Team effort brings MIBG therapy to Comer and Illinois

Nurses will lead an orientation day, which will include familiarizing parents and children with the MIBG Therapy Room, set to open in early 2014, and the family’s anteroom. The walls and all fixtures of the MIBG Therapy Room will be covered with plastic during the patient’s stay. The bed is shielded with lead plates, and everything in the room will be covered with plastic or paper.

During the treatment, parents are allowed to spend only minimal time providing essential care to their children — during which they will be covered from head-to-toe in scrubs, booties and gloves. They can lean over lead shields surrounding the bed, but they cannot sit in the bed with their child or hold their child’s hands.

“Continued on page 3

MIBG (meta-iodobenzylguanidine) is a molecule that is internalized by neuroblastoma cells. When combined with radioactive iodine and administered to patients intravenously, MIBG can target and kill tumor cells. Once children receive the medication, MIBG is eliminated over the course of three to five days through urine and other bodily fluids from saliva to oils secreted by the skin. MIBG therapy is not a cure-all for neuroblastoma, but it is one step in a complex treatment plan for high-risk patients.
Greetings from the Chief Nursing Officer

Dear Colleagues,

The promise of the new year gives us much to look forward to. While our organization's fiscal year began July 1, we can still come together to reflect on where we spend our time and energy, rethink the impact we are making, and adjust accordingly to increase our effectiveness.

This season is also a time to give thanks for all of the good work in 2013. As chief nursing officer, I am grateful to work among nurses whose professional, compassionate care and clinical expertise make a difference in the health and well-being of our patients and their families. I am so inspired every time I see or hear about the amazing care you provide to our patients.

Day after day, thousands of people come to our Medical Center looking to us for answers and solutions to their health care needs. You provide our patients with life-saving care by lending them your hands, your hearts and your minds in trying times. I thank you for remaining focused on our patients’ needs.

In this Nursing Edition, you will read about shining examples of those who place the concerns and outcomes of our patients and their families at the forefront of their day-to-day work. Also, we share in this publication important news and announcements about our Medical Center and in our field.

Alyssa Kirk, RN, BSN, and her nursing colleagues are collaborating with Susan Cohn, MD, Director of Clinical Research in the Section of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, to roll out clinical practices to support our young patients with neuroblastoma. Soon, we’ll be the first medical center in Illinois to provide MIBG (meta-iodobenzylguanidine) therapy, a radioactive medication that targets and kills neuroblastoma cells. I am proud to say that we have the right team in place.

Beyond the University of Chicago Medicine campus, we look to nurses across the world to grow with us as partners in professional care. Cardiac Intensive Care Unit/PICU Nurse Lacy Holevis, RN, BSN, CCRN, traveled to the National Research Center for Cardiac Surgery in Astana, Kazakhstan, to share our best practices and to learn from techniques in their operating room and post-operative care.

Alyssa and Lacy are two examples of University of Chicago Medicine nurses who embody the professionalism, expertise and pursuit of excellence that all of you share and that continue to put our team at the forefront of nursing care.

It is also imperative that we continually look inward by evaluating our practices and sharing our findings with one another. One key event will be our April 4, Nursing Research Symposium. I urge you to submit your abstracts to the Nursing Research Committee and to publications and symposiums throughout the nation.

This Nursing Edition is one channel for all of us to support each other and share our accomplishments with a wider audience. Please make this newsletter available to your professional colleagues and to our patients by placing copies at our stations, in-unit conference rooms, and break areas.

You should be proud of what you do here every day, as I am of you.

I wish you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Debra Albert
RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer
Vice President of Patient Care Services
Each day the amount of radiation the child gives off will decrease, allowing the parents to spend more time in the room with their child.

Kirk and Cohn are at the center of a caregiving team that stretches across the Medical Center with the goal of providing families with the tools they need to stay connected.

Kirk and her colleagues in nursing have taken on the task of empowering parents to become patients’ primary caregivers in the MIBG Therapy Room.

Everything a patient touches while undergoing treatment will have varying amounts of radioactive materials, and will have to be discarded or quarantined until Radiation Safety determines it is no longer radioactive.

