Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this year-end issue of Nursing Edition. While we had some challenges in 2015, I’m very proud of how we pulled together as a team and remained focused on caring for our patients.

I was impressed by the innovative work on display during the Shared Governance Discovery Showcase and the research presented during the Annual Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Symposium. It was especially gratifying to see the eagerness of participants and guests to share knowledge and best practices with each other.

The commitment to patient safety was on display during The Big Wash. We proved that 100 percent hand hygiene compliance is a reachable goal. Congratulations to the winners.

Lastly, check out the back page for a sampling of the festive unit decorations. They are surely lifting the spirits of our patients and staff during this season.

I hope you all enjoy some quality time with family and friends over the holidays.

Debra Albert , MSN, MBA, RN, NEA-BC
Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer

---

**Discovery showcase displays nursing innovation**

Team representatives from all nursing units across the medical center presented project-based professional posters — 40 in all — during the inaugural Shared Governance Discovery Showcase on November 17 in the DCAM atrium.

“The showcase was a good means to show other units and departments what was successful, so they don’t have to reinvent the wheel,” said Brooke Thornton, BSN, RN, who teamed up with Donna Kahn, BSN, RN, to introduce nurses to the art of professional poster development.

Richard Logan, BSN, CCRN, suggested the discovery event as a way for Unit Based Councils (UBCs) to share project results and best practices.

“The ideas and efforts of individual nurses help make this hospital great,” he said.

---

**Big Cheers for The Big Wash**

Nursing units across the medical center demonstrated commitment — and creativity — during The Big Wash, the 24-hour quest for hand washing perfection at the University of Chicago Medicine from December 3 to 4.

Nurse managers, asked to pump up interest on their units, rallied clinicians and visitors alike with light-up signs, educational charts, balloons, cookies, even hand lotion. Visible cues ranged from yellow hazard tape on MICU doors in the Center for Care and Discovery to the red line marking the PICU threshold. Staff on 9N chose a hand hygiene theme for their holiday decorations, complete with new lyrics to the song “12 Days of Christmas” (12 docs complying, 11 PTs Purelling…).

The Big Wash inspired nearly 97,000 hand-hygiene events in 24 hours, about one hand scrubbing per second. Nearly a dozen units logged 100 percent compliance. Comer Children’s Hospital had the highest overall compliance rate.

“When we work together, it’s amazing what we can accomplish,” said Gretchen Pacholek, MSN, RN, director of surgical and multispecialty services.

Nurses on Comer 5 encourage hand washing with a colorful, light-up sign. Left to right: Leena Yousef, BSN, RN; Cheyenne Brown, Patient Services Coordinator; Brooke Harnish, BSN, RN; Jessica Diaz, BSN, RN; and Roshini Singh, BSN, RN. *Photo by Molly Woulfe*
The 2015 Annual Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Symposium had three main objectives:

- Increase awareness of nurse research
- Bring new evidence-based practice (EBP) and research to UChicago Medicine nursing staff
- Highlight the research and evidence-based practice projects of UChicago Medicine nurses in the past year

Sponsored by the Center for Nursing Professional Practice and Research Center and the Nursing Research Council, the symposium fulfilled those goals on October 2 in the Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery.

In addition to viewing 15 poster presentations, the attendees heard keynote addresses by three former University of Chicago Medicine nurses who went on to build research programs at other institutions. Milisa Manojilovich, PhD, RN, CCRN, discussed improving patient safety through communication. Christine Schindler, PhD, RN, CPNP-AC/PC, WCC, talked about skin failing as an emerging concept in multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. And Michelle Fennesey, PhD, APRN, BC, gave insights on how to leverage clinical experiences in nursing research and technology commercialization. The three speakers, along with UChicago Medicine’s Janet Friant, MSN, APN-BC, then participated in a lunchtime panel discussion about their paths from clinicians to scientists.

The afternoon session featured three UChicago Medicine evidence-based practice projects and research presentations chosen from the 18 high-quality abstracts submitted to the Nursing Research Council:

- Rapid Response System (RRS) activation: Factors contributing to RN decision-making
  - Angela Tisch, BS, SN

- Pediatric Feeding Tube Prevalence and Verification of Placement over 24-hour Timeframe
  - Caroline Hodgson, BSN, RN, CCRN
  - Monica Gonzalez, MS, APN, PCNS-BC
  - Cynthia LaFond, PhD, RN, CCRN-K

Forum focuses on medication management

An all-day event focusing on creating new efficiencies related to medication management and administration to improve patient care — as well as to identify solutions to increase operational efficiency, reduce errors, deliver actionable intelligence and improve patient safety — took place in the Center for Care and Discovery on October 12.

