Nine Nurses Named Outstanding Nurse Honorees by *Houston Chronicle*

For the past 12 years, in honor of National Nurses Week, the *Houston Chronicle* has selected nurses from throughout Greater Houston’s healthcare community for its *Salute to Nurses* special edition section.

As reported by the *Houston Chronicle*, Vice President of Recruitment Mario Barson said, “Many years ago, we wanted to find a way to recognize the importance of our healthcare industry and its contribution to our community. What better way than to honor the heart of the medical field, the nurses? We have such wonderful medical institutions and the nurses are the face of those every day as they care for patients.”

Out of the more than 700 nominations that poured in for the prestigious award, 100 nurses were named “Outstanding Nurse” honorees - and this year, nine of the recipients are from Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Congratulations to the following Outstanding Nurse honorees:
- Rudy Cabrera, R.N., *Life Flight*
- Clare Carroll, R.N., *MICU*
- Alida Drewes, R.N., *Acute Pain*
- Lavelle Grubb, R.N., *Burn Unit*
- Sindhu Joseph, R.N., *Advanced Heart Failure IMU*
- Allison Murphy, R.N., *Neuro ICU*
- Heather Brandon, R.N., *Pedi PACU*
- Kendra Fohl, R.N., *Labor & Delivery*
- Gene McGowen, R.N., *PICU*

During the luncheon, the *Houston Chronicle* surprised Grubb as one of the “Top 10” nurses amongst the 100 honorees and her picture and story was featured in the paper on May 12.

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Houston Chronicle’s “Top 10” Nurse - Lavelle Grubb, R.N., Burn Unit

Lavelle Grubb has been at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center since 1982 and previously worked in areas such as the pediatric intensive care unit.

Grubb said, “One day I was transferred to the Adult Burn Unit and immediately felt like I was in the right place. I chose Burn Critical Care because my mother was a Burn/ICU nurse and served as my mentor.”

Nominator Debra Mulkey, R.N., wrote about Grubb, “As a burn nurse for the past 30 years, Lavelle is the epitome of what a nurse should be – kind, caring, intelligent, hard-working, giving and a mentor. She goes out of her way to make her patients feel special and well cared for, while at the same time, giving them the best possible care.”
Throughout National Nurses Week, the Nursing Shared Governance Councils hosted fun events to recognize nurses for their contributions to patient care. On Tuesday, May 7, the nursing chiefs and members of the Recruitment, Retention and Recognition Council honored the 2013 Nursing Excellence Award winners at a special luncheon celebration.

The awards were created to honor the extraordinary nurses that care for patients on a daily basis. The 12 individuals selected were nominated by their peers and best demonstrate the roles of nurses outlined in the six pillars of our Nursing Professional Practice Model.

Congratulations to the following nurses from adult and children’s services who were nominated in one of six roles.

**Nurses as Advocates**
- John Benzaia, R.N., CVIMU
- Teresa Voorhies, R.N., RCW

**Nurses as Clinicians**
- Andrea Hamilton, R.N., Burn Center
- Tammy Navarro, R.N., NICU

**Nurses as Collaborators**
- Anne Brock, R.N., STICU
- Sandra Resendez, R.N., Pediatric OR

**Nurses as Innovators**
- Susan Spjut, R.N., Forensic Nursing
- Ivy Wilson, R.N., NICU

**Nurses as Leaders**
- Melissa Toney, R.N., Cancer Center
- Alison Krawacki, R.N., PICU

**Nurses as Teachers**
- Erica Hall, R.N., 4 West Cullen
- Ashley McCarthy, R.N., NICU

Upcoming Events

**Blood Drive – June 20**
Partners in Caring (PIC) will host a blood drive in the Cullen Lobby from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 20. Please consider donating, as a single donation of whole blood can help save the lives of three different people. For more details or to schedule your donation, visit www.giveblood.org and enter sponsor code 1796 or call Faizbano Rayani at 713.704.2074.
Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center Campus has earned Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) under a national program aimed at helping patients and families make informed decisions about the quality of respiratory care services available in hospitals.

About 700 hospitals, or approximately 15 percent of hospitals in the United States have applied for and received this award. Our Campus’ respiratory care department has received this award six times.

The QRCR program was started by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) in 2003 to help consumers identify those facilities using qualified respiratory therapists to provide respiratory care. Hospitals earning the QRCR designation ensure patient safety by agreeing to a strict set of criteria governing their respiratory care services.

