



Children's Hospital Boston

NURSES

Dedicated to Excellence

Eileen Spring, MSN, RN, CNA-BC

Celebrating nurses year-round



Children's Hospital Boston's nurses have had much to celebrate this year. From our recent designation as a Magnet hospital from the American Nurses Credentialing Center to National Nurses'

Week, we have had several opportunities to celebrate our nurses and their commitment to excellence.

National Nurses' Week was May 6 to May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. It's one of the largest health care events in the county. This year, Children's celebrated with a week full of events highlighting the breadth and expertise of our staff. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the nurses who participated in the poster presentations, Grand Rounds and other programs held that week.

National Nurses' Week allows nurses to share their profession with their colleagues and the public. Each year, Children's uses it as an opportunity to recognize those who characterize the exemplary patient care we strive to offer. Congratulations again to all those recognized for their continuing contributions to the culture, expertise and professionalism of the Nursing Department.

Now, as we move into the wonderful New England summer months, I hope the celebration of our nurses can continue, since their achievements continue year round.

Warm regards,

Eileen Spring, MSN, RN, CNA-BC
Senior Vice President, Patient Care
Operations and Chief Nursing Officer

Children's nurses receive NERBNA Awards

Three exceptional Children's Hospital Boston nurses were recipients of the 2008 Excellence in Nursing awards, given annually by the New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA) to outstanding African-American nurses. NERBNA is part of a national effort to unify, educate and increase the number of African-American nurses in the United States. It is also committed to improving access to health care for African-Americans and underserved communities.

Brenda Works, BSN, RN staff nurse I, was honored for her "calm and nurturing presence" at the bedsides of patients on the inpatient medical unit. She has been an employee at Children's for 34 years. "It was an honor to be nominated for the award and to be recognized by my peers as an example of nursing excellence," she says. "I've finally made it to the top of the mountain. It's a great feeling."

Nancy Joseph, RN, BSN, MSN, FNP-C, staff nurse II in the Children's Hospital Primary Care Center (CHPCC), was referred to as the clinic's "rock." Joseph was recognized

for her commitment to the populations the CHPCC serves. She took on a special role in coordinating an immunization program for high-risk premature infants and other young children with severe chronic illness. "To have my mentors, **Margaret Brown [APRN, BC, RN]**, **Sharon Callender [BSN, MPH]**, and **Cecilia Joseph [BSN, MSN]** present me with an award that signifies excellence is truly awesome," says Joseph.

Ijeoma Julie Eche, BSN, RN, staff nurse I in pediatric Hematology/Oncology, was recognized for her positive attitude and commitment to excellent patient care. Eche has taken on additional leadership responsibilities on 6 North as a charge nurse and preceptor for new staff. She's also in her first year of graduate school in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Massachusetts Boston and is considering pursuing a PhD in the future. "She exemplifies the caring, commitment and professionalism that Children's strives for in nursing," says **Lisa Morrissey, MSN, RN**, nurse manager on 6 North. "She is an asset to our unit."



From left: Nancy Joseph, Eileen Spring, Brenda Works and Ijeoma Julie Eche

Nurses' Week 2008 in review

Children's Hospital Boston celebrated Nurses' Week with a range of activities developed by nurses for nurses.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan established a nursing recognition day on May 6. In 1990, the American Nursing Association extended the celebration to May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

Festivities planned by the Staff Development Department spotlighted the high standard of care offered by Children's nurses and clinical assistants (CA), as well as the work of nurse researchers. "This is a chance to highlight the good things that nurses do and remind everyone how much our nurses are needed and respected," says **Jane Romano, MS, RN**, staff development specialist. "We are the backbone of the hospital."

The week kicked off with a CA celebration. CAs submitted exemplars that showcased their skill, leadership, teamwork and compassion. This event is known for being particularly moving and is extremely popular. "It's usually standing room only," says **Joyce LoChiatto, RN, MS, CPNP**, Staff Development specialist.

The CAs shared personal accounts of how working with patients and families impacts their lives and careers. LoChiatto recalls one CA who spoke about how her mother's support allowed her to succeed professionally. This was particularly moving because the CA's mother was also a guest in the audience. "The most rewarding part is seeing them being recognized for their great work," says LoChiatto.

