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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 astonished 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,

Sarah Matney
MSOL, BSN, RN, CPON, CENP
Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations, Connecticut Children’s

Connecticut Children’s Nursing Colleagues,

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 prioritize 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

Sarah Matney
MSOL, BSN, RN, CPON, CENP
Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations, Connecticut Children’s
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 APPs when we opened in 1996; now there are 180 APPs deployed in 38 different clinical divisions.

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 Advanced Practice Providers (OAPP) to work, grow, and develop their career.

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

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 new initiatives pending survey results.

**APP Excellence Awards**
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:**
- Jennifer Long, APRN, Neonatology
- Molly Mable, PA-C, Radiology
- Rebeca Strong, APRN, Otolaryngology

**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 engagement 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.

**APP Advisory Council Highlights**

**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.

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By the Numbers

- **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

- **219** Nurses
- **660** Nurses at 16 Locations
- **441** Nurses at 282 Washington and Other Locations

- **179 Advanced Practitioners**
  - 22 Locations
  - **105 APRN's**
  - **74 PA's**
  - **11 DNP's**
  - **3 PHD**
  - **1 JD**

- **89% BSN OR HIGHER**
- **59.9% CERTIFIED**
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™

WINNERS:
- Tara Dailey, BSN, RN, CPN, MS6
- Stacy Forsyth, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, NICU East
- Tricia Giscombe, RN, Urology
- 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

- Niha Locke, BSN, RN, IBCLC, PICU
- Steve Mahier, BSN, RN, CCRN, PICU
- Jordan Bade, BSN, RN, MS6
- Niha Locke, BSN, RN, IBCLC, PICU
- Steve Mahier, BSN, RN, CCRN, PICU

- Janine Rose, BSN, RN, CPN, Neurosurgery
- Janine Sullivan, BSN, RN, IBCLC, NICU West
- Lauren Trumble, BSN, RN, CNML
- Leanne Collier, BSN, RN, CNM
- Katie Ruane, BSN, RN, CNML
Nightingale Awards
for Excellence in Nursing

2022 Nominees
Kara Arndt
BSN, RN, C-EMT, CPN, ONC
Jennifer Beaudoin
BSN, RN
Phyllis Bebyn
BSN, RN, CPN
Tracy Creatore
BSN, RN, CIC
Marie DeSjarlais
MSN, RN, CPN, CWOCN
Debbie Ellis
BSN, RN
Jennifer Euen
BSN, RN, CPN, PED-BC, WCC
Sarah Lavallette
BSN, RN
Nicole Lewie
BSN, RN, CPN, IBCLC
Jennifer Long
MSN, APRN, NNP-BC
Derek Martin
BSN, RN
Samantha Mendez
BSN, RN
Barbara Muholland
BSN, RN, CPN
Lisa Pierce
BSN, RN, IBCLC
Alyssa Rudy, RN
Allison Williams
BSN, RN, WCC
Amanda Zuse
MSN, APRN, CPNP-BC

2022 Winners
Basia Adams
DNP, APRN, PNP-BC
Comalita Elliott
BSN, RN, CDE
Felicia Tam, RN

2021 Winners
Taryn Hamre
DNP, APRN, CPN, FNP-BC
Lauren Hurley
MSN, RN
Sarah Visker
MSN, RN, RN-BC

Sunshine Award
Outstanding PCA/TECH

2022 Winner
Millie Figueroa
PCA on MS8

Angel Awards
Dedicated to PCA’s, MA’s, PCP’s & Techs

2022 Winners
Phillip Aiello
Lymanis Cruz-Urbina
Seithy Mercado
Terrance Perry
Claribel Vega

2021 Winners
Pam Masella
Lucy Weidner
James Wiggins
Carmen Williams
Raul Vasquez

2021 Winners
Amy Ciarlo
BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Milena Frazer BSN, RN, RNC-NIC; Mary Keller, MSN, RN, CPN; 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, CPN 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.

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, CPN; Mary Lussier, BSN, RN, IBCLC; & Hendriana Nielsen, BSN, RD, RN, CCRP, CPN.

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.
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
Jennifer Long – 1, Sedation
Randall Robidoux – 1, Sedation
Hanna Basile – 1, MS8
Tracey Murphy – 1, NICU
Alicia Marquio – 1, NICU
Veronica Zocchi – 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 Moryko – 2, OR
Theresa DeSocio – 2, PACU
Mary DeSocio – 2, OR
Francine Rossing – 2, OR
Kristyn Ryan – 2, MS7
Kara Amdt – 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.

National Recognition

2022 Women’s Choice Award® 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 high-risk 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
Professional Development

Nurse Education – Degrees

Highest Level of Nursing Education (Hospital-wide)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Level</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSN Rate</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN Rate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DNP Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADN Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma Rate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Review Course Results

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

Certification Rates

Hospital-wide

- Not Registered: 30%
  - Registered (not taken exam): 2%
  - Newly Certified: 85%

Percentage of Certified Eligible Nurses

- Jan-21: 53.62%
- Jan-22: 59.92%
- Jan-23: 59.94%
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 Agi
Lola (Dorothy) Kane
PICU:
Kamron Ghorbeshi
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 Pamelee
Mikayla Raffone
NICU:
Laura Jepson
Abigail Wilding
PERIOP:
Jessica Berry
Millicent Hines
Taylor Leavitt
PICU:
Millie Baldinger
Meghan Domanico

Flynn Fellows

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

2022
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
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 Iacuone, 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 Employeer 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 VOLLEO, 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
Iacuone, 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.


POSTER PRESENTATIONS


Heerman, 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.


INVITED PODIUM PRESENTATIONS


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.


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 Ay-Volta, PhD; Drew Needham, BSN, RN, CPHON, CPN; Courtney King, RN, CPON; Kelly Foy, MS, CCLS; Lauren Ay-Volta, PhD; Liz Marconin, Liz Holdten, BSN, RN, CPHON; Leigh Hart, BSN, RN, CPON; Karina Engelage 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.
Between each trip and brings them with her.

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 Wittner, 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 McKeen, 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.

First-time nurse authors, Melissa Dibble, MSN, RN, NP-D-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 Fellowship) 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.

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.

Audrey Heeremance, 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.

Did you know THIS 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.

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.

Students of the NICU are 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!

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