Nurses will be limited to brief visits with each patient, because over time they will be exposed to radiation while caring for multiple patients. Nurses, parents and anyone else who enters the room will wear a dosimeter that measures the amount of radiation that they have been exposed to. Radiation Safety staff will be responsible for monitoring the dosimeters to ensure parents are not overexposed to radiation.

“Our biggest role is making sure that the parents are getting what they need so that they can provide their children with the best of care,” Kirk said.

Cohn and Kirk are working with high-risk neuroblastoma patients and their families to ensure children are capable of being alone for days at a time and that parents are able to follow the required steps to provide safe and high-quality care.

Among ongoing nurse-driven efforts to educate parents about MIBG therapy, Kirk is creating a presentation, which will be required for parents to review before their child is admitted.

They will learn about MIBG therapy and the tools used to measure the presence of radiation in the patient’s room and their radiation dose following visits inside the room to help them to avoid overexposure.

Patients will be required to have a catheter placed before receiving the medication to ensure that their urine is disposed of safely. Parents will have to undergo training to dispose of the urine and any other bodily fluids.

Child Life specialists will also meet with families to learn about the patients’ favorite activities to help keep them entertained.

Parents and Child Life specialists will bring children toys that either replicate those that a child has at home or are disposable.

Leading-edge technology will keep families and staff connected with patients. A closed-circuit TV monitoring system and iPads will allow patients and their loved ones to stay in constant communication.

Preparing young patients and their families and supporting them through their greatest challenges at Comer Children’s Hospital is actualizing a career-long goal, said Cohn, a world-renowned expert in neuroblastoma.

“We want to be able to provide every effective modality of treatment at Comer Children’s Hospital so that families do not need to travel away from Chicago to receive MIBG or other cutting-edge therapies. It is a huge imposition for our families to have to fly away for their treatments,” Cohn said. “We have outstanding care teams with expertise in nuclear medicine, radiation safety, and neuroblastoma right here at Comer.”
Nurses have historically provided fundamental support to promote health and well-being for patients both in the acute hospital setting and in the community. Whether through direct care, disease prevention, education, developing care plans, helping patients to maintain and self-manage health and instructing patients and their families, nurses are essential to the health of a community.

With the passing of the Accountable Care Act (ACA), there is a changing focus of where care will be concentrated in the future, but the need for nurses to be committed to community health has not waivered.

This shift calls for care to be focused more in the community and less in acute care hospitals. As such, health promotion and self-management of care are major aspects of the ACA strategy for care delivery.

Engaging nurses in efforts to improve the health of the community is synonymous with supporting this strategy. Nurses are in an ideal position to influence the people that they interact with.

The ACA strategy also calls for hospitals across the country to conduct a community health needs assessment to determine the community's perception of the priority health needs. Through this process, we have learned that the University of Chicago Medicine community perceives the following needs as the highest priorities:

- Access to health care for adults and children
- Childhood obesity
- Childhood asthma
- Adult diabetes
- Colorectal cancer
- Breast cancer

To address these needs, the UChicago Medicine will begin focusing its community benefit and community outreach efforts on programs and initiatives to promote the health and well-being of persons who live in our community.

Every interaction between members of our community and nurses presents an opportunity to deliver messages about healthier living and improved self-management behaviors. Whether by engaging in primary prevention, taking action to reduce the incidence of disease, or teaching and promotion of self-care management, nurses can contribute significantly to impacting the health of the community.

Through the Urban Health Initiative’s Office of Community Affairs, UChicago Medicine will provide volunteer opportunities for nurses who are interested in participating in initiatives aimed at addressing community health needs. Additionally, UChicago Medicine is forging collaborative relationships with local Colleges of Nursing to support this activity.

Nurses who are interested or have questions are encouraged to contact Leif Elsmo, Executive Director, Office of Community Affairs at 4-2826 or leif.elsmo@uchospitals.edu.

Brenda A. Battle, RN, BSN, MBA, is the vice president of Care Delivery Innovation and the Urban Health Initiative. She is also the Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion.

