NICU nurse Christa Bedford-Mu was named National Magnet Nurse of the Year for New Knowledge, Innovation and Improvement at the American Nurses Credentialing Center National Magnet Conference. Created in 2010, this annual recognition is given to five nurses for their outstanding contributions in innovation, consultation, leadership, and professional risk-taking. Christa joins Christi DeLemos as the second UC Davis Health nurse in three years to receive this honor.

Christa is a board-certified neonatal clinical nurse specialist and a key participant in innovative telehealth programs at UC Davis Children’s Hospital. She is a lead contributor to Supporting Pediatric Research on Outcomes and Utilization of Telehealth, a tele-visit and telehealth project aimed at improving the transition from the NICU into the family’s home.
Nursing is the gentle art of caring, and our nurses have always been heroes in this regard. In the last several months, however, their heroism shined even more brightly as the health care sector faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis. Throughout it all, UC Davis Health nurses have courageously served on the frontlines of the pandemic, and we are forever appreciative for their acts of compassion and professionalism.

In 2019, our nurses also demonstrated extraordinary dedication and selfless collaboration, adjusting to rapid changes in the health care field while adapting to new ways of delivering quality care to our patients. Toward this, our 2019 annual report describes broad organizational achievements while also spotlighting individual nurses and their amazing, award-winning stories. Ours is a human-centered profession that inspires me on a daily basis.

Every day at UC Davis Health, nurses deliver healing to create positive patient experiences, whether in an emergency department, inpatient unit, peri-operative and procedural areas, or outpatient clinic. By working together with our physicians and staff, they guide more than 200,000-plus patients annually through their very important health care journeys. Despite increasing demands on their time, our nurses consistently demonstrate profound levels of kindness – within the walls of our hospital and in the community.

I’m also excited to announce that I was recently named president of the Sacramento/Sierra Chapter of the Association of California Nurse Leaders. This will give me a chance to advocate for professional development opportunities and advance nursing leadership.

Finally, thank you to all of our nurses and advanced practice providers for their special dedication and talents. Our institution, our field, each other, and ultimately our patients, depend so much on you.

Toby K. Marsh, RN, MSA, MSN, FACHE, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer
UC Davis Medical Center
Transformational Leadership

Nurses at all levels of the organization demonstrate advocacy and influence change to achieve extraordinary outcomes in an environment of mutual respect.

ADVOCATING FOR UNDERSERVED CALIFORNIA PATIENTS

Over the last three years, inpatient endocrinology/glycemic team member Berit Bagley, RN, MSN, CDCES, has used her personal time to advocate to the California legislature for coverage of continuous glucose monitors (CGM) for the underinsured. Her efforts come as a member of a coalition that includes the American Association of Diabetes Educators, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, the ADA and the AMA.

Meticulous blood-sugar monitoring and management are keys to avoiding diabetes complications, and Bagley began using CGMs herself after struggling to get her own levels just right during her own first year with Type 1 diabetes (which included nighttime shifts).

The CGM system constantly monitors interstitial glucose levels, and uses alerts to inform users when blood glucose reaches life-threatening levels. The alarm function may serve as the only warning of emerging hypoglycemia for some patients, Bagley said, and the devices can also help guide disease-management decisions such as insulin adjustments and dietary changes.

Bagley said most commercial insurance already covers CGMs, and members of her coalition believe Medi-Cal should do so as well.

“As a diabetes nurse educator and a person who faces the challenges of managing diabetes every day, I can tell you firsthand that CGMs can change lives — and improve the health of tens of thousands of low-income Californians who are most at-risk for complications,” she said.

The views expressed in this article are those of the subject.

The University of California had not taken a position on this legislation at press time.
FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Holly Kirkland-Kyhn, Ph.D., FNP, GNP, CWCN, director of wound care, was inducted as a 2019 Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP). She was nominated and sponsored by UC Davis Health distinguished fellows, Debra Bakerjian and Mary Mason Wyco. Holly has led many interprofessional initiatives throughout the hospital to improve quality of care and patient safety. She is an active member in international research groups and a part of the “Street Medicine” program, an initiative that mentors and educates communities on wound care.

ADVANCING OUR VISION OF RELATIONSHIP-BASED CULTURE

Nurses at UC Davis Medical Center believe everything in health care will work better when relationships are healthy. All the technical aspects of health care occur in the context of human relationships, which means all the technical tasks underlying the provision of care work better when we tend to relationships. Healthy relationships are formed through our attunement to one another and when we wonder with and about one another, follow the cues provided by one another, and hold one another with respect and dignity. We advance our relationship-based culture through the application of these relational and therapeutic practices — at all levels and in all disciplines — to improve every relationship in the organization.