“Collaborate for Excellence” was sponsored by Omnicell, our supplier for the automated medication dispensing cabinets used in patient care areas as well as the medication carousels used in our pharmacy. University of Chicago Medicine pharmacists and nursing leaders, as well as nursing leaders from the metro Chicago area, were in attendance.

Jennifer Tryon, PharmD, MS, executive director, pharmacy and Sally Walton, MSN, MBA, RN, OCN, NEA-BC, director of nursing technology and innovation, presented “Collaboration in Medication Management” and discussed how pharmacy and nursing succeed together at UChicago Medicine.

Guest speaker Mary Foley, PhD, RN, FAAN, director of research and innovation at the University of California San Francisco and former ANA President, presented on nurses working together for quality care and how nurses influence business and health care partners for better patient care outcomes.

Drug diversion specialist Kim New, JD, BSN, RN, spoke about how nursing and pharmacy can join forces for safety improvement by creating a partnership in drug diversion prevention and detection.

Donna Kahn, BSN, RN, supplemental

WHAT THE NURSES SAID...

- “Topics pertinent, kept me engaged. All speakers were excellent.”
- “Listening to the speakers made me proud to be part of nursing.”
- “Feeling very inspired and motivated after this great day.”

Forum focuses on medication management

An all-day event focusing on creating new efficiencies related to medication management and administration to improve patient care — as well as to identify solutions to increase operational efficiency, reduce errors, deliver actionable intelligence and improve patient safety — took place in the Center for Care and Discovery on October 12.

“Collaborate for Excellence” was sponsored by Omnicell, our supplier for the automated medication dispensing cabinets used in patient care areas as well as the medication carousels used in our pharmacy. University of Chicago Medicine pharmacists and nursing leaders, as well as nursing leaders from the metro Chicago area, were in attendance.

Jennifer Tryon, PharmD, MS, executive director, pharmacy and Sally Walton, MSN, MBA, RN, OCN, NEA-BC, director of nursing technology and innovation, presented “Collaboration in Medication Management” and discussed how pharmacy and nursing succeed together at UChicago Medicine.

Guest speaker Mary Foley, PhD, RN, FAAN, director of research and innovation at the University of California San Francisco and former ANA President, presented on nurses working together for quality care and how nurses influence business and health care partners for better patient care outcomes.

Drug diversion specialist Kim New, JD, BSN, RN, spoke about how nursing and pharmacy can join forces for safety improvement by creating a partnership in drug diversion prevention and detection.

Donna Kahn, BSN, RN, supplemental

WHAT THE NURSES SAID...

- “Topics pertinent, kept me engaged. All speakers were excellent.”
- “Listening to the speakers made me proud to be part of nursing.”
- “Feeling very inspired and motivated after this great day.”

Forum focuses on medication management

An all-day event focusing on creating new efficiencies related to medication management and administration to improve patient care — as well as to identify solutions to increase operational efficiency, reduce errors, deliver actionable intelligence and improve patient safety — took place in the Center for Care and Discovery on October 12.

“Collaborate for Excellence” was sponsored by Omnicell, our supplier for the automated medication dispensing cabinets used in patient care areas as well as the medication carousels used in our pharmacy. University of Chicago Medicine pharmacists and nursing leaders, as well as nursing leaders from the metro Chicago area, were in attendance.

Jennifer Tryon, PharmD, MS, executive director, pharmacy and Sally Walton, MSN, MBA, RN, OCN, NEA-BC, director of nursing technology and innovation, presented “Collaboration in Medication Management” and discussed how pharmacy and nursing succeed together at UChicago Medicine.

Guest speaker Mary Foley, PhD, RN, FAAN, director of research and innovation at the University of California San Francisco and former ANA President, presented on nurses working together for quality care and how nurses influence business and health care partners for better patient care outcomes.

Drug diversion specialist Kim New, JD, BSN, RN, spoke about how nursing and pharmacy can join forces for safety improvement by creating a partnership in drug diversion prevention and detection.

Donna Kahn, BSN, RN, supplemental

WHAT THE NURSES SAID...

