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Co-Directors' Message...

**Developing Information
About APP Roles**

*From Basia Adams and
Garry Lapidus*

Welcome to the Summer Edition of our APP Newsletter. Currently, there is a scarcity of promotional materials describing the work of APPs at Connecticut Children's. Aside from current APP job openings and individual profiles posted in the "Find a Doctor" web section, there is little APP content on the Connecticut Children's intra-and internet SITES.

To address this information gap, the OAPP in collaboration with our Marketing/Communications Department will develop a web presence that will significantly assist our APP communication, promotion, and recruitment efforts.

The web presence and content, including a video, will describe our reasons for working at Connecticut Children's. It will also provide a venue to highlight our significant contribution that the medical center considers integral to providing healthcare to our patients and support to families. Our current communication materials, such as our APP newsletter, will support our work to create and establish this website identity, improve APP morale/engagement by having that recognition, and significantly assist with APP recruitment efforts the medical center considers a priority.

Work to develop the web presence
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**Round of
Applause**

**Kim Roche, APRN,
Christina Giudice, APRN.**

Congratulations on your acceptance into the 2022-2023 Connecticut Children's Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice Fellowship in the Institute for Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice (INR).



Their: proposals, Development of an Evidenced-Based Employee Wellness Program at Connecticut Children's (K. Roche) and Study of Patients Presenting to an Acute Care Pediatric Hospital Identified with Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders (C. Giudice) were selected due to the significant potential of your project to improve patient care through nursing research and evidence-based practice (EBP).

Directors' Message *(Continued from previous page)*

will begin this summer. Will keep you posted on our progress! In other news, we are pleased to report that HR has a designated APP recruiter, Jamie Condon. Jamie comes to Connecticut Children's from UMASS Amherst, where she performed similar duties there.

She is fully embracing her new role and is eager to engage with the APP workforce. To improve her understanding of the various positions held by APRNs and PAs, she has committed to job shadowing opportunities throughout the hospital. Please welcome her as you see her!

Our annual OAPP budget request was approved and will include support for our terrific Administrative Assistant, Maria Leuzzi. In addition to helping us, she will also provide support to the PHM Department in her role. We also received approval for a marketing/communications intern to help with the development and implementation of our OAPP web content (see above).

In addition, there are resources to support our APP quarterly grand rounds and an annual summit, NP and PA week celebration, and the annual APP Excellence Awards. In sum, we are making steady progress but rely on your continued advice and participation in our APP Advisory Council activities and beyond.

As we said in the last newsletter, we all have reason to be excited about the changes underway for APPs around the country and here at home at Connecticut Children's.

You are saving and improving the lives of children everyday and are leaving others with a positive feeling about Connecticut Children's. [Keep up the great work!](#)

Report from the Summit

The Second Annual Advanced Practice Provider Summit took place on Friday, May 20, 2022, and APPs associated with Connecticut Children's registered for the event. Participants were able to earn 6 hours of category 1 CME, and learn from their colleagues. The presentations were highly stimulating, what a talented group of APPs we have! If you missed it, there were several pearls from each speaker, and a few here to pique your interest.

As Grace Hong pointed out, "long haul" is defined by the CDC as a wide range of health consequences present for four or more weeks after an initial COVID infection (even with initially asymptomatic infections). They may be new, recurring or ongoing symptoms. Our goal is to provide multidisciplinary, comprehensive management and a rehabilitation plan in a shared decision-making process. Engaging targeted specialists based on individual symptoms is important while also being mindful of family resources.

Samantha Lee spoke on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, a condition shared by 5-10% of children. It is more prevalent in Hispanics, males and teens. Children nine years and older who are obese should be screened by obtaining an ALT. Those with an ALT of 80 or higher should be referred to a hepatologist. The referral guidelines and algorithms are available on the CLASP website.

Sona Hamelin spoke on Lyme disease and papilledema, something we should all file in the back of our minds, particularly during tick season! Lyme disease, but also doxycycline (the treatment of choice for Lyme disease in patients 8 years old and older) can also cause papilledema! It can present with headache, double vision, nausea/vomiting, tinnitus and visual field deficits. It is a neurologic emergency, indicating increased intracranial pressure. The patient will need imaging, lumbar puncture, treatment for Lyme disease as well as Diamox for the papilledema.

Nella Stoltz spoke on the Pediatric Neurological Assessment and red flags. The take-home message is that the physical exam is extremely important in diagnosing neurological problems and knowing a child's baseline is essential. You can obtain a lot of information by watching and interacting with the patient and by playing games to assess their abilities and deficits. An example is having the child give you a high-five with each hand. Additionally, infant head circumference is essential as it gives a reference point as well as important information for the neurosurgery provider.