RE-IGNITING THE SPIRIT OF CARING FUND REACHES OVER $60,000

Last year the Re-Igniting the Spirit of Caring (RSC) endowment fund hit a milestone, acquiring $61,223 through support from the Department of Nursing plus generous donations from nursing leaders, staff, and retired nurses.

“The program helps our nurses and staff through the emotional and physical challenges inherent in our daily work, and the three-day class gives us time to reflect on why we do what we do – for our patients and each other,” said Toby Marsh, Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer.

The continued growth of the fund will help sustain RSC classes, off-site retreats and program improvements.

FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS
YEAR IN REVIEW

Structural Empowerment

Nurses engage in shared decision-making to establish standards of practice and improve patient outcomes through professional development, collaboration and contributions within the community.

FALLS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

To reduce falls in the ED, the Unit Based Practice Council implemented an evidence-based Falls Program in 2019. The program’s evidence-based toolkit includes falls assessment screening tools for both pediatric and adult patients; a standardized root cause analysis (RCA) form to decrease the variation in care for patients that screened “at risk” for a fall; and a falls internal dashboard. The dashboard has improved and standardized practice by enabling the ED to benchmark the falls rate per 1,000 patients triaged with other level I ED quality improvement falls projects.

NEW ACUTE INFECTIOUS MANAGEMENT (AIM) UNIT PROCESSES IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Carla Martin, patient care services executive director and Mag Browne McManus, radiology nurse manager implemented a new and easier referral path to help the Acute Infectious Management (AIM) Unit continue to offer patients an array of expanded services. The new process features a simplified ordering process, allowing physicians and advanced practitioners to access therapy plans from their usual workflow. When therapy is completed, a referral is automatically generated, and the patient is scheduled. This new flow has improved patient access and expanded services. There are many other developments on the horizon. For example, Holly Kirkland-Kyhn, director of wound care, and her team are creating a wound registry for multi-visit patients.

UC DAVIS FOUNDATION STAFF STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Judie Boehmer, executive director of patient services, was awarded the Staff Stewardship Award from the UC Davis Foundation for her longstanding philanthropic work in support of UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Judie has been instrumental in helping UC Davis Children’s Hospital achieve national recognition as a Best Children’s Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. She values the power of philanthropy through her relentless stewardship of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals partners such as Costco, Walmart, Panda Express, Credit Unions for Kids, IHOP and others that raise more than $5 million annually for pediatric programs, research and equipment.

NEW BOOTCAMP ADVANCES RELATIONSHIP-BASED CULTURE

To enhance communication, teamwork and relationship-based culture between residents and nurses, UC Davis Health perinatal nurses created a new resident bootcamp. The bootcamp offers nurses the opportunity to meet new perinatal residents, provide education about their roles, and establish a mentoring relationship for support in contributing to the health and healing of patients.

SUCCESSFUL 2019 CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

More than 12,000 runners and teams participated in the main race at the 37th annual event in 2019 and an additional 2,000 children participated in the UC Davis Children’s Hospital MarafUNRun, a 5k fun run/walk. Meanwhile more than 100 faculty, staff and students reported for volunteer duty on the course and the finish-line medical tent, which included acute care and musculoskeletal teams.
INCREASING ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER LEADERSHIP WITH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In an effort to target the unique skills of advanced practice providers, we developed an innovative Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program that offers in-depth learning and skill building to prepare fellows to function as independent providers in high-volume primary and specialty care practices.

In December our first group of fellows graduated, leading two fellows to join UC Davis Health as advanced practice providers. We will soon be launching a HRSA funded primary care fellowship that educates nurse practitioners on rural medicine.

BOOSTING RESILIENCE WITH THE SUPPORT U PEER RESPONDER PROGRAM

Embracing our relationship-based culture has helped focus on the wellness and resilience of our providers — as they are often immersed in patient care experiences that involve suffering and loss. The UC Davis Health Support U Peer Responder Program, has given caregivers who have experienced trauma or stress from an adverse care event access to safe and confidential peer-to-peer support. The program began as a peer support project that was initiated in the PICU in 2011. Since then, the project has expanded into a full program that currently has teams in eight areas throughout the hospital. To date, 10 other departments have joined and developed peer responder teams.