A mentor and mentee reunite

Janice Phillips, RN, MS, PhD, FAAN, left, and Michele Rubin, APN, CNS, CGRN, meet after Phillips made an August 20 presentation on Building Engagement in the Health Policy Arena and the Implications for Nursing. Phillips, the first Manager of Nursing Research at University of Chicago Medicine, is now a health policy advocate. When Phillips was a UChicago Medicine nurse, she was Rubin’s mentor in developing a research proposal on inflammatory bowel disease. Phillips was the first Manager of Nursing Research at UChicago Medicine. Rubin is an Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Department of General Surgery and Chair of Advanced Practice Nurses. Photo by Amy Alderman

Nursing.Edition@uchospitals.edu
More than 1,300 Staff Members Vaccinated During Drill

MOLLY WOULFE — STAFF WRITER

University of Chicago Medicine and the Biological Sciences Division assisted in conducting its first-ever Influenza Vaccination Emergency Management Drill on November 5-6.

Data from the immunization campaign and the two-day drill showed 8,670 faculty and staff took part overall. Medical Center volunteer nurses administered 1,300 shots during the two-day exercise while 4,605 employees confirmed they were vaccinated prior to the event.

Walking for wigs

Diane Malinowski, RN, BSN, CNRN, and her daughters Nicole Malinowski and Kristin Thill, participated in the 3rd Annual Walk for Wigs in Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana, on October 13. Malinowski, a nurse on 8 East, has worked at the University of Chicago Medicine for 24 years.

Backed by Accents on 45th Hair and Nail Salon in Highland, Indiana Walk for Wigs’ mission is to raise money for hairpieces for patients who have lost hair in their fight against cancer. The nonprofit donated 100 wigs last year. More information is available at Walk for Wigs on Facebook.

April 4, 2014
University of Chicago Medicine
Nursing Research Symposium
Advancing Nursing Research and Practice: Building a Community of Inquiry
Call for abstracts
Submit abstracts that reflect either completed projects or projects in progress of interest to all levels of nurses, leaders and educators.
Deadline: Monday, January 6
For more information, contact: Lilibeth Silva at lilibeth.silva@uchospitals.edu

Keep your colleagues informed!
Share your news on publications, presentations and awards with Cynthia LaFond, RN, PhD, CCRN, Manager for Nursing Research, and Nursing Edition Editor Amy Alderman.
For more information or to celebrate your news, contact:
Cynthia LaFond: 773-702-6084
cynthia.lafond@uchospitals.edu
Amy Alderman: 773-702-4684
amy.alderman@uchospitals.edu

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cynthia.lafond@uchospitals.edu
Amy Alderman: 773-702-4684
amy.alderman@uchospitals.edu

8 East Nurse Diane Malinowski, RN, BSN, CNRN, center, with her daughters, Nicole Malinowski, left, and Kristin Thill, at the 3rd Annual Walk for Wigs.
Redrawing a professional model of care

AMY ALDERMAN – STAFF WRITER

Nurses are coming together to redraw the symbol that defines professional care at the University of Chicago Medicine.

The image, a professional practice model of nursing care, will show how UChicago Medicine nurses connect their practice with the mission, vision, values and philosophy that support their work, said Katherine Pakieser-Reed, RN, PhD, Director of the Center for Nursing Professional Practice and Research, who is leading the redesign process.

“It is a picture that tells the story of our nursing practice. It brings together our fundamental values as an organization. It will help explain who we are and what we are about,” Pakieser-Reed said.

More than 80 representatives of unit-based councils gathered at the Friend Family Health Center in September to vote on professional care models that were drawn at another workshop in the summer.

The collective input from these meetings is being used to shape a professional practice model of nursing care that will be designed by an illustrator.

Involving staff in the redesign process will lead to a more highly representative image, said Catherine Houda, RN, MS-NEDC, a patient care manager in 8W, who attended the September gathering.

“IT’s great to see my colleagues engaged, becoming a part of change and shaping the delivery of nursing practice,” Houda said.

Connecting Theory to Practice

Catherine Vincent, RN, PhD, discussed the application of Dorothea Orem’s SelfCare Deficit Nursing Theory to Research and Practice at the Tuesday, November 19, Nursing Research Grand Rounds. Vincent is an Associate Professor of the Department of Women, Children and Family Health Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. Orem’s theory has been chosen to represent and guide models of care for the future at the University of Chicago Medicine.

Photos by Amy Alderman

Pritzker Poetry Contest

Deadline: January 15

Call for submissions

The Pritzker Poetry Contest aims to recognize and celebrate the humanistic side of medicine and to foster compassionate patient care throughout our community.

