

Nursing Leadership Forum

December 4, 2004
McLeod Hall

Alumni Participants

Rick Carpenter (BSN '97) - Patient Care Services Manager, Medical ICU, University of Virginia Hospital. Rick is responsible for the leadership and management of a 16-bed medical ICU, including patient care services, administrative services, and fiscal management. Rick provides leadership to more than 75 health care professionals. He is responsible for modeling effective communication and collaboration among members of the health care team. Clinical practice responsibilities include review and revision of policies, procedures, and protocols developed for the critical care population. He is also responsible for performance improvement activities and maintains an active role in clinical research.

Colleen L. Corish, RN, MN, OCN (BSN '86) - Clinical Director, Oncology/Medical Surgical Services, Medical University of South Carolina and Hollings Cancer Center. Colleen provides leadership and direction to the Oncology and Medical Surgical Services, which includes directing all administrative, clinical and support activities. Her areas of responsibility consist of six medical/surgical and oncology inpatient units, the hemapheresis service, radiation oncology services, and the Supportive and Palliative Care Program. She also has oversight of the clinical functions of the Hollings Cancer Center, which averages approximately 40,000 clinic and infusion visits a year. Colleen is also very involved in the local and national chapters of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Pam DeGuzman, RN, MSN, MBA (BSN '96, MSN '00, MBA '00) -- Director of Medical/Surgical clinics at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Pam worked as a med/surg nurse at Georgetown University Medical Center and at the U.Va. Medical Center prior to receiving a joint MSN/MBA from the UVa in 2000. Since that time she has worked at U.Va. in a variety of positions, including as the director of the Clinical Trials Office for the Cancer Center, the administrator for the Women's Place, and as a Six Sigma Black Belt. In her present role, she has fiscal, operational and regulatory responsibility for 20 outpatient clinics and over 100 employees. Currently, Pam is working on a project to improve customer service and access in the clinics.

Kate Fitzgerald, RN, MSN, MBA (BSN '81, MSN '86, ANP '88) - Senior Director, The Advisory Board Company. The Advisory Board Company is one of the leading health care research and education companies in the United States with a focus on identifying best practices in operations and strategy. As a senior director, Kate works directly with hospital staffs throughout the nation, implementing best practices in operational efficiency, workforce management, clinical operations and strategy. Internally, she serves as a senior nursing and health care resource for their Syndicated Research, the Innovations Center, New Product Development, the Leadership Academies, Career Management, and Nursing Executive Center programs.

Anne DuVal Frost, PhD, RN (BSN '64) – Associate Professor, College of New Rochelle and Founder and President, Nurses' Network of America. Nurses' Network of America is an organization of professional nurses in partnership with their communities which for twenty years has provided innovative and entertaining health promotion programs. Anne was selected for the 2002 New York State Women of Distinction Award sponsored by the New York State Senate. The award is based on professional and community contributions. She is also a specialist in community-based client education, as well as a psychotherapist with a private practice working with children, adolescents, and adults. In addition, she presents programs on eating disorders, effects of media violence, therapeutic storytelling, and parenting strategies. Anne served as a Distinguished Lectured for Sigma Theta Tau for eight years, speaking nationally and internationally on topics of marketing and learning. Anne received an MA in Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing with a Minor in Education from New York University in 1971 and a Ph.D. in Nursing Theory and Research Development from NYU in 1988.

Dottie Kluttz, RN, BSN (BSN '66)- Hospice Savannah Storykeeper. After 11 years working as a Hospice nurse, Dottie created an innovative new position as “story keeper” three years ago at Hospice Savannah in Savannah, Ga. She conducts interviews with Hospice patients and presents the written transcript and audio recording to their families, usually after the patients’ death. At Hospice Savannah, story keeping has seamlessly been integrated into the continuum of care. In addition to frequent presentations in Savannah, Dottie has also spoken at the Georgia Hospice Organization Annual Symposium in Atlanta, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) clinical team conference in Las Vegas. Dottie draws from her own nursing education and career, primarily as a nurse educator, which included positions at U.Va., Richmond Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, and Emory University.

Norah S. Knutsen, MSN, RN, CS, CMC (BSN '74, MSN '81) - President and Care Manager, Mature Options. In her clinical role, Norah guides elder clients and their families through the health care maze. She is a consultant, advocate, shoulder to cry on, and crisis manager. As a manager, she oversees and grows her business, and manages all clinical services.