DAVIS 1 SIMULATION SUITE EXPANDS CAPACITY OF CPPN

Last year the Center for Professional Practice of Nursing (CPPN) opened a new Simulation Suite to expand its capacity for increased simulation classes. The added space — located across the street from the medical center — provides students with an interactive, engaging, and fun learning environment. The suite includes two hospital simulation rooms, a SMART Board®, and a mid-fidelity SMART Man® that provides feedback on CPR electivity coupled with D.A.R.T. Sim® software capable of simulating various ECG rhythms and clinical information. These new evidence-based simulation features allow for more realistic clinical learning and practice experience to support learner confidence and patient outcomes.
Compassionate patient-centered care requires collaboration and coordination.
Daisy Awards for Extraordinary Nurses

Several extraordinary UC Davis nurses in 2019 received The DAISY Award, designed to demonstrate society’s profound respect for the education, training, brainpower, skill and caring that nurses put into their daily work.

TEAM AWARD

A DAISY team award recognized the fetal surgery team for the compassionate and extraordinary care they provided to a 27-year-old pregnant patient whose twins were diagnosed with twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome. Dr. Hirose and his team performed fetal surgery while multiple team members took turns providing comfort and reassurance to the mother-to-be.

L–R: Toby Marsh, Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer; Nurse manager Carolyn Parrish; Shinjiro Hirose, M.D.; Beverly Navarrette; Allison Horrely; Aida Benitez; Olga Yakoubovsky; Ryan Esquerra; and Wendy Wilson, executive director. Not pictured: David Dietrich; James Jones, M.D.; and Jeff Tully, M.D.

ABOUT THE DAISY AWARD

The nonprofit DAISY Foundation established the national award program in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 of the autoimmune disease idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. Awestruck by the clinical skills and compassion of Patrick’s nurses, the Barnes family created the award to thank nurses across the nation. Recipients at participating hospitals are nominated by peers, physicians, patients and families, staff and administrators. Twenty-six nurses and one nurse leader received individual DAISY honors in 2019.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pam Mooney, RN, MSN, CNS-BC
Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist

NURSE LEADER AWARD

Rupinder Sandhu, RN, BSN, MBA
Emergency Department
Daisy Awards for Extraordinary Nurses continued

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

Tonya Vander Meer, RN, MSN  
Tower 7 MSICU Blue

Cheryl Patzer, RN, MSN  
Tower 8 Transplant/Metabolic Unit

Brooke Meyers, RN, BSN, CCRN, Children’s Hospital Critical Care Transport Team

Jillian Evans, RN, BSN  
Davis 5 NICU

Maureen Craig, RN, MSN, CNN  
Clinical Nurse Specialist Nephrology

Eric Tyrell, RN, BSN  
East 4 Accelerated Access Unit

Raul Rivera, RN, BSN  
Tower 8 Transplant/Metabolic Unit

Michelle Oddi, Ph.D., RN, MSN, CCRN, CFRN, C-NPT, Children’s Hospital Critical Care Transport Team

Karen Bott, RN, BSN  
Davis 10 PICU/PCICU

Sean Fraser, RN  
Tower 6 Pediatrics

Leslie Buhlman, RN, BSN  
Patient Care Services

Emilia DeLeon, RN, BSN  
Tower 6 Medical-Surgical Unit

Tami Emslie, RN, BSN  
Pediatrics Specialty Clinic

Christa Bedford-Mu, RN, MSN, CNS-BC, Davis 5 NICU
The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis breaks traditional boundaries, develops innovative partnerships and creates leaders who advance health care.

CAVANAGH TAKES ROLE AS NEW DEAN FOR THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Last year Stephen Cavanagh, Ph.D., MPA, RN, FACHE, FAAN, was appointed as the new dean for the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, and a member of executive leadership for UC Davis Health. Cavanagh is recognized for developing the health care workforce, maximizing the use of advanced practice nurses in clinics around the region to advance access, and educating the next generations of clinicians and scholars. He brings extensive experience in collaborating across the entire campus of a university to create innovative programming for students and new forms of interprofessional education – one of the core values of the School of Nursing.

“This was the job of the year,” Cavanagh said. “I was attracted to UC Davis because of the opportunity to improve the health of Northern California with new models of nursing and medicine collaborating together to improve health. It gave an absolute unique opportunity to come to a school that’s already well thought of,” he said.