Under the generous sponsorship of Dr. Rama Jager, the contest offers four monetary prizes, ranging from $1,000 to $250.

Everyone involved in patient care at the University of Chicago Medicine is eligible to participate.

Complete instructions and deadlines are outlined on the Pritzker website: pritzker.uchicago.edu
Patient Logistics Department set to improve bed access

In an effort to better enable our teams to provide world-class care to patients, the Bed Access and the Transfer Center merged in November to form the Patient Logistics Department.

This department, staffed entirely by nurses, is responsible for ensuring patient flow and the optimal use of existing beds and resources while preserving the safety and satisfaction of patients and staff.

Using their critical thinking skills and a prioritization process, nurses will set the order of placing patients, and teletracking will provide real-time information on bed capacity and patient flow.

Ownership of all beds falls under Patient Logistics, creating a global view of bed access at the Medical Center.

For more information, contact:
Emily Lowder, RN, PhD, NE-BC
Director of Patient Logistics
4-1318
emily.lowder@uchospitals.edu

Care Rounds launches across Medical Center

Nurse leaders are capturing digital feedback from patients in Care Rounds. After leaders ask the patients questions, they record their answers via the Vocera Care Experience software program on iPads. This mobile platform allows users to measure and manage patient experiences, provide performance analytics, capture best practices and log feedback from multiple sources.

Care Rounds are under way in the following areas: Adult Inpatient, Adult ED, Pediatric Inpatient, Pediatric ED, NICU, PICU and Child Life. The combined 29 units are located in Bernard A. Mitchell, Comer Children’s Hospital and the Center for Care and Discovery.

For more information, contact:
Susan Murphy, RN, BSN, MS
Program Director,
The Office of Patient Experience
2-5505, susan.murphy@uchospitals.edu

Nurses ‘Step it Up’ to take the lead

Fellow 9N Surgical ICU staff nurses Nicole Crncic, RN, BSN and Michele Thorne, RN, BSN, synchronized their pedometers in early October as the Step it Up Wellness program kicked off the second round of walking for health at the University of Chicago Medicine.

“We’re already competing with each other,” Crncic half-kidded, adding she and Thorne signed up to encourage each other to walk more to stay healthy. Looking back, she said, having a friend in the program helped her to tally up more than 325,000 steps in the eight-week program. “I think the program made me more conscious of moving, and it especially helped to have a buddy at work to stay motivated.”

Nursing is the largest group that enrolled in the Step it Up program this year. With more than 425 enrolled, nurses made up 20 percent of participation in the competition, according to the Wellness team. This is also a significant uptick in participation compared to last year’s Setting the Pace walking program.

“I’m so glad to see so many of our nurses take the lead this year, and I look forward to seeing nurses involved in our future programs,” said Jason Whetsel, Wellness Director.

During this eight-week program, participants set a walking goal between 8,000 and 12,000 steps a day and wear a pedometer to help monitor and log how many steps they take. Those who reached their weekly goals were entered into bonus raffles.
Little patients get top billing in a multimedia ad campaign heralding the innovative care at the University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital. Designed by the Toky agency, the “Brighter Futures” series of radio, print, transit and online ads debuted last month and ran through December 18. The six real-life patients range from an infant to an 8-year-old.

Each print ad features a child’s portrait, the Comer logo and the tagline “Inventing the Future of Kids’ Medicine.” The two 60-second radio spots feature kids singing and discussing their futures.

The ads build on four brand promises that establish Comer, ranked among the nation’s top children’s hospitals by U.S. News & World Report, as a leader in pediatric medicine in Chicago. The promises are:

- Ready to meet the greatest challenges
- The best minds in medicine and science
- Creating a culture of collaboration
- Committed to delivering compassionate patient care

The campaign targets consumers in Greater Chicago, Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan, said Tessa Burton, Executive Director of Marketing. The faces of happy, healthy youngsters “exemplify how we provide world-class care with a human touch,” she said.

