setting" that was accepted for publication in the Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Nursing Journal!

Jennifer Querim, BSN, RN, CCRP of clinical trials was promoted to Senior Clinical Nurse Research Coordinator Position.

## Kimberley Roche, MSN, PPCNP-BC, APRN

led an interprofessional team that conducted a randomized study, Coping During COVID-19: A Pilot Study on the Impact of Gratitude Journaling or Cognitive Strategies on Healthcare Work.

Shanice Sterling, RN of the Emergency Department (ED) is working on an evidence-based practice project to improve medication barcode scanning in the ED. She is using evidence and nurse feedback to help improve medication administration processes. Graduated with her BSN from Charter Oak College in 2022

Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN, of our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is one of 2.900 nurses across the country to be inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, which is dedicated to serving the public and the nursing profession. Admission to the Academy requires evidence that the individuals have made outstanding contributions to nursing and/ or healthcare.

#### Beth Wentland, MBA, BSN, RN, NPD-BC of

the Institute for Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice and Nursing Excellence received EBP Certification from The Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare. This certification recognizes demonstrated expertise in EBP and denotes advanced intensive continuing education or graduate study in EBP.

Tara Wesoloskie, BSN, RN, CPN of the Post Anesthesia Care Unit is also the coordinator of PJ Day for the Kids, a state-wide fundraiser for Connecticut Children's that encourages children and adults alike to wear their pajamas in support of children battling cancer. PJ Day raised \$650K in 2021 and donations

in 2022 are expected to exceed 2021!

The Ambulatory Community workforce group, chaired by nurses Sam Witham, BSN, RN, CPN (Neurology), Sarah McKean, BSN, RN, CPN (Neurology), Barbara Mulholland, BSN, RN, **CPN** (Aerodigestive clinic) and Ann Mendicino-Wrinn, BSN, RN, CPN (Rheumatology) spearheads many community support events for greater Hartford area alongside their team members. Such events include delivering meals on holidays, hosting education tables in the community, gardening

and growing food for senior citizens and more.

Critical Care Transport Nurse Wendy Wheeler, MA, BSN, RN, EMT, CEN, CPEN, NHDP-BC is a Nurse Specialist for the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and is on the Emergency Management and Preparedness Committee of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) and serves on the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Disaster Competencies Group.

Former nurse residents presented at the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance 25th Annual Nursing Research and EBP Conference: NICU West Nurses Tess Conner, BSN, RN; Abigail Davis, BSN, RN; & Erinne Neff, BSN, RN conducted a virtual oral presentation titled Nursing Comfort in Allowing Parents to Hold Infants while Receiving Therapeutic Hypothermia and Ashley Barber, BSN, RN (MS 7); Hannah Megan BSN, RN (PICU); and Bobbi-Anna Skinner, ADN, RN (ED) presented a virtual poster of their nurse residency project, Implementation of Self Care Practices for Nurse Residents and its Effect on Nurse Burnout and Stress.