- “Topics pertinent, kept me engaged. All speakers were excellent.”
- “Listening to the speakers made me proud to be part of nursing.”
- “Feeling very inspired and motivated after this great day.”
Study finds LVAD patients capable of care

A pilot study led by Catherine Murks, PhD, APN, found that heart failure patients with cognitive deficits may be as capable of performing self-care functions related to their left ventricular assist device (LVAD) as non-impaired patients.

Murks and other members of her research team administered a battery of cognitive tests to 20 clinic patients (17 male) with a mean age of 62.25 years and a mean education of 14.1 years. Patients were followed in the LVAD clinic as routine, and demographic data and evidence of driveline infections, hospitalizations and death at baseline, 6- and 12-month intervals were collected from patient records.

Of those studied, 35 percent were impaired in the visuospatial/constructional (VSC) domain. Findings showed no difference in device-related complications between participants with VSC impairment and those without in this small sample.

Murks encouraged care providers to “be careful in judging the ability of patients, even those with cognitive deficits, to care for their LVAD implants and achieve successful outcomes.”

The abstract, published in April 2015 in The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation, was presented at the UChicago Medicine Annual Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Symposium (see story on page 2).

In addition to Murks, the research team included, Coleen Juricek, BSN, RN; Gene H. Kim, MD; Gabriel Sayer, MD; Nir Uziel, MD; Takeyoshi Ota, MD, PhD; Valluvan Jeevanandam, MD; and Savitri Fedson, MD. A follow-up study using the same tools and a larger patient sample is planned for 2016.

Catherine Murks, PhD, APN, ANP-BC

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Lean Hospital: Management for Daily Improvement in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative 3rd Annual Conference, Chicago.
Brandi Parker, MSN, MBA, RN; Alissa Johnson, BSN, RN; and Joseph Hageman, MD.

Emily Lowder, PhD, RN, NE-BC and Joe Gianni APN, BC.

Reengineering the Discharge Process to Enhance Organizational Throughput Using Lean Methodology. University HealthSystem Consortium (UCH) Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida.
Emily Lowder PhD, RN, NE-BC; Iliana Staneva MSN, MBA, RN, CCRN-K, NEA-BC; Gretchen Pacholek MSN, RN; and Corrin Steinhauer MS, NEA-BC.

GRANTS

Mark Lockwood, MSN, RN, CCRC
2015 International Transplant Nurses Society Research Grant Award
Mark Lockwood, MSN, RN, CCRC, received a research grant from the International Transplant Society to examine barriers to in-home internet use and attitudes related to the use of personal health record systems in urban pre- and post-kidney transplant populations in the U.S.

Julie Lester, BSN, RN, IBCLC (left) and Debra Nawracaj, BSN, RN, CLC, IBCLC (right)
EMPower Breastfeeding: Enhancing Maternity Practices Grant (funded by the Centers for Disease Control)
The EMPower grant supports hospitals in the achievement of the Baby-Friendly® USA designation. As recipients, the UChicago Medicine Women’s Care Center will receive cost sharing for technical assistance and designation fees; intensive training on maternity care practices that support breastfeeding and quality improvements methods; and tailored coaching through technical assistance, webinars and learning collaborative meetings.
Pediatric nurses staff new Medical Mobile Unit

The new University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital Mobile Medical Unit — a state-of-the-art pediatric clinic on wheels that will serve thousands of children across Chicago’s South Side — is now on the road. The 40-foot electric-blue vehicle is equipped with the most advanced clinical equipment and resources available in a mobile health setting. And nurses are on board.

Nurse practitioners Pamela Beauduy, MSN, APN, and Joan Reilly, MSN, APN, will provide school-required physicals and immunizations as well as other medical and health services to children who may not otherwise see a medical provider for health education and preventive health services. Beauduy and Reilly also will train nurse practitioner students on the unit. Felecia Morelon, CNA, is the program manager.

The new Mobile Medical Unit replaces an aging vehicle that served South Side schools for more than a decade. In 2014, the mobile unit team provided care at 28 Chicago Public Schools resulting in more than 1,400 medical encounters.

Critical care nurse honored with excellence award

Monica Gonzalez, MS, APN, PCNS-BC, CCRN, has been awarded a 2016 American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Circle of Excellence Award.

The AACN award is given “in recognition of the excellent outcomes of individuals in caring for high acuity and critically ill patients and their families,” said manager for nursing research Cynthia LaFond, PhD, RN, CCRN-K.

