



NURSING

Spotlight

Highlights of Excellence

Community Involvement

Sobha Akkar

Sobha Akkar, BSN, RN, and her husband give their time and resources freely to local senior citizens in their area. The Akkars teach them how to cook healthy meals and help them with stress management by teaching them yoga and pranayama deep breathing exercises. They pick them up and take them home, as well as plan outings for the whole group to go on. They have created a beautiful community for senior citizens. Her community service isn't limited to only her home space because she doesn't compartmentalize her life. She spreads this gift of healing on the floor with the nurses around her, teaching us stress management techniques. Her healing, holistic nature is a part of who she is, and she shares that with all those around her. She also works with her husband to support their 20 adopted children and help run an orphanage back in her home county of India. Sobha and her husband travel every other month to India to visit all of their adopted children, provide them with support physically, emotionally and spiritually. They donate of their time, money, resources, and give so much love. Sobha truly is such an exemplary role model of what it means to live in service of others — not only at work, but also in her personal life.



Sobha Akkar, BSN, RN

— Melanie Sanchez

Theresa McCormick

Theresa McCormick, BSN, RN, CNOR, is a wonderful nurse, always dedicated to helping others. Recently, she volunteered to go on a mission to Morocco with Operation Smile as part of a surgical team to treat children with cleft lip and palate. Her kindness and dedication have changed the life of hundreds of children and their families for the better. I want to recognize her because I think nurses like her inspire and motivate the new generation of nurses.

— Viviana L. Flores, BSN, RN, CNOR

Czarina Patricio

City of Hope participated in the KKLA Pasadena Health Fair on Jan. 26, 2019, which was held at the Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene in Pasadena, California. City of Hope booths provided free prostate cancer screening, BMI screening and pulmonary function testing. **Czarina Patricio**, BSN, RN, volunteered on blood test/blood draw for PSA testing at the prostate cancer screening booth. It was an opportunity to represent City of Hope and give information on the need for early detection of prostate cancer through a free health screening.



Czarina Patricio, BSN, RN

Theresa McCormick, BSN, RN, CNOR, (center) pictured with a plastic surgeon (left) and anesthesiologist (right), both from South Africa



CNO CORNER

Extraordinary Nurses at City of Hope



Merriam-Webster defines extraordinary as “going beyond what is usual, regular or customary; exceptional to a very marked extent.”

How often have you heard a nurse being praised and their response was “Just doing my job.”

As oncology nurses at City of Hope, I am not sure that we ourselves recognize that what we do every day is indeed truly extraordinary. Yes, we

administer chemotherapy. We reinfuse stem cells. We assist in some of the most complex surgeries. We recognize early signs of side effects and toxicities. But we do it all with heart, compassion, empathy and skill. As City of Hope nurses, we go above and beyond the practicing of tasks – we hold the patient’s or family’s hand. We maintain a positive attitude; we care for dying patients and send others home, free of disease, on a daily basis. Much of what makes nurses here extraordinary may be quite subtle or even invisible to others. From the book “you’ll know you’re a nurse when...” comes a story that I think sort of defines that extraordinary – “you’re the only one on rounds who knows the name of a child’s imaginary friend and that the intern is about to sit on him.”

In this issue of the newsletter, we are highlighting some of our extraordinary nurses who go above and beyond; from their volunteerism to excellence in care, from lifelong learning to collaboration, to being there for our patients.

In my view all City of Hope nurses are truly extraordinary.

**Susan J. Brown,
PhD, MSN, RN**
*Senior Vice President of
Patient Care Services
and Chief Nursing Officer*

Professional Development

Elizabeth King

Elizabeth King, FNP, RN, AOCNP, AGN, senior manager of Cancer Risk Counseling and nurse practitioner, spoke as part of a panel on case presentations and discussion entitled “Nurse Practitioner Perspective” at the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Genetics and Genomics Seminar, 2019.

Chantal Kerr

I would like to highlight my colleague, **Chantal Kerr** for passing her FNP exam in April 2019. Chantal is a nurse who has been working at City of Hope for over 20 years and her dedication and compassion are to be admired. As an individual, she is helpful and always has a smile for everyone.

— **Carmen Santamaria**, MSN, RN, PHN

International Society of Geriatric Oncology

Leana Chien, MSN, NP, **Carolina Uranga**, MSN, CNS, OCN, GCN, AGCNS-BC and **Artis Riviera**, MHA, were featured online by the International Society of Geriatric Oncology on the use of Bedside Mobility Assessment Tool (BMAT) to assess and increase mobility in hospitalized older adults with cancer. They argued that functional decline and loss of muscle mass related to hospitalization could be decreased by increasing mobility. They reviewed electronic medical records and assessed the BMAT, functional status, mobility (feet ambulated), length of stay (LOS) and falls in hospitalized older adults with cancer over a 10-month period. Findings from EMR (electronic medical record) data for this period suggests increased mobility, decreased falls, increased functional status at time of discharge, and unchanged LOS. These are interesting and promising results, suggesting that the implementation of BMAT during older adults’ hospitalization for cancer has a positive impact on functional status and decreases falls. Furthermore, the BMAT was found to be a feasible and promising nurse-led intervention to assess patient mobility and keep patients active.