Taryn Hamre, DNP, APRN, Our Rep for Medical Staff Executive Committee



Taryn Hamre has represented and served as our APP rep on the Medical Executive Committee. As described in the Bylaws of Connecticut Children's, this critically important committee "is empowered to represent and act for the Medical Staff and to coordinate all activities and policies of the Medical Staff and its Departments, Divisions and committees, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the Medical Staff or these Bylaws."

As an APP representative on the committee, Taryn attends monthly meetings and shares any pertinent updates with our APP team. Each meeting generally consists of approval of minutes from the prior meeting, old business (includes updates from patient safety/quality care and review of suspension/monitoring reports) and new business (which can include credential report review, COVID updates, policy updates, etc.).

The Medical Staff Executive Committee met in March. Key take-aways are as follows:

1. Inpatient serious harm event rate was elevated in January (unplanned extubations, CLABSI, CAUTI and surgical site infections), but was trending back down in February 2022.
2. Serious safety event rate remains at goal with ongoing work related to medication reconciliation (inpatient and ambulatory).
3. The joint commission visited in February. It provided positive feedback in many areas and also identified 22 of 285 joint commission standards that had some level of findings that needed attention. These findings occurred around sterile processing and clinical documentation. It will return later this month for a follow-up.
4. COVID Updates- to be reviewed in the town meeting.
5. Policies reviewed with minor edits: critical test or critical value results policy, medication reconciliation policy, and procedural sedation policy.

The Medical Executive Committee also met on April 12, 2022. Pertinent updates include:

- ⇒ Patient safety and quality – One recent cauti. Reinforcement of education and bundles to be reviewed.
- ⇒ Reviewed suspensions/monitoring and credentialing reports.
- ⇒ Dr. Juan Salazar provided a COVID update – Temperature screening to remain in place for the immediate future and staff are encouraged to have their boosters.

The opportunity to attend and participate in these meetings offers a unique perspective on the matters covered and enables the voice of the APP group to be heard in a different forum. A big thank you to Taryn for providing outstanding APP representation on the Med Exec Committee!

**NEW
to the
CREW**

Beth Moller, DNP, APRN, Suspected Child Abuse Neglect (SCAN) program
The APP Advisory council would like to welcome Sabrina Colangelo, MS, PA-C (NICU) and Lauren Caneira, DNP, APRN (SCAN) as new mem-

Welcome to new team member Beth Moller, APRN, (SCAN) and Joshua Evans PA-C joins the PHM/NICU APP team at our Danbury/Norwalk sites.

The next APP Grand Rounds will be August 3 at 12 p.m.

Topic: "I dream of a safer country."
Gun violence in America: Impact, cost, culture and solutions. Presenter: Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Co-Director, Office of Advanced Practice Providers.



Please save the date! Bring your lunch and prepare for some stimulating conversation on this hot topic!!

Below is a link to this Zoom presentation that you could copy and cut and paste into your browser.

[https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/j/93292418081?](https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/j/93292418081?pwd=NHRLRXpyWnNvZHR1TWZ6UzJnLzUvUT09)

[pwd=NHRLRXpyWnNvZHR1TWZ6UzJnLzUvUT09](https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/j/93292418081?pwd=NHRLRXpyWnNvZHR1TWZ6UzJnLzUvUT09)

Name this Newsletter!!

We need a name!!! Announcing a contest to name our APP Newsletter.

Please submit your suggestion to Basia and Garry by 8/31/22. They will convene a small selection workgroup to choose the winning newsletter name. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card!

Internal communication in healthcare is important for positive patient outcomes and to ensure that healthcare organizations run smoothly and efficiently. However, internal communications in the healthcare industry can be extremely challenging compared to other industries.

The diverse nature of the healthcare workforce and the unique structures of healthcare organizations mean that strategies for communicating with employees that work well elsewhere might not always work in this sector.

Regular employee newsletters are a good way to send lots of information electronically without overwhelming staff with too many emails. Effective communication is essential for both informing and engaging your employees.

There are many important reasons why the healthcare organization should make it a priority.

- Employees need to keep pace with various federal and state regulations that apply to healthcare.
- Employees need to stay up-to-date with key developments in healthcare.
- Making sure employees know about new training opportunities.
- Improvements in collaboration and teamwork

Elisabeth Campbell Finds Calling in Surgery and Bringing Compassion

For Elisabeth Campbell, lead surgical AP and physician assistant, care and compassion are part of her focus on fixing a problem.