The family behind the iconic Weber grill has donated $10 million to support neonatal care at the University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital. The pledge, made by the Stephen family of Weber-Stephen Products, was announced September 29 at a neonatology reunion of former patients, their families and the staff members who cared for them. In recognition of the Stephens’ support, the neonatology center has been renamed the Margaret M. and George A. Stephen Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The gift, among the Chicago area’s largest earmarked for neonatal care, will support:

- Research toward advancements in treatments for ill and premature newborns
- Genetic studies to uncover links to early childhood diseases
- The recruitment of the new Stephen Family Professor of Pediatrics

The Stephens’ gift builds on a history of supporting Comer Children’s Hospital that dates to 2005. The family has already directed more than $1.5 million to research and patient care at the hospital.

Twelve members of the family — matriarch Margaret Stephen, her son and Weber CEO Jim Stephen, nine of his siblings and a niece — have pledged $833,000 each to the $10 million commitment.

The Stephen NICU is the largest facility of its kind in the Midwest and admits about 1,000 babies annually. Specialists tend to tiny patients born with or at risk of serious complications.

“This historic gift holds the promise to change lives,” said David Gozal, MD, the Herbert T. Abelson Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief at Comer. “I view the Stephen family as our partners.”
IN YOUR WORDS

Exchanging nursing care in Kazakhstan

BY LACY HOLEVIS, RN, BSN, CCRN

While in Kazakhstan, I had two jam-packed days in the National Research Center for Cardiac Surgery filled with meetings, surgeries, and many coffee breaks — a major part of the Kazakh culture.

University of Medicine Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Gerhard Ziemer, MD, PhD, left, and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit/PICU Nurse Lacy Holevis, RN, BSN, CCRN, sip coffee with Director of Nursing Gulnur Nadirbekova, standing, left, and Operating Room Nurse Sandugash Tashimova at the National Research Center for Cardiac Surgery.

Cardiac Intensive Care Unit/PICU Nurse Lacy Holevis, RN, BSN, CCRN, traveled to the National Research Center for Cardiac Surgery in Astana, Kazakhstan, with University of Medicine Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Gerhard Ziemer, MD, PhD, on a health care exchange trip. While in Astana in September, the pair attended the 2nd annual Congress of Cardiac Surgery. Ziemer performed six pediatric cardiac surgeries and shared new techniques with a former student’s surgical staff. Holevis met with medical staff and leadership to discuss nursing care practices.

Post-operative nursing care at the National Research Center for Cardiac Surgery is very similar to ours, but there are a few differences. For example, the orders nurses receive are not from the surgeon, but they are from the anesthesiologist/cardiac intensivist. The anesthesiologist, who takes care of the patient in the OR is the one to follow the patient post-operatively in the CICU, writes orders and extubates the patient. Most children are extubated the same day or the day after surgery. They do not use any paralytics, sedation is used very gingerly, and the kids do well.

Similar to our unit, the nurses run the blood gases, do vitals, I&Os, and assessments every hour. The nurses and physicians work very well as a team together.

While Dr. Zeimer and I also attended the two-day Congress of Cardiac Surgery, I chose to write about the experience in the hospital rather than what was discussed at the conference. I learned the most by talking with the nurses and doctors at the Center for Cardiac Surgery.

I would encourage anyone to take a trip similar to this at least one time in their career to experience what it is like to be a nurse or doctor in a different country.

I realized that even half-way around the world our fellow nurses and doctors have the same concerns for their patients as we do and they have the same goals and aspirations that we share. It was awe-inspiring to know that no matter where we go in the world we all have the same goals — to take care of our patients the best we can and to do so in the safest way possible.

Right away, I realized that the nurses at the Center were well-prepared to meet me with questions. At one point, I sat at a table with 10 nurses surrounding me as they asked questions with the assistance of a translator.

I felt like a celebrity!

They have many concerns about infection control, but according to the CICU nurse manager, the CICU has had zero central line infections since the hospital opened two years ago. I was impressed.

I met with the nurse managers of the CICU, the Pediatric Rehabilitation unit, Adult CICU and the director of nursing. I shared with a nursing manager a copy of our post-operative checklist and our bedside set-up list. With the assistance of a translator, we reviewed each line on the lists to translate the lists into Russian.