ROLE PLAY PROMOTES UNDERSTANDING

UC Davis Health nurses and School of Nursing alumni volunteered for the school’s second Poverty Simulation. The experience gives nursing students the opportunity to assume roles of financially struggling family members to gain a better understanding of the barriers that reduce others from accessing health care.

“It’s powerful,” added Cassi Carter, alumna and UC Davis Health registered nurse. “It’s just that you can see your patients as the individuals they are, understand their struggle and be able to relate.”

GUIDED BY NURSE WHO SAVED HIS LIFE, SCHOOL OF NURSING GRAD PURSUES HIS DREAM TO GIVE BACK

Nursing student Jason Ramos completed his capstone project on the oncology floor of UC Davis Medical Center. The nurse that he requested to be his mentor was the same nurse who saved his life nearly 15 years earlier.

“The charge nurse told me, ‘this guy specifically requested you.’ I thought it was odd, but I love teaching students, so I agreed,” said Connie Rogers. “Then I get the email that says your preceptee’s name is Jason Ramos. And it took my breath away.”

In 2005, when he was 25, Ramos met Rogers upon his admission to the unit for cancer treatment. A severe allergic reaction to the chemotherapy drug sent Ramos into anaphylactic shock. Rogers called the emergency code and physicians performed a tracheostomy on the spot to save Ramos’ life. He spent the next eight-and-a-half months in the hospital. After he recovered, he set his sights on a profession in health care.

“I wanted to give back to the industry that saved my life. There’s something about being on a teaching campus where another level of care is provided. I felt it as a patient and that’s what drove me to come back here,” Ramos said. “The sky is the limit. I’m going to keep giving back as much as I can.”

Ramos hopes to pass the national licensing examination for registered nurses and return to UC Davis Health to work with cancer and ear, nose and throat patients by joining the team that provided excellent care to him.
“There’s something about being on a teaching campus where another level of care is provided.” - Jason Ramos
Exemplary Professional Practice

Nurses ensure high-quality patient outcomes and a culture of safety through interprofessional collaboration and the integration of the professional practice model with the delivery of patient care.

MSICU GOLD RECEIVES SECOND GOLD BEACON FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

The unit is one of 10 ICUs in California to hold this prestigious award

Tower 7 MSICU Gold received the Gold Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Recognized units have met AACN’s rigorous certification process that ensures a commitment to nursing excellence, building strong relationships between patients, and improving outcomes and overall patient care satisfaction. The unit has shown dedication to teamwork, high morale in the work environment and supportive environments of professionalism among colleagues and leaders.

NEW PEDIATRIC HEART MOBILITY PROGRAM

Last year, the UC Davis Pediatric and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit launched a new Pediatric A-F Bundle and Early Mobility Program for patients with congenital heart defects and other heart conditions. The approach, including early mobility and exercise, has been shown to help patients recover faster and decrease long-term effects of delirium. UC Davis Medical Center is the first in Northern California to have both a pediatric and adult early mobility program.

CREATIVE HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT TO BUILD COMPASSION, EMPATHY & LOVE

Last October UC Davis Health co-hosted the annual Summit to Build Compassion, Empathy & Love with Creative Healthcare Management. Over 120 health care providers across the country attended the gathering in Sacramento which focused on relationship-based culture, strengthening resilience, and reflecting on the hard work that all caregivers do. The summit was a huge success, and to show thanks and support for our best practices, Creative Healthcare Management donated $1,000 to the Re-Igniting the Spirit of Caring (RSC) endowment.
THREE UC DAVIS HEALTH ICU’S RECEIVE SILVER BEACON FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Pediatric and Cardiac ICU, Cardiothoracic ICU, and the Surgical ICU received Silver-Level Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Each unit has shown dedication to teamwork, high morale in the work environment and supportive environments of professionalism among colleagues and leaders.

NURSES WEEK 2019 CELEBRATION

UC Davis Health nurses celebrated National Nurses Week with great food, laughter and fun to commemorate all their hard work, nursing excellence and passionate patient care. The fun-filled week began with a Blessing of the Hands by our chaplain services, followed by nurses sharing their innovations, best practices, and hearing Mary Koloroutis speak at the Inaugural Nursing Science and Professional Governance Conference. Nurses were recognized for their professional relationships and teamwork, exemplary professional practice, nursing care delivery and professional governance. Over 200 Friends of Nursing were also recognized for their teamwork and extraordinary contributions to the organization.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROJECT: SPANISH LANGUAGE DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP OFFERS POSITIVITY, EDUCATION

