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EMBARGOED:
October 4, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

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ANCC HONORS OUTSTANDING CLINICIANS WITH FIRST ANNUAL MAGNET[®] NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

SILVER SPRING, Md.—The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) presented its first Magnet[®] Nurse of the Year Awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of patient care clinicians working in Magnet hospitals. Five awards were given, one in each of the Magnet Model component areas and represents significant contributions in clinical practice, education, research, or service. Nominees are judged by a panel of nurse experts for innovation, consultation, leadership, and professional risk taking. The 2011 winners received their awards at the National Magnet Conference[®] in Baltimore.

Transformational Leadership: Cora J. Palmer, BSN, RN-BC, CMSRN

Staff nurse

Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH), Chicago

Palmer showed leadership characteristics by serving as a strong advocate for advancing medical-surgical certification. She led NMH to add a two-day review course for night-shift nurses working toward certification, resulting in a 56% increase in the number of nurses certified in the medical-surgical specialty since 2009. In partnership with NMH nurse leaders, she created a Chicago area chapter of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) and spent many hours of her own time recruiting new members. Her efforts paid off. AMSN Chapter #317 now includes more than 130 nurses from multiple Chicago area hospitals. The chapter received the 2009 National Educational Excellence Award and the 2010 AMSN National Chapter of the Year Award.

Structural Empowerment: Tracey Anderson, MSN, RN, CNRN, FNP-BC, ACNP-BC

Neurocritical care nurse practitioner, Director of Neurocritical Care Program Development, and Instructor for the University of Colorado School of Medicine in the Department of Neurosurgery
University of Colorado Hospital (UCH), Aurora

A devoted mentor and educator, Anderson developed the structure for UCH's stroke program, saving the hospital \$2.7 million and reducing length of stay by nearly 500 days in the first year. Her successful initiative to educate staff on recognizing stroke symptoms decreased the time between notification and patient arrival for a CAT scan from 69 to 27 minutes. She led the way in helping UCH obtain the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association "Get with the Guidelines" Patient Management Program Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award for Stroke. Under her leadership, UCH become one of just three hospitals in the country to receive funding from the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation to offset the cost of preparing clinical nurses for the Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse exam. In the last few months alone, 14 staff nurses have obtained specialty certification.

Exemplary Professional Practice: Kristy Simmons, RN, CNOR

Perioperative nurse



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Woman's Hospital, Baton Rouge

Simmons demonstrated excellence in professional practice as a passionate patient advocate. At Woman's Hospital, she was instrumental in developing Perioperative Services' medical photo policy, a perioperative pediatric checklist to ensure a smooth unit/surgical handoff, and the hospital's annual Time Out Day to support the change process for perioperative nurses. She published "Heart of the OR—Interpreting Care for Patient and Family" to familiarize the nursing community with proper care of non-English-speaking patients. Simmons is active in the local community, encouraging high school students to explore nursing careers and mentoring college students pursuing nursing degrees. She has also worked with the international community by organizing a medical clinic for underserved women in Mexico and responding to the Japanese earthquake.

New Knowledge, Innovations & Improvements: Patricia Hummel, NNP-BC, RN

Neonatal intensive care nurse practitioner
Loyola University Health System, Maywood

An innovator devoted to improving care for patients of all ages, Hummel created N-PASS, a valid and reliable instrument to assess and document neonatal pain and sedation levels. The tool is now used in 48 states and more than 15 countries around the world. The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes N-PASS as a preferred tool to manage pain in the neonatal population, and the NICHD/FDA Newborn Drug Development Initiative Group has identified it as the preferred assessment method for prolonged pain. After successfully improving care for the tiniest and most vulnerable patients, Hummel's innovation is now being adapted for adults. She is mentoring one of Loyola's research fellows in revising the tool for adult patients who are noncommunicative.

Empirical Outcomes: Vittoria Pontieri-Lewis, MS, RN, ACNS-BC, CWOCN

Wound ostomy continence nurse
Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) University Hospital, New Brunswick

As a RWJ wound ostomy continence nurse for more than 20 years, Pontieri-Lewis is dedicated to educating patients, family, staff, physicians, and nurses on evidence-based practice for pressure ulcer prevention. Her Pressure Ulcer Prevention Program, established in 2008, has already reduced RWJ's pressure ulcer rates by 57%, to just 2.2%, well below national benchmarks. The program also includes the National Center for Nursing Quality (NCNQ[®]) pressure ulcer training module, a hospital intranet, and a unit-based risk assessment report tool to help nurses standardize practice. In addition, she successfully lobbied hospital leadership to invest \$1 million in new beds and mattresses.

About ANCC

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), provides individuals and organizations throughout the nursing profession with the resources they need to achieve practice excellence. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program and the Pathway to Excellence[®] Programs; and



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accredit providers and approvers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC's Institute for Credentialing Innovation® provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) is the first and only healthcare certification organization in the United States to have successfully achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification. www.nursecredentialing.org