HAPPY NURSES WEEK!

National Nurses Week kicks off each year with National Nurses Day on May 6 and goes through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who is known as the founder of modern nursing for her work as a nurse, writer and statistician. These seven days bring us together to celebrate—as Vanderbilt nurses and as part of the most trusted profession in the country.

Friday, May 6 - Research Nurses' Poster Session
Noon-2 p.m. in North Lobby of Light Hall

Tuesday, May 17 - State of Nursing Address
9-10 a.m. in 208 Light Hall

Friday, May 20 - Nursing Honors Celebration
3-4 p.m. in Langford Auditorium, reception following in lobby

Kudos abound in this issue. First, I would like to recognize the wonderful Magnet Education Committee for a year and a half of work helping Vanderbilt nurses along their third Magnet journey. About 40 volunteers throughout the Vanderbilt enterprise are embodying the phrase “Together We Rock.” Their work continues as we prepare for a Magnet site visit.

Vanderbilt Behavioral Health also deserves recognition for having eight abstracts accepted for the upcoming conference of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Congratulations to Jennifer Barut, Interim Chief Nursing Officer at Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital and to the whole team at Vanderbilt Behavioral Health.

April saw the kickoff of Clinical Systems 2.0, the result of thousands of hours of work to migrate to new clinical systems. We now have a new name for the project to install Epic software: Epic Leap. Once implemented, the new systems will reduce documentation and save nurses’ time, allowing more time for patient-and family-centered care.

Enjoy this issue,

Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC
For nearly a year and a half, the Magnet Education Committee has been helping Vanderbilt nurses prepare for their journey toward a third Magnet designation.

The committee is comprised of about 40 members and works in tandem with the Central Steering Committee and Site Visit Committee on the Magnet journey.

Magnet is a credential given by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and is the highest recognition for nursing. Only about 6 percent of hospitals nationwide are recognized as Magnet.

Nicole Muoio, RN, a clinical staff leader on 6 North who has been part of Vanderbilt’s two previous Magnet journeys, has been helping to educate more than 300 Magnet Champions who are responsible for preparing for the Magnet Site Visit, which is expected within a year.

“It’s such an important part of each Magnet designation because the champions play an integral part in delivering education and information to all corners of the organization as well as providing insight to the Magnet Education Committee regarding staff feedback,” she said.

The committee has organized and held 12 teaching sessions on campus as well as off-site clinics, and has more planned. “We are also planning some exciting events for staff closer to the time of the appraisal,” Muoio said.

Maria Sullivan, MSN, RN, CNOR, Nursing Education Specialist, explained how the committee teaches champions. “During Magnet Champion Training we work with them on Magnet examples that are specific to their units,” she said. “We also have many resources available for them to use. We are very appreciative of the Magnet Champions and we know that they are going above and beyond to educate their units, so we want them to have the tools and resources readily available to make their jobs easier.”

Having a committee keeps nurses inspired and on task, said Lisa Smith, RN, care coordinator at the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Management. “There are many goals within the planning process and meeting together fuels creative ideas and helps us to stay organized,” she said.

The journey is not only a learning experience for staff taught by Magnet Champions, but also for the Champions themselves.

“I have learned that nursing leadership at Vanderbilt really does value collaboration and strives to involve everyone in the process so that all shifts, units and demographics are represented,” Smith said.

Muoio added, “Serving on the committee has re-affirmed for me that Magnet Culture is ingrained in Vanderbilt Nursing. Hearing the stories of innovation, evidence-based nursing practice and transformational leadership that exist here make me extremely proud to be a part of this organization!”

Sullivan said she has learned about great outcomes and how proud nurses are to be practicing in a Magnet-designated organization.

“One of my favorite times during Champion training is when the staff tell all the great stories about their specific units, and we help them place those stories into the Magnet Element that it represents,” she said. “We know that we work hard to provide exemplary care for our patients, sometimes we just need a moment to stop and think about how what we do every day is what makes us Magnet.”
The nursing staff with Vanderbilt Behavioral Health (VBH) has had eight abstracts accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), double the number from previous years.

“I think this achievement is a testament to the nurses’ engagement and commitment to our patients,” said Jennifer Barut, PhD(c), MSN, RN-BC, Interim Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt Behavioral Health. “In keeping with the vision of our former CNO, all of the presentations by leaders also include staff nurses that were involved or led the work.”