As part of her nurse residency evidence-based project, Diana Arellano helped to create a new Spanish-language Type 1 diabetes support group for pediatric endocrinology patients and their families. The goal is to support the need for culturally relevant support groups to help families and children continue positive conversations at home. The project provides an emotional and educational space to gain knowledge, share advice, and improve diabetes management. Facilitators for different groups in the project included Diana Arellano, RN, social worker Vince Fong, Erin Conboy-Heiser, RN, UC Davis medical student Luis Fernandez, and community volunteers.
THREE MEDICAL-SURGICAL UNITS RECEIVE PRISM AWARDS

East 5 Neuroscience, Tower 6 Medical-Surgical, and the Tower 8 Transplant/Metabolic Unit received PRISM Awards — short for Premier Recognition in the Specialty of Medical-Surgery. The prestigious award from the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) and the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB) is granted to acute-care units that show exemplary work in the areas of: leadership; recruitment and retention; evidence-based practice; patient outcomes; healthy practice environment; and lifelong learning for unit staff.

Over the past two years, five UC Davis Health medical-surgical units have received PRISM Awards, catapulting our medical center to the top spot among California hospitals with five out of six awards.

NURSE SAVES MAN IN CARDIAC ARREST DURING VACATION

Retired Sacramento Bee photographer Dick Schmidt was just finishing up a relaxing Hawaiian vacation when he experienced firsthand the lifesaving abilities of emergency room nurse Claudio Alvarado, RN, BSN, CPN, CPEN, CEN, in a check-in line at the Honolulu Airport.

Alvarado and his partner Camron Calloway, were waiting for a Sacramento-bound flight when Alvarado saw Schmidt collapse over a luggage stand and heard the 76-year-old’s partner cry out in distress.

“No one was doing anything, so I just jumped in,” said Alvarado, who also teaches courses in basic life support at Travis Air Force Base. “He was still breathing, and still had a pulse. But then all of a sudden the color just left his face.”

Schmidt by now had no pulse. Alvarado and another man, off-duty Honolulu firefighter Salesi Maumau, sprang into action. The pair turned Schmidt onto his back and immediately started CPR.

“I asked a Hawaiian Airlines worker to get an automated external defibrillator (AED), and he was really quick,” Alvarado said. “He had the AED within about two minutes.”

Fortunately, the defibrillator and chest compressions helped to revive Schmidt. By the time paramedics arrived and placed Schmidt on a gurney, he was already talking and asking for his partner, Jan.

“In my 10 years as a nurse, I have never seen someone go from cardiac arrest to talking within 10 minutes. Never in my life,” recalled Alvarado.

Everything happened at the right time, in the right place, with the right people, said Alvarado.

Schmidt also acknowledged the lucky timing and life-saving measures that Alvarado helped lead. Just days after his collapse, Schmidt underwent a triple bypass at a nearby Honolulu hospital.

“That dude is a hero,” exclaimed Schmidt. “The immediacy of strangers coming to my aid, so fast, was so beneficial to my recovery.”
**400 SENIOR TOTES DONATED**

For the past six years Angie Marin, MSN, RN-BC, nurse manager on Davis 7 Pediatrics, has organized Senior Totes for Sacramento County Adult Protective Services. Over the course of that time, UC Davis Medical Center has donated more than 400 totes. Last year, 65 tote bags were donated by staff across the medical center.

**OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS WALK**

Last September OB nurses, residents and attendings came together as a team to walk/run a 5k to support their colleague Marina O’Gorman, RN, in her battle against ovarian cancer.

**124 EMANCIPATION BASKETS DONATED**

Each year staff donate to the Sacramento County Extended Foster Care and Independent Living program to provide young emancipated men and women with personal and household goods. In 2019, 124 baskets filled with pots and pans, utensils, hygiene supplies, gift certificates for groceries, plus more where donated.

**JOSIE KING CULTURE OF SAFETY HERO AWARD**

The Josie King Hero award is presented to caregivers by the Quality and Safety Council who work hard to create a culture of patient safety at UC Davis Health.

Rebecca was recognized by Dinh Ta for her quick identification of her post-operative patient’s evolving stroke symptoms.

Melaney was nominated by medication safety pharmacist Paul MacDowell for her patient advocacy by asserting her expertise as a member of the care team. Her courage and commitment to her patients is a shining example of how we support our just culture, communication, teamwork, and organizational learning.