While in Kazakhstan, I had two jam-packed days in the National Research Center for Cardiac Surgery filled with meetings, surgeries, and many coffee breaks — a major part of the Kazakh culture.
Checking out books made easier

AMY ALDERMAN — STAFF WRITER

Nurses, physicians and faculty alike can check out materials with more ease at all University of Chicago libraries, thanks to a system allowing house staff to borrow materials by using UChicago Medicine identification cards.

Meredith Borak, RN, MSN, identified a need to simplify the check-out process specifically for nurses. She led the charge to find a solution while collaborating with Dana P. Edelson, MD, MS, FAHA, FHM, to prepare curricula for life support training classes.

“We currently train about 50 people per month in various life support classes, the books for which are now held on reserve behind the circulation desk at The John Crerar Library,” Edelson said. “Nurses were required to go to Regenstein (The Joseph Regenstein Library’s Identification and Privileges Office) first to get a library card before checking anything out at Crerar — a process that needs to be repeated annually. Because nurses cannot be away from their clinical duties for prolonged periods of time, this process was time-prohibitive for most of them.”

Through a partnership between UChicago Medicine and University of Chicago library employees, a directory of house staff was created and those named were granted borrowing privileges without them having to visit The Joseph Regenstein Library. In this way, the process was streamlined for these users.

For more information, contact:
Dana P. Edelson, MD, MS, FAHA, FHM
773-834-2191

Kovler Diabetes Center Dedicates Jim Tyree Education Library

The Kovler Diabetes Center dedicated the James C. Tyree Diabetes Education Library on October 23 in honor of the late education advocate and Medical Center board member. Doing ribbon-cutting honors in the DCAM, from left: Louis Philipson, MD, PhD; Laila Rashid, Vice President for Medical Center Development; Kenneth Polonsky, MD, Dean and Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs; Jessica Tyree, daughter of James and Eve Tyree; Eve Tyree, widow of James Tyree; Laurie Jaffe, member of the Kovler Diabetes Center board; and patient Kevin Boyle. Photo By Tricia Koning

UCM Awarded Comprehensive Stroke Center Status

The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association have recognized the University of Chicago Medicine as the first Comprehensive Stroke Center in Chicago.

This new level of certification is reserved for institutions with the infrastructure, staff and training to treat the most complex cases.

“The University of Chicago Medicine has thoroughly demonstrated the greatest level of commitment to the care of its patients with a complex stroke condition,” said Joint Commission President Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations

6 p.m., Wednesday, January 15
Keynote Speaker:
Deval Patrick, Governor of Massachusetts
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel
5850 S. Woodlawn Avenue
Community Reception to follow in Ida Noyes Hall

Noon, Friday, January 24
Keynote Speaker:
Hill Harper, award-winning actor and activist
P-117
All University of Chicago Medicine employees are welcome

For more on Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations, go to mlk.uchicago.edu

Nursing.Edition@uchospitals.edu
Pohlman continues nursing tradition with passion

MARY STROKA — STAFF WRITER

Anne Pohlman’s broad, engaging smile is hard to miss as she discusses her community, the outdoors and especially her work.

Throughout a 20-year career, Pohlman, APN-CNS, FCCM, said she’s “never thought of not being a nurse.”

“I love being a nurse. I think becoming a nurse was the best decision I ever made,” said Pohlman, whose mother and grandmother are also nurses. “I love my job. I have the ability to work with individuals who challenge me to optimize patient care with the idea that we can always do it better.”

As an advanced practice nurse in critical care, her role is to provide clinical expertise to patients with complex health needs. She coordinates patient care with study interventions and provides leadership to both the bedside staff and the clinical research team. Her work is “exemplary,” said Jesse Hall, MD, section chief of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine and professor of medicine and anesthesia.

“For Anne, excellence is a habit and her very nature,” Hall said. “All that she does is performed in an exemplary fashion to the benefit of her patients, colleagues and profession.”

Bhakti Patel, MD, a fellow in the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care, calls Pohlman’s expertise “key” to Critical Care’s success in research.

“Her nursing background and leadership skills have been instrumental in creating a multidisciplinary approach that fosters collaboration between nurses, clinicians, and researchers,” she said.

Pohlman is well known among her peers thanks to the more than 60 research presentations she has given across the country and the dozens of articles and abstracts she has written. What most people don’t know about her is that her current work was once her greatest challenge.