Nurses' Week also recognizes the quality of care our nurses provide. **Eileen Sporing MSN, RN, CNAA-BC**, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of Patient Care Operations, announced this year's recipient of the Nursing Excellence Award during the Department of Nursing Annual Meeting State of the Practice Dinner at the Plaza Hotel. At the dinner, Children's nurses who were nominated for the Daisy Award were also recognized. Since the award's inception, 60 nurses have been nominated for the award and 11 have received it.

Jane Romano, RN, MS, and Joyce LoChiatto, RN



The 9 East nursing team celebrates Nurses' week

At the Nursing Grand Rounds on May 8, nurses presented clinical exemplars from each staff level. Exemplars describe how individual nurses enhance their professional and personal lives through the care they provide.

The poster sessions held throughout the week included 74 professional posters on research, projects, programs or other topics relevant to nursing staff. On May 7, poster authors discussed their works with their nursing colleagues. At a Friday session, nurses who have PhDs, including **Jean Connor, DNSc, CPNP, RN, PhD**, nurse scientist in the Cardiology Department, **Anne Berger, PhD, MBA, RN**, director of Nursing Systems Research, **Margaret McCabe, DNSc,**

CPNP, RN, PhD, nursing director for Clinical Research in Medicine Patient Services and Nursing Patient Services for the General Clinical Research Center, and **Michelle DeGrazia, PhD, RNC, NNP**, neonatal nurse practitioner, presented their research projects.

"This research solidifies our place in advancing care for pediatric patients," says staff specialist **Eva Gomez RN, MSN**, staff development specialist.

The week ended with some pampering during the Complementary Therapies session as nurses from the Integrative Therapies Practice Committee provided therapies such as Reiki, guided imagery and therapeutic massage.

Children's is committed to acknowledging and celebrating the work that nurses do, their ongoing pursuit of achieving excellent care and their desire to advance pediatric nursing practice.

Spotlight on certification

On March 18, Children's Hospital Boston celebrated Professional Membership and Certification Day to help foster the career development of its nursing staff. "Membership in professional organizations provides mentorship opportunities and adds to the quality and excellence of nursing at Children's," says **Marcie Brostoff, RN**, director of Education and Staff Development.

Nurses served as ambassadors for their professional organizations, manning tables and answering questions. Organizations represented at the event included specialized professional groups that offer certification and those that advocate for nurses through policy making. "Our presence helps put a name and face to an organization," says **Lindsay Gainer, MSN, RN**, nurse manager of the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transfer Unit.

Children's supports nursing certification within specialties. Certification can be in a clinical practice or administration. Chil-

dren's offers several review sessions each year in addition to on-site certification exams. Currently, about 30 percent of Children's nurses are certified. "I was impressed by the number of staff who said they were already certified," says Staff Development Specialist **Jane Romano, MS, RN**, who schedules the trainings and testing.

Children's goal is to certify all eligible nurses. Newly licensed nurses need to have a minimum of two years of clinical experience before they are qualified to sit for a certification exam in their specialty area. New nurses gathered information at the event to help plan their career trajectory. "It's amazing how many organizations are out there supporting nurses in their specialty area," says Romano. "It's important for young staff to know they are out there."

Organizations that represent all nurses were also at the event. The Massachusetts Association for Registered Nurses (MARN)



and the American Nursing Association (ANA), for example, are involved in policy making at the state and national levels. "They're the voice for nurses," says Gainer, who serves as secretary for the Board of Directors of MARN. Professional organizations such as these also provide mentoring and networking opportunities. Many nurses work on one unit for several years, and membership in MARN or ANA allows them to branch out and meet other nurses working in a range of areas. "People can get inspired to go back to school or find a project they want to participate in. For me, being part of MARN fulfills a professional need. It's inspiring to be around nurses excited about their profession and advocating for nurses."

Veteran nurse brings Children's heart to satellite facility

Even though Children's Hospital Boston at Lexington is located miles away from the main campus, it maintains the same values and mission as the Boston location, thanks to nurses like **Katherine Lacey, RN, BA, CGRN**, who embody Children's commitment to quality patient care and service.

Lacey began her nursing career in 1984 and worked at two local Boston hospitals before joining the Children's nursing team in 2001.

She offers her expert care in the field of gastroenterology and works with pediatric patients in Pre-Op, the Post Anesthesia Care Unit and the operating room. She's also become involved in the pediatric endoscopy program since Lexington began offering that service several years ago.