Cora completed vital signs more often than ordered, and continued to communicate her concerns to the resident. After talking with the attending, a CT was finally ordered, and Cora’s assessment was correct – the patient had a PE. Further testing revealed that the patient also had developed bilateral DVT’s. The patient was transferred back to NSICU, and even though the patient was only oriented to self, Cora’s astute nursing assessment allowed this patient to transfer to an appropriate level of care and receive an updated plan of care.

Amanda noticed that the patient was not at baseline from earlier in the morning. The symptoms were subtle. The patient was slower to respond, and neglected their left side, but Amanda knew it was significant enough to follow-up. She confirmed with the family present that indeed the patient had changed. She immediately communicated her concerns to the treating team and her AN II. Amanda persisted with the team to come and assess the patient, and after a STAT CT, it revealed a hemorrhage and bleeding from the tumor in the right parietal lobe. This reveal began the process to transfer the patient to the ICU.
Our nurses show exemplary work through lifelong learning.
New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements

Nurses achieve best practice for patients by integrating evidence-based practice into patient care and generating new knowledge through nursing research.

**PERINATAL TEAM FIRST IN CALIFORNIA TO TREAT PATIENT WITH POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION DRUG**

In 2019, UC Davis Health became home to the first and only hospital in California to offer Zulresso (brexanolone), a new medication to treat mothers with postpartum depression. The drug was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last March, and currently only three other states, including Texas, Arizona, and New Jersey offer this type of treatment.

**KETAMINE THERAPY IS A REGIONAL FIRST**

Through a collaboration involving the Pain Management Clinic and the Comprehensive Cancer Center Adult Infusion room, we created a thorough outpatient policy with defined treatment parameters for sub-anesthetic ketamine infusions. This is a first for the Sacramento region to offer evidence-based, protocol-driven, ketamine therapy for the treatment of chronic pain.

There are a variety of pain conditions where ketamine has proven useful, from complex regional pain syndrome, to chemotherapy-induced neuropathy, and there is growing evidence to support ketamine therapy in the setting of chronic pain. Many pain syndromes are not particularly responsive to standard analgesic medications such as opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, and acetaminophen.

The challenges to offering such a therapy reside with the availability of skilled professionals to administer the medication safely, coupled with the appropriate site of service and suitable physician coverage. Patients are receiving the therapy in the Cancer Center Infusion room. The low-dose ketamine infusion is a cycle of four weekly infusions, with each infusion given over four hours.

**FIRST-IN-REGION CANCER TREATMENT**

Davis 8 nurse Michael Chan was by the side of the first patient at UC Davis Medical Center to receive a revolutionary new kind of treatment for lymphoma — CART therapy. This new one-time approach is an option for patients who have failed on chemotherapy and can’t have a stem cell transplant. UC Davis Health is currently the region’s only system to offer this hopeful option.
THE JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY — USING EVIDENCE AS A ROAD MAP

Inaugural Nursing Science and Professional Governance Conference

UC Davis Health nurses seek to advance the improvement of quality safe care, foster clinical inquiry, and implement projects or research to find answers. Historically, our nurses share these efforts in poster presentations at the Professional Governance Celebration held every fall.

The Evidence-Based Practice and Research Council aimed to showcase this curiosity at a UC Davis-hosted conference where nurses could share their findings and knowledge to other regional institutions.

The result sparked the Inaugural Nursing Science and Professional Governance Conference hosted by UC Davis Health. The conference themed The Journey of Discovery – Using Evidence as a Road Map, invited nurses and health care leaders from Sacramento-area health systems to discuss research, innovation, and the latest in industry-leading efforts to improve patient care.

Bethany Robles, RN, BSN, presenting the Patient Care Resources poster “RN whiteboard utilization in the hospital setting: Implementation to increase compliance.”

The May 7 event held at Betty Irene Moore Hall at UC Davis, featured two keynote sessions, nine podium presentations, 54 posters, and 12 five-minute presentations on new ideas, innovations and invited collaborators.

The conference also included a discussion panel led by Debbie Ward, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Dignity Health Dean’s Chair for Nursing Leadership where expert leaders discussed Fully Integrating Nursing into Community-Based Health Care Service Delivery.

NEW HIGH-TECH, CHILD-FRIENDLY AMBULANCE

Young referral patients throughout the region can now benefit from our new and improved transport ambulance thanks to NORCAL Ambulance and Children’s Miracle Network (CMN). The new ambulance includes a state-of-the-art transport isolette for vulnerable neonatal patients, a technologically advