Happy New Year!

There is a phrase that you might have seen, and if you haven’t, you are likely to this year: “Achieve the Remarkable.” It is a slogan we are using in our efforts to recruit the best nurses to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and one that we think encapsulates the excellence we see daily here.

In this issue, we look back at some of the accomplishments of our remarkable nurses in 2015, and look ahead to leadership opportunities in the year to come.

I would like to congratulate all the nurses who took top honors at the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards, which was held last month. We had five winners throughout Vanderbilt, an impressive showing.

Congratulations are also in order for Jennifer Jayaram, MSN, FNP-BC, who was recently named the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year by the Middle Tennessee Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

Lastly, please consider applying for the next cohort of the Frontline Leadership Academy, which will begin in March. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain skills and confidence to implement improvements on the frontline of nursing and continue to achieve the remarkable.

Enjoy this issue,

Marilyn Dubree

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MARCH OF DIMES HONORS NURSES

Five Vanderbilt nurses received top honors at the March of Dimes Tennessee Chapter Nurse of the Year Awards, held on Dec. 8 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. The event, in its sixth year, recognizes nurses who embody leadership, compassion and excellence in patient care across several nursing specialties.

Here are the Vanderbilt winners, by category:

- **Pediatric**, Cheryl Major, BSN, RN, Neonatal Outreach Coordinator, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt.
- **Public and Community Health**, Sharon Hendrix, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, instructor in Nursing, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN).
- **Quality and Risk Management**, Mary Lee Lemley, MSN, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Children’s Hospital.
- **Research Nursing**, Todd Monroe, PhD, RN, FAAN, assistant professor of Nursing, VUSN.

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• Student Nurse of the Year – Graduate, Jennifer Barut, MSN, RN-BC, interim CNO, Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital and PhD Candidate, VUSN.

“I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to our Vanderbilt nurses who achieved these remarkable honors,” said Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer.

“They represent excellence in many areas of the Medical Center.”

Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN, Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing and dean of VUSN, noted that many of the winners either attended the School of Nursing or teach there.

“It is a pleasure to honor these individuals, who have contributed in many different ways to the continued success of this institution,” she said.

Catherine Ivory, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Biomedical Informatics at VUSN, served as Honorary Chairperson of the event.

“These nurses are very deserving of this honor and we are pleased to play a role in saluting these patient champions for the care they provide daily,” added Rita Mitchell, executive vice president and manager, Private Client Services with First Tennessee Bank and Nurse of the Year Event Chairperson.

Cheryl Major, BSN, RN, and Mary Lee Lemley, MSN, RN.

Sharon Hendrix, DNP, RN, FNP-BC.

Jennifer Barut, MSN, RN-BC.

Todd Monroe, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN.
The Middle Tennessee Advanced Practice Nurses Association recently named Jennifer Jayaram, MSN, FNP-BC, a nurse practitioner with the Surgical Weight Loss Clinic, the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year. The organization is an affiliate of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Jayaram was nominated by one of her nurse practitioner peers for her excellence in patient care and education, expertise in her field, and her involvement with advanced practice at the state level.

“I am very honored to have been nominated for the award by a colleague, Cindy Blalock, MSN, RN, AGPCNP-BC, whom I mentored before she joined me in the Center for Surgical Weight Loss,” she said. “I wish I could tell my mother, whose career in nursing inspired me to pursue this path. She passed away two years ago, and I know she would have been really proud to hear about the award. I try my best to emulate her passion for and dedication to nursing in my professional work.”

Jayaram has been a part of the Surgical Weight Loss team at Vanderbilt since 2007 and currently serves as a member of the Technical Advisory Group for Tennessee Health Care Innovation Initiative. She also serves as the co-chair on the Advanced Practice and Standards Committee. She has been a Nashville leader for the Walk from Obesity, a member of the Advanced Practice Nurse Advisory Council at VUMC, and is an associate member of the American Society for Bariatric Surgery.

“I would like to congratulate Jennifer on this great achievement,” said Jayaram’s advanced practice nurse leader, Billy Cameron, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC, Surgical Critical Care Practitioner. “Advanced practice nursing contributes greatly to the way we deliver high quality, patient-centered care at Vanderbilt. With more than 780 advanced practice providers throughout the Medical Center, to have Jennifer recognized at this level is an honor for herself, advanced practice, and the Medical Center. The Surgical Patient Care Center is proud to have her as a faculty member in our group.”

Jayaram has given numerous presentations on bariatric surgery and obesity in Tennessee and other states. She was also an author on a 2005 article on nutritional deficiencies following bariatric surgery.
Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) is recruiting participants and coaches for the next cohort of the Frontline Leadership Academy, which will start in March.

The Frontline Leadership Academy is a partnership between VUMC and the Advisory Board Company. The nine-month program is designed to harness the innovation and leadership of frontline staff by providing them with the skills, opportunity and confidence to implement improvement ideas. Participants emerge from the experience as confident, engaged, productive frontline leaders willing and able to take on new challenges.

During the program, participants attend a series of four all-day, intensive training sessions to support their work on performance improvement projects that yield measurable results. Each participant is assigned to a team that will work with a Vanderbilt coach who will guide them on a project the participant has identified.

The program aims to:

- Equip participants with the skills required to plan and execute projects that improve the areas in which they work and the organization as a whole.
- Drive measurable improvement by supporting participants as they identify, implement, and report on the outcome of a project.
- Provide a framework for problem solving, teamwork, coaching and influence that will empower them to more successfully and independently tackle future projects and challenges.

The program is available to staff from Vanderbilt University Hospital, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital and Vanderbilt Medical Group.

Nurses and other members of the health care team are eligible to apply.

Past participants have included individuals in roles such as clinical staff leader, business coordinator, charge nurse, manager, assistant manager, shift supervisor, lead and other frontline leaders.

Participants and coaches should be full-time employees that have been in their current role for at least six months and have support from their manager or supervisor.

The application deadline is Feb. 15. Those selected will be notified on March 1.

People interested in participating are invited to visit http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=fla&doc=42725.

For more information, visit http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=nurseresidency