“We are thrilled to see Monica’s hard work and dedication to the improvement of patient care recognized at a national level,” said manager for nursing research Cynthia LaFond, PhD, RN, CCRN-K. “The honor is well-deserved.”

Gonzalez will accept the award at the 2016 AACN National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition in New Orleans next May. She will join up to 25 other nurses across the nation in becoming a member of the Circle of Excellence Society.

Burn nurse to help create national burn injury awareness campaign

Kelli Yukon, BSN, RN, was recently invited to join an International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) task force that will guide the creation of a national burn injury awareness campaign.

The federally funded project will be designed to “mitigate the impact of burn injuries in our communities by reducing burn mortality and morbidity rates” through a partnership that includes members of the IAFF, American Burn Association-verified burn centers and non-profit organizations.

Yukon, a patient care manager in the UChicago Medicine Burn and Complex Wound Center, was chosen as the Midwest nurse representative.

The task force met for the first time in early December to create, review and refine the campaign’s key messages, marketing and educational tools.

Mitchell Cup champions patient education

The Mitchell 5SE nurses captured the inaugural Mitchell Cup — a near-replica of the Stanley Cup — for their outstanding efforts to educate cardiac patients on aftercare.

The 5SE nurses have a friendly rivalry with the 5SW nurses for possession of the cup. Bragging rights for the quarterly award are based on the highest rate of compliance for a five-point, nurse-designed education curriculum.

Mitchell 5SE nurses celebrate their victory with Chief Nursing Officer Debi Albert, MSN, MBA, RN, and Corey Tabit, MD, MBA, MPH, far right. Photo by Molly Woulfe
The DAISY Award is a national recognition of nursing excellence presented to RNs and APNs at more than 1,900 health care facilities around the world. The award honors nurses who provide clinical expertise, kindness and courtesy, professionalism, interdisciplinary work and extraordinary care.

Here are our winners for August, September and October with edited excerpts from their nominations:

August 2015
Erin Roys, RN
8 South

“My mom was in a ten-hour surgery to receive the lungs she needed. Around 7:30 a.m., a smiling, energetic and focused nurse named Erin introduced herself to my dad and me. She made friendly conversation with us. It was calming and exactly what we needed at that moment. From the time my mom arrived on the unit until the end of her shift, Erin only sat down once. The demands of such a critical patient were evident by how much work Erin was doing. But any exhaustion or attitude fluctuation never showed up on Erin’s face. To say she was tireless is an understatement. She handled scary concerns in my mom’s condition with grace, worked to keep her comfortable in every way possible, and showed us more patience and compassion than I ever expected. There is simply nothing that can replace human-to-human connection. Erin touched our hearts as she took delicate care of our loved one. She is truly a gifted nurse with a heart of gold.”

September 2015
Ahmad Ibrahim, RN
9 West

“I have been in hospitals at least three to five times a year for the past 24 years. I’ve had many wonderful nurses throughout the years, but nurse Ahmad has stood above all others. He was the most compassionate and caring nurse that I have ever, EVER had!! I was given potassium, which burns. Ahmad would take the time to stop the potassium for a moment and let the saline run through and, when he was sure the potassium was through, he would then give me my other meds. Little things like that make the difference between a good nurse and a great nurse. There was something that Ahmad said to me that will always stay with me. He said every morning he says a prayer for his patients that they will feel less pain and have a speedy recovery. He is an amazing person. He comforted me with his kind heart and words. He is that diamond that all employers wish for; he is definitely an asset to your hospital.”

October 2015
Zachery Williams, BSN, RN
MICU

“Words cannot express the appreciation that we feel in our hearts for the care that Zachery Williams not only provided our son, but also our family. Zach worked diligently as our son had many health care needs and concerns during the early part of his stay. And as he cared for our son, Zach also showed kindness and empathy to us. He was a calming force during a brutal storm. After his ICU stay was complete and our son was transferred to a general floor, Zack stopped by after one of his shifts to visit and check up on his recovery. It was great to know that his concern for our son continued beyond the time of having him as a patient. Zack clearly deserves his high demanding position as an ICU nurse in a top hospital in the country. We will forever remember and be grateful for this considerate care that he provided our son and our family. I really cannot express the amount of heartfelt gratitude we feel for this young man.”
Holiday Cheer Festival Unit Decorating Contest

Thanks to the 21 units that participated this year!
First Place: D2, Honorable Mention: 3S 9N
Congratulations to the winners!

Photos by Michael McHugh