“Applying research to bedside nursing practice wasn’t a straightforward concept” she said. “The most challenging class in graduate school was nursing research. Now it’s my job.”

It’s also her passion, thanks to the patients and ICU team at the University of Chicago Medicine.

“The ICU is an interesting place to do research because the environment is complex, but that’s also the exciting part,” she said. “Working in critical care is like playing a team sport because each staff member plays a key role in providing patient care. We all bring our specialties to the bedside to provide the best care for the patients.”

Ever active at work and at home, she said she learned the key components of working as a team while playing sports in high school and field hockey in college.

Though Pohlman has poured 20 years of her time and energy into her profession, she also treasures a change of pace during what she calls “laid-back weekends.”

“My neighbors don’t know that I am a research nurse at the University,” she said, suggesting that may be because she enjoys lounging in a sweatshirt and relaxing by splitting wood for the fireplace or sitting on a tube in the lake.

In addition to her work at UChicago Medicine, Pohlman is an asset to her community. She is a volunteer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Warrenville and is active in her church in the western suburbs and in Burlington, Wisconsin. She also loves all things outdoors: hiking and camping in the woods, gardening and mountain climbing.

“I have a perfect life,” she said.
Announcements

People

Karen Stratton, RN, PhD, NE-BC
Karen Stratton, RN, PhD, NE-BC has been named Vice President for Women's and Children's Services. Stratton joined the organization two years ago as Executive Director for Nursing, Comer Children's Hospital, and expanded her administrative scope to include Women's Services. In her new role Karen is responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of the Women's and Children's service line. Collaborating with executive and medical department leadership, she will provide administrative oversight to assure effective implementation of clinical business plans, the development of innovative patient-centered care delivery systems and the creation of an environment that promotes excellence in patient safety, patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes and total workforce engagement.

Katherine Pakieser-Reed, RN, PhD, Director of the Center for Nursing Professional Practice and Research, received a GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Award from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Alumni Association in November. GOLD Award recipients are recognized for achieving a measure of success in their fields, bringing a credit to themselves and the University of Wisconsin.

In addition to receiving the GOLD Award, Pakieser-Reed, published the book, "Night Shift Nursing: Savvy Solutions for a Healthy Lifestyle," along with University of Chicago Medicine nurse contributors Catherine Murks, MSN, APN-BC, CPN; Jennifer Taylor, RN, MS, BSN, BS, CCRN; and Lynda Bartlett, RN, MS, MBA.

Appointments and Promotions

Sally Black, RN, MSN, MBA, OCN, NEA-BC, has been appointed Director of Nursing Technology and Innovation.

Cynthia LaFond, RN, PhD, CCRN, has been appointed Manager for Nursing Research.

Emily Lowder, RN, PhD, NE-BC, has been named Director of Patient Logistics.

Mark Lockwood, RN, MSN, CCRC, has been elected co-chair for the Nursing Research Committee.

Crystal Race, RN, BSN, was recognized as a Pinnacle Nurse Leader at the 16th Power of Nursing Leadership forum, hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing.

Pam McCall, RN, BSN, NE-BC, and Ed Gutierrez, RN, BS, CEN, TNS, are recipients of the American Organization Nurse Executive Nurse Manager Fellowship.

Mark Lockwood, RN, MSN, CCRC, won the $2,500 International Transplant Nurses Society Research Grant. He was also awarded the $750 Edith Anderson Leadership Education Grant.

Lowder, Emily, RN, PhD, NE-BC.
(October, 2013). The Quality of Life of Primary Caregivers of Children with Chronic Illnesses. Presented at Pediatric Nursing Conference at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Publications

Debra Albert, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC; Malloch, Kathy, RN, PhD, MBA, FAAN; O’Keefe, Sharon, RN, MSN. (December, 2013). Weaving Multiple Initiatives and Frameworks to Advance Culture Change. Nurse Leader.

Katherine Pakieser-Reed, RN, PhD; Murks, Catherine, MSN, APN-BC, CPN; Taylor, Jennifer, RN, MS, BSN, BS, CCRN; and Bartlett, Lynda, RN, MS, MBA.

Mark Lockwood, RN, MSN, CCRC; Saunders, M. Lee, C.S., Becker, Y.T., Josephson, M.A., and Chon, W.J.