Barut said VBH’s shared governance model supports the institution to identify priority needs and support nurses in evidence-based practice in a way that helps them to be more effective. She also shared that “submitting an abstract can be a daunting first time experience, so our dedicated nursing leaders mentored the nurses through the process and it was a huge success.”

The accepted abstracts are:
- Alyssa Woodling, Nathaniel Clark, MD, Renee Boggs – “Staff Engagement and Fall Prevention in an Acute Psychiatric Hospital” – poster.
- Gina Miglore, Marissa Boeding, Lori Harris, and Jennifer Barut – Nurses Initiating Change: “Engaging Nurses in Development of Unit Orientation Pathways and Processes at an Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital” – 45-minute podium presentation.

Barut noted that the abstracts include interprofessional collaborations. One teams a physician, Clark, with a staff nurse, Woodling, and a quality nurse, Boggs. Another brings together VBH nurses and Sacco, a clinical staff leader in Obstetrics at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

“Again, this just showcases that VBH nurses are providing state-of-the-art, evidence-based care for patients experiencing mental illnesses and we are constantly finding ways to improve,” Barut said. "Recognition at a national level illustrates how we strive to advance nursing practice and provide high-quality patient care.”
CS 2.0 LAUNCHES WITH NEW NAME: EPIC LEAP

If there were a time for leaders to express enthusiasm and optimism about the project to replace, over the next 18 months, the greater part of Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s clinical, administrative and billing software, that time was the morning of April 18 at the project launch.

Onstage at Langford Auditorium before a crowd of approximately 1,000 staff and faculty, leaders expressed confidence in the information technology project’s prospective outcome, and extolled the significant benefits that the new software will provide for patients, care teams and other IT users at VUMC.

The speakers also stressed the complexity and colossal scale of the project, and cautioned that it will require the direct participation of thousands. If the switch poses some trepidation, particularly for busy clinical teams, that’s only to be expected, leaders took pains to acknowledge.

“We’re going to be really well prepared. And importantly, we’re going to look at how we can improve our processes of workflow as we install, so that everything is in sync,” said Jeff Balser, MD, PhD, vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

Balser outlined three required outcomes of the switch — improved satisfaction for care teams and patients, improved efficiency and improved continuity of care.

As examples of prospective benefits, Balser noted that: patients will no longer receive separate VUMC bills for hospital and professional services; they will be able to go online to schedule clinic visits and complete intake forms; clinical teams should find it easier to document care and keep in step with the many regulations and incentives that figure into their work; the switch will speed the availability of more comprehensive mobile technology for patients and teams; and it will also support a new ease of collaboration with referring physicians and hospital teams across the region.

Epic Systems Corp., based in Verona, Wisconsin, will provide the new software, VUMC leaders announced last December. As revealed at Monday’s launch, the project to install Epic software at VUMC will be called Epic Leap. The project also comes with a tagline — Making care seamless.

By November 2017, staff and faculty will switch to Epic software for medical record-keeping and clinic workflow, ordering of tests and treatments in hospitals and clinics, hospital scheduling and admissions, nursing documentation, medical management of perioperative patients, outpatient prescribing, medication administration, non-retail pharmacy management and hospital billing.

Patients eventually will also transition to Epic software, to continue engaging with their health care team and clinical information via the My Health at Vanderbilt patient web portal.

Other applications to be covered by the agreement are yet to be determined, with a detailed review of VUMC information technology set to conclude later this spring.

The project has drawn broad participation from VUMC’s leadership team. The project co-sponsors are Mitch Edgeworth, MBA, CEO of Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital and Clinics; Kevin Johnson, MD, MS, assistant vice chancellor for Health IT and chair of Biomedical Informatics; and Cecelia Moore, MHA, CPA, associate vice chancellor for Finance. All three co-sponsors spoke at the launch.

Other leaders who spoke included Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC; Neal Patel, MD, MPH; C. Wright Pinson, MBA, MD; and Paul Sternberg Jr., MD. Kara Adams, a member of the Family Advisory Council, also spoke.

For more information, visit the Epic Leap website at https://epicleap.mc.vanderbilt.edu/user?destination=node (VUMC login required).