Carolyn C. Lavecchia, RN, FNP, BSN, MS, JD (BSN '70) - Attorney, Williamson & Lavecchia, LC. For the past 19 years, Carolyn has practiced law full time, concentrating her practice in the areas of medical negligence and representing health care providers before the Health Regulatory Boards. Prior to entering law school in 1982, she was the nurse director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Virginia Commonwealth University (formerly MCV), and practiced as a nurse practitioner for eight years.

Bridget Kuczowski Leary, RN, MSN (BSN '01, MSN '02) - Currently a Post-Master's/Family Nurse Practitioner student. In addition to school, Bridget is also an adjunct instructor at Virginia Commonwealth University for an undergraduate community health nursing course. She is working as an assistant to Reba Childress for the skills lab for second-year students. She has also worked in medical/surgical and public health nursing. While an undergraduate student, Bridget was a founding member of Nursing Students Without Borders.

Sherri J. Miller, RN, BSN, MBA (BSN '83, MBA '90) – Vice President, Product and Market Management, Health Management Corporation. As VP of Product and Market Management, Sherri is responsible for strategic planning and implementation related to overall product and market strategies. Before coming to HMC, she successfully directed business operations for over 10 years in diverse health care settings including home health, hospital systems, physician practice management, and the insurance industry. She served as Chief Operating Officer of a 26-provider cardiology practice, served as Executive Director of an 11-provider multi-specialty practice that included family practice, internal medicine, cardiology, gastroenterology, and pulmonology, and served as director of hospital-based pediatric service lines, including a pediatric clinic. She joined HMC in 2003.

Sandra Burwell Nowell, RN, MSA (BSN '83) - Quality Management Nurse, McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia. Sandra has been at the VA for 18 years, 15 of those years as a staff nurse, and 3 years in quality management. She is currently serving as consultant to Home and Community Care (Home Hemodialysis, Pharmacy Mail-outs, Durable Medical Equipment, and Home Oxygen Therapy), and Primary Care & Emergency Services Areas, and Compensation and Pension. Sandra's responsibilities include monitoring for quality and safety of patient care and processes according to JCAHO, CARF, and other accrediting bodies standards; provision of education and training of standards and other safety initiatives; and, preparation for survey inspections and facilitator for performance improvement action plans in areas rating less than full compliance to standards.

Lynn D. Palmer, RN, BSN, MBA (BSN '87) - CEO of MedTrials, Inc., a clinical research consulting firm that helps pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies research and develop new products. As one of the founding partners of MedTrials, Lynn is active in regulatory consulting, training, and quality assurance, in addition to her management responsibilities. She is also a dynamic and well-known industry speaker. Prior to establishing her research career, Lynn managed the Inova Urgent Care in Centreville, Virginia and worked in the cardiac step-down unit at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She is currently a

registered nurse in the state of Texas, a Certified Clinical Research Associate, and is Regulatory Affairs Certified. She is active in many professional organizations and is a member of the U.Va. Nursing Ventures Advisory Board.

Kathryn L. Pierce, RN, BSN, MBA (BSN '76) - Director Clinical Quality Programs, CIGNA HealthCare Southeast Region. Kathryn Pierce joined CIGNA HealthCare in 1995 as the Quality Director for Healthsource North Carolina and was responsible for the integration of the Healthsource and CIGNA Quality Programs in North and South Carolina following CIGNA's acquisition of Healthsource in 1997. She remained in the North Carolina Healthplan performing leadership roles in Quality, Health Services and Special Projects until 2003, when she relocated to the Regional Quality Hub in Atlanta to assume responsibility for the Clinical Quality Program for eight states in the Southeast. Prior to joining CIGNA HealthCare, Kathryn worked in a variety of clinical and administrative settings within the health care industry since 1976, including 11 years in the Navy Nurse Corps. She received her Masters Degree in Business from the Executive MBA program at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida.

Virginia Christian Tierney (BSN '63) - Professor Emeritus, Piedmont Virginia Community College. Virginia (Ginny) is recently retired after teaching 15 years in the nursing program at Piedmont Virginia Community College. She had many professional roles in nursing during her 41 years in practice, but her passion was working with nursing students for 27 years of her career.

Patricia McCleary Wang, RN, BSN (BSN '77)—Staff Nurse, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Previous professional nursing experiences include Adult Neurosurgical Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care, Adolescent Eating Disorders Clinic and the development of the role of Inpatient Nurse Liaison for Community Physicians at Packard Children's Hospital. Patty also travels to Nicaragua every summer as a volunteer RN team member of "Operation Rainbow" which does orthopedic surgery on children in Latin America for free. She helps coordinate the supplies and equipment, recruits PACU nurses, develops patient care plans and flow sheets, participates in patient care, and helps with fundraising for the trip.