While surgery includes all the bedside care that comes with any health-care treatment, it also brings that mission of remedying a problem while a patient in is on an operating room table.

"I like seeing a problem and fixing it," said the 36-year-old Campbell, who views herself as a doctor's "wingman" or "wingmate" in the OR. In the classical sense, it means supporting that person leading a team.

In aviation - where the term garnered popularity - as in the OR, it conveys a serious and consequential role.



The wingmate is the pilot who supports another in a potentially dangerous flying environment, flying beside and slightly behind the lead plane in formation.

This second pilot is there to help protect the lead or formation and by "watching his or her back."

And so that same analogy holds in the OR. She and APPs like her have the dual responsibility of looking out for both the doctor and others involved in the surgery and the patient.

Elisabeth Campbell, lead surgical AP and physician assistant.

Surgical Role

It is a role of tremendous importance, but could be overlooked by the casual observer unfamiliar with the work of an APP. "Doctors have many responsibilities and especially in surgery, there are times when the surgeon cannot be at the bedside because they are operating. I can be at the bedside though and answer the questions patients and parents might have, review results or clarify the plans for the day for them"

It is a nerve-wracking time for families. Perhaps more for the parents, she said, than the child who is safely and securely given an anesthetic that alleviates any immediate thoughts.

Not so much for the parents. They are wide awake, sitting on pins and needles, just awaiting some word of any kind that the operation was finished and about the outcome.

"They are handing their kids over to our team. It's one of the only times a parent can't be with their child when he or she is in the hospital," Campbell said.

"I want to give to the family the same safety and comfort I give to the patient," she added.

That's at the heart of her job and within herself.

In the OR, her skills have taken her to work with a variety of patient surgeries in the last 12 years she's been in practice. She has worked with plastic

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The Dream Job for Elisabeth

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and reconstructive surgeons as well as colorectal surgeons prior to starting here at Connecticut Children's. This has given her a range of experience to assist with wound care, burn debridements, ostomy care.

Here at Connecticut Children's she has been able to learn from the physicians the nuss procedure for pectus excavatum and assist in their cases. This goes along with seeing pre and postoperative patients in a chest wall deformity clinic. Seeing the full perioperative course for a patient builds rapport with the families and allows her to see them grow and change over the years.

The surgical AP team staff a clinic daily for post operative follow ups, burn and wound management, gastrostomy tube management, same day appointments for abscess' needing drainage, abdominal pain, etc. When not covering clinic, they are caring for inpatient surgical patients, assisting in the OR, responding to traumas and surgical consults in the ED as well as other clinics throughout the hospital.

She has worked to educate staff nurses on postoperative care plans for surgical patients. She developed conditional order sets to help prevent delays in the discharge process.

Yet, this 2010 Springfield College graduate, also finds time to be a preceptor to help those in training to be a PA-C.

In the OR, there could be a bit of Campbell Soup.

There is Elisabeth as well as her husband, Dr. Jacob Campbell pediatric Surgical Fellow, and Dr. Brendan Campbell, Director of Pediatric Surgery and Director of Pediatric Trauma Center.

"It can get a bit confusing. Which Campbell are we talking about when only the last name is used," she said with a laugh.

Dr. Brendan Campbell, who has decades of experience in pediatric surgery of all kinds and complexities, praised the PA-C for her work.

"Elisabeth is a pleasure to work with, and all the pediatric surgeons welcome the opportunity to work with her in the clinic and in the operating room," he said.

"She has clinical expertise in burn and wound care, and has taken a leadership role our chest wall deformities program which has taken the program to the next level," he added.

The doctor also noted her strong organizational skills.

"Elisabeth is an excellent team leader managing the 6 APPs in her department, and does an amazing job of identifying administrative and coverage problems ahead of time so they can be addressed before any problems develop," he said.

As a mother and partner, this Charlestown, R.I. native also devotes her time to her Carter, 6, Jaxson, 3, and Lincoln, almost 1. She enjoys spending time with her family, the RI beaches and running when outside the hospital.

Both the job and her family are the most cherished parts of her life, she said, noting that as a PA-C she's also a parent who can feel the anxieties of others whose children need surgery.

"I am living my dream job. It combines in me the desire to care and help. APPs can really form relationships with families. They can bring a sense of trust and faith not only in our team but the hospital. If I can be the support person a family needs, and make their experience here better, then my job is complete," she said.