New graduates take center stage
May 24, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is here, and with spring comes graduation season! I am happy to announce that we have many nursing staff members graduating as a new RN or with a BSN and other graduate degrees. Education is very important in our organization and is one of the pillars of our new professional nursing practice model. The Education Pillar states:

Our nurses work in an environment of continual learning. We promote and support all levels of professional education, including advanced degree achievement, professional certification, continuing education, role modeling, sharing our expertise, and learning collaboratively with colleagues across disciplines.

Therefore, I am extremely proud of our UI Hospitals and Clinics staff who personify our education pillar. Congratulations to all UI Hospitals and Clinics nursing staff graduates! Please click here to see them!

Because I am away this week, I thought you might enjoy reading a guest blog highlighting the educational accomplishments of four of our own nursing staff who have advanced their nursing educations by achieving an RN, a BSN, an MSN, and a DNP degree, respectively. As a matter of fact, our DNP graduate is the first for UI Hospitals and Clinics! Click on their links below to read their stories!

Jacque Gingerich, MA, in Radiation Oncology is a new “RN”

Julie Ostwinkle, RN, in CCM (Continuum of Care Management) has earned a BSN

Christina Woline, BSN, RN, CNRN, from the Nursing Clinical Education Center has received an MSN
Kirsten Hanrahan, DNP, RN, our very first Doctor of Nursing Practice

Before I close, here are some follow-ups:

I was very pleased by the great effort so many people made in ensuring the success of Nursing Recognition Day, but I would like to extend a special “thank you” to Rosanna Seabold, BS, from the CNDPQRI, who did a wonderful job earlier this month coordinating the events and leading the Recognition Day committee.

Also, last week’s blog generated a number of comments about Alaris pump safety. Please click here to view them, and please continue to comment so that we can help with the issues.

Have a great week, and thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Guest Column on Quality and Safety

Nexiva Catheters
By Renee Gould, MS, RN-BC

I would like to thank the nursing staff for their patience and support of the Nexiva Closed IV Catheter System. This catheter is important because it offers safety features for our staff (passive needle-shielding/bloodless starts) and our patients (closed system/securement platform). I am pleased that so many of you have and continue to avail yourself to perfecting your technique with this catheter. For those who would like more practice or have questions, there will be two Nexiva reps at UI Hospitals and Clinics this week, and we have planned site visits monthly to continue facilitating your success with this product.
If you would like to connect up with the Nexiva rep to start IVs or to share your experience with the catheter for tips and trouble-shooting, contact renee-gould@uiowa.edu, or call 4-7191.

Announcements, Awards, Presentations, and Events

Nursing Grand Rounds, noon Tuesday, May 31, in the Nursing Clinical Education Center
“Fall Prevention—PT Perspective” will be the focus of Safety Grand Rounds on Tuesday, May 31, presented by Michelle Borgwardt, DPT, Department of Rehabilitation Therapies. Click here for flyer.

Oncology Nursing Month
May is Oncology Nursing Month. To celebrate with our oncology nurses, please click on the link to see candid pictures of our of UI Hospitals and Clinic’s oncology nurses at work.
**MILESTONES**

**Awards**
Alice Cox, RN, OCN, a staff nurse in the Radiation Oncology Clinic, was selected May 19 as the 2011 Oncology Nurse of the Year by the Eastern Iowa Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. This award is given to oncology nurses who are role models for other oncology nurses and for their oncology-related community/chapter involvement. Alice has worked at UI Hospitals and Clinics since 1986 (25 years) mostly on the inpatient oncology units. She has worked in the Radiation Oncology Clinic for the past 13 years, and she is a member of the Nurse Retention Committee. Click here to see a picture of Alice and her colleagues celebrating this event.

**Conference attendance**
The following staff nurses from NICU attended the Vermont Oxford Network Neonatal Intensive Care Quality Collaborative meeting May 19-22 in Dallas, Texas. They represented our NICU with a poster presentation about our work related to "Improving Care and Communication Around the First Hour of Life."
Emily Spellman, BSN, RNC, NIC1
Tracy Tud, RN, NIC2
Deann Andrews, RN, NIC2
Stephanie Stewart, MSN, RNC

The following nurses attended the 25th anniversary of the Oncology Nursing Society local chapter meeting on May 19, 2011. The chartered members and past presidents were recognized, including several individuals from UI Hospitals and Clinics and the UI College of Nursing:
Linda Abbott, MSN, RN, AOCN, CWON (current chapter president)
Sharon Baumler, MSN, RN, OCN, CORLN
Lorraine Brenner, BSN, RN, OCN (treasurer of chapter)
Kelly Petruievich, BSN, RN, OCN
Paula McCue, MA, RN, OCN
Rhonda Evans, BSN, RN, OCN
Barb Dietz, BSN, RN, OCN
Jeannette Gent, RN, OCN
Lindy Cannady, BSN, RN
Cheri Vahl, MA, RN, ACHPN
Sara Kendall, MSN, RN
Jo Clark, RN (Retired) secretary of chapter

**Certifications**
PACU: Pam Ulrich, MSN, RN, CAPA, CPAN, received two certifications, Certified Ambulatory PeriAnesthesia Nurse and Certified PeriAnesthesia nurse
HCCC: Jerri Mensing, BA, RN, OCN, and Heather Brown, BA, RN, OCN, received oncology certifications
Ortho Clinic: Martha Carlson, BSN, RN, CFCN, received her certification in foot care

*Congratulations to all!*
**Patient satisfaction update**

For the quarter to date, almost 25 percent of patients responding give us an 8 on the 10-point scale for Hospital Rating. If we could move half of these patients up to 9, we would be in the top half of the nation, UHC, and state on this crucial publicly reported satisfaction question.

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**Grateful patient letter – SICU Bay 4**

This week’s grateful patient letter was shared with me via the new UI Health Care website. This letter serves as a wonderful reminder that we nurses care for more than just the patient.

*Our mother was transferred to the University from Washington County. We would like to express our thanks to the MICU and SICU staff for the excellent care and personal attention she received. Dr. Kent Choi and his surgical team did all they could, but unfortunately her condition was such they were unable to save her. Her last hours were spent being made as comfortable as possible, and she died peacefully. The SICU Bay 4 nurses were wonderful in allowing us to spend as much time as we could with her in her last hours. I wish I could remember everyone’s name to thank them personally. Please forward our greatest appreciation, if possible, to the staff members on these units. We appreciated everything they did for Mom.*
To read more grateful patient letters, click [here](#). Has your unit or clinic received a letter from a grateful patient? Please send to [jane-zukin@uiowa.edu](mailto:jane-zukin@uiowa.edu) or through campus mail to Jane Zukin, UI Health Care Marketing and Communications, W 319A GH.

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When commenting, please be respectful of your colleagues.