"Having only worked with adults during my earlier career, learning about the pediatric population has been both enjoyable and challenging," says Lacey. She demonstrates her passion by throwing herself into projects, including helping work

toward Magnet certification. "I was involved with the Magnet process almost from the beginning, attending meetings in Boston, Miami and Atlanta," she says. "I had the opportunity to sit with one of the reviewers during their visit to Waltham with some of my colleagues from Lexington."

Her commitment paid off and she was excited to celebrate, along with the rest of the nursing team, when Children's was awarded the prestigious Magnet status. "I'm thrilled that Children's is a Magnet hospital, because we truly to provide expert care delivered with compassion," she says.

Although Lexington is closely connected to Children's, Lacey says working at a satellite facility requires self-reliance and ingenuity. "I'm glad the opportunity to work in such a unique environment as Lexington crossed my path," she says. She credits the administration at both locations for encouraging nurses to be their best and supporting them in their endeavors, allowing Lexington to flourish as part of the Children's team. "Our patients enjoy coming to Lexington because



Katherine Lacey, RN, BA, CGRN

we are small, efficient and personal," she says. "This can be very satisfying at the end of the day—not to mention the parking is hassle-free."

Children's nurses help local students STAND strong

Seven nurses from Children's Hospital Boston's newly formed Multicultural Nurses Forum hosted 25 high school seniors from Bunker Hill Community College's (BHCC) Students Taking Action for Nursing Diversity (STAND) program. During their visit on April 15, the students toured Children's and attended a panel discussion. The nurses and students discussed the challenges of entering and getting through nursing school, the rewards of the profession and the options for a career after graduation.

The STAND program educates students from five Boston public high schools about how to enter a nursing degree program. Participating high school students are dually enrolled in pre-nursing courses at BHCC and receive both high school and college credits for participation. They're paired with minority students in BHCC's nursing program for individual mentoring and classroom shadowing.

The Multicultural Nurses Forum is a group of more than 80 Children's nurses from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Their mission is to create an environment in which everyone is treated with dignity, courtesy and respect while celebrating our differences. It also addresses issues related to diversity, including recruiting minorities to join the nursing profession.

"The nursing profession needs to focus on growing and expanding its diversity," says **Eva Gómez RN, MSN**, Staff Development specialist and coordinator of the Multicultural Nurses Forum. "Minorities are underrepresented in the profession as a whole, and one of the goals of the forum is to



Students and nurses during the STAND event

address this disparity and find the necessary solutions as part of the broader goal of eliminating health disparities locally and across the nation."

The seven Children's nurses who participated in the panel were **Guia Reyes, RN, BSN, Iris Arteaga, RN, MSN, CPNP, Nancy Joseph, RN, BSN, MSN, FNP-C, Sonia García, RN, BSN, Lexi Yusah, BSN, RN, Jacky Cortes, RN, BSN, and Rossana Encalada, RN, BS**. They talked about their backgrounds, the challenges they overcame as nursing students and their passion for nursing and gave sound advice to the participants in the audience. "It's important for these students to have role models who look like them, who come from the same places as them and who have been successful in their careers as nurses," says Gómez,

Sandra Quigley wins Excellence in Nursing Award

As part of Nurses' Week 2008, **Eileen Sporing, MSN, RN, CNAA-BC**, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of Patient Care Operations announced that **Sandra Quigley, RN, MSN, CWOCN, CPNP**, was the recipient of the 2008 Excellence in Nursing Award.

The award recognizes special nurses who provide exemplary patient care, demonstrate a high level of expertise in their specialization and participate in outreach efforts to their local community. Approximately 3,000 nurses nationwide have this prestigious certification, and less than 25 percent of them work in pediatrics.

Quigley sets herself apart as a certified clinical specialist in Wound, Ostomy and Continence. She exhib-

its a commitment to her patients, providing guidance and support to families, which has, in some cases, spanned many years. She is a mentor and guide, so it is no surprise that her expertise is sought after by both physicians and her nursing colleagues.

Quigley shares her knowledge on a national and international level, publishes papers and presents her work at numerous conferences. She is also the co-creator of the Braden Q Pediatric Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment Scale, a pediatric risk assessment tool used to determine the course of care for patients.

"She is an incredible resource to not only Children's staff, patients and families, but also the global medical community," says **Jane Romano, MS, RN**, Staff Development specialist.



Sandra Quigley, RN, MSN, CWOCN, CPNP, and her family

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