Nursing Spotlight, a new nursing publication, is brought to you by the Nursing Excellence Council.

Interested in spotlighting your unit or department achievements? Please contact: nursingexcellencecouncil@coh.org.

The Spirit of Caring



Evangeline Bustos, BSN, RN, and Annelyn Ovid, BSN, RN, OCN, BMTCN



Linda Tibi, RN, gets pampered by a Lipstick angel.



Two of the Lipstick Angels

Lipstick Angels

Lipstick Angels held a Nurse Pampering Day honoring the amazing heroes in the Michael Amini Transfusion Medicine Center and Clinical Research Units!

The first part of the event was held on July 8, followed by a second day on July 19. The Angels showed their love for these incredible women and men who so tirelessly give of themselves to so many!



Kudos

Anna Hovhannisyan

Anna Hovhannisyan, R.N., (left) is a wonderful selfless nurse who brings quality to every site she attends. She is loved and remembered by all of our patients and leaves a wonderful lasting impression. She is a hardworker and deserves the spotlight. I believe she is our best traveler nurse. She has a hard work ethic and goes out of the way for all her patients, and she speaks multiple languages, which always comes in handy. I believe Anna is a wonderful nurse and she is able to fill in anywhere regardless of the census. We appreciate ANNA!

— **Matthew Vidales, BSN, RN, PHN**

Collaboration

Stimate

In 2019, the nurses in the pediatric clinic were faced with a quality improvement opportunity regarding the drug Stimate.

Stimate is a special preparation of the medication DDAVP that is administered as a nasal spray and used to treat certain variations of Von Willebrand disease, a clotting disorder. The patient preparation and the drug

administration process of this infrequently used medication posed some challenging aspects to the correct use of the nasal route in the application of Stimate. The leadership team of the pediatric service came together and created a video and checklist to assist all the clinicians across the City of Hope enterprise. These tools are available on the City of Hope Department of Pediatrics website page for real-time access. When a doctor places an order for the Stimate challenge test, the nurses can refresh their education on this drug and how to prepare the patient. These web-based education tools will assist the nurses with the application obstacles and provide patient education material for the patient and their family with pre- and post-tests to assess learning.

Nurses' Week

THANK YOU, City of Hope community of nurses, for a successful Nurses Week 2019! Here are a few snaps from the week's events.



Survey Results

There were a total of **223** responses to the 2019 Nurses' Week post-survey!

In 2018, you asked for healthier options, so for 2019, we welcomed yogurt parfaits and Jamba Juice. We hope you enjoyed these treats and look forward to serving you in 2020!



ANNUAL

Nursing Award

NOMINEES

ADVANCED PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

- **Erin Kopp**, NP
- **Leah Falk**, NP
- **Jeanie Mungcal**, NP
(five nominations)

RN EXCELLENCE IN EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AWARD

- **Cynthia Wootan**, RN
- **Trysari Sudiro**, RN
- **Stephanie Garcia**, RN

RN NURSE LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- **Leslie Villagomez**, RN
- **Maristela Cunniff**, RN
(three nominations)
- **Henry Laher**, RN
- **Abel Serquina**, RN
- **Sherri Sikkenga**, RN

RN PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR

- **Diana Wongcharoensuk**, RN
- **Tracy Evans**, RN
- **Salena Agadier**, RN
- **Melissa Eng**, RN
- **Leora Cavestany**, RN
- **Henry Laher**, RN
- **Christina Golly**, RN
- **Zenia Irani**, RN

AWARD FOR RN OR LVN FOR PATIENT CARE EXCELLENCE

- **Novie Grace Bishop**, LVN
- **Maria De Castro**, RN
(10 nominations)
- **Dawn Chevalier**, RN
- **Nicole Casso**, RN
- **Lynette Hagman**, RN
- **Sheila Emelo**, RNA

WARD FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE AT A COMMUNITY PRACTICE SITE

- **Nisa Contero**, LVN (Glendora)
(five nominations)
- **Heidi Jakob**, RN (South Pasadena)
- **Dora Guardado**, RN (Arcadia)
- **Jennifer Herge**, RN (Torrance)
- **Stephanie Hernandez**, NP (Corona)

PHYSICIAN EXCELLENCE IN COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AWARD

- **Jana Portnow**, MD
- **Tanya Dorff**, MD
- **Russell Gray**, MD
- **Marwan Fakih**, MD
- **Jonathan Kessler**, MD
(six nominations)
- **Jae Kim**, MD
- **John Raytis**, MD
(three nominations)
- **Karen Reckamp**, MD, MS

AWARD FOR PCA, ACA, UA, OR OR TECH FOR PATIENT CARE EXCELLENCE

- **Genevieve Martinez**, ACA
- **Cecilia Amaro-Mendiola**, ACA
- **Nuria Henriquez**, PCA
- **Braulio Ramirez**, PCA
- **Nikita Jackson**, PCA
- **Cassandra Thompson**, UA
- **Romeo David**, PCA
- **Thelma Cerritos**, UA
- **Dino Laluces**, PCA
(three nominations)