To qualify for the recognition, our Campus provided documentation showing it meets the following conditions:

• All respiratory therapists employed by the hospital to deliver bedside respiratory care services are either legally recognized by the state as competent to provide respiratory care services or hold the CRT or RRT credential.
• Respiratory therapists are available 24 hours.
• Other personnel qualified to perform specific respiratory procedures and the amount of supervision required for personnel to carry out specific procedures must be designated in writing.
• Hospital policy prohibits the routine delivery of medicated aerosol treatments utilizing small volume nebulizers, metered dose inhalers, or intermittent positive pressure treatments to multiple patients simultaneously. Circumstances under which this practice is permitted are defined by policy.
• A doctor of medicine or osteopathy is designated as medical director of respiratory care services.
• Use a process that periodically compares performance of the Respiratory Therapy department on efficiency and quality metrics with similar departments for the purpose of identifying and achieving best practice.

Memorial Hermann-TMC Earns Quality Respiratory Care Recognition

Magnet Moment: NICU Nurses Present at UHC Annual Meeting

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital caregivers Sarah Bayer, R.N., Brittany Kemery, R.N., Catherine Jackson, R.N., and Vicki Simmering, R.N., were unaware their involvement in the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) Nursing Residency Program, which began in July 2011, would take them across the country a few years later. But that was the case in early March 2013 when these NICU nurses were asked to present their evidence-based research project at the prestigious UHC annual meeting in San Diego.

The annual meeting, whose headline was “Maximizing Opportunity in an Era of Change,” included panel discussions, educational sessions and poster exhibits. The NICU nurses’ poster presentation focused on Kangaroo Care in the NICU. It identified the barriers of skin-to-skin contact and educated staff on how to increase this practice, which improves overall patient outcomes.

Pictured from left to right is Catherine Jackson, Vicki Simmering and Brittany Kemery.
Recap of National Nurses Week Celebration

During National Nurses Week, May 6 through 12, the Councils of the Professional Nursing Shared Governance Structure at the Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center Campus hosted numerous events and activities to honor our talented nursing staff and the nursing profession. The pictures below are from events held throughout the week.
Recognizing Our Employees

Recognizing clinicians for their achievements in patient care and in our community is an integral part of the culture of clinical excellence at Memorial Hermann, both at the Texas Medical Center Campus and across the System. It is also an important aspect of Magnet® Structural Empowerment component – to reward and recognize staff, many of whom have gone above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to make achievements in their fields. Congratulations to the following employees!

Promotions

CIMU/CCU
• Rani John was promoted to R.N. III

ECMO
• Jennifer Bickford was promoted to R.N. III

Emergency Department
• Algin (Vince) Adap was promoted to R.N. III

NICU
• Krisha Gigout was promoted to R.N. III

NSICU
• Christine Glendening was promoted to R.N. III

Pedi Cath Lab
• Shane Moore was promoted to R.N. III

Achievements
• Phillip Weeks, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., had his paper, titled Evaluation of Bivalirduin Hyper-ACT Responses in the Setting of Percutaneous Coronary Intervention published in the Journal of Invasive Cardiology.

New Leadership
• Robert Flores, B.S.N., has been named director of Cancer Services and will be responsible for growth and oversight of the Cancer Center and Radiation Therapy department.
• Elizabeth Mitchell, R.N., B.S.N., C.C.R.N., has been named clinical manager of the Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) Unit.

Continuing Education Opportunities

May
May 24, 10 a.m. – Noon
HealthQuest – Nursing ADT
May 29, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Clinical Thinking and Decision Making in the Clinical Setting
May 30 & 31, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Pediatric Advanced Life Support
May 30, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
EKG Interpretation: Beyond the Basics
May 31, 8 a.m. – Noon *Class Full
Phlebotomy Class
May 31, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Respiratory – Adult Emergency Airway Management Course

June
June 3 & 4, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. *Class Full
Advanced Cardiac Life Support
June 3, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Chemotherapy: Chemotherapy and Biotherapy
June 3, 9 a.m. – Noon
Implanted Vascular Ports

To register or get more information on any class, visit the Partners in Learning section of InSite.
Policy Corner: Blood Component, Requisition and Transfusion/ Hospital Color-Coded Alert Wristbands

The Blood Component, Requisition and Transfusion policy ensures the safe delivery of blood and blood products to our patients. It also states that any patient leaving the nursing unit and receiving RBC/components must be accompanied by a nurse until the patient is returned to the unit.

The Hospital Color-Coded Alert Wristbands policy identifies and communicates patient-specific risk factors or special needs by standardizing the use of color-coded alert wristbands based upon the patient’s assessment, wishes and medical status. The wristbands serve as an alert and do not take the place of an order.

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<tr>
<th>Name of Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Component, Requisition and Transfusion</td>
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<td>CLI-0142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Color-Coded Alert Wristbands</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
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Clinical Notes is a publication of Memorial Hermann-TMC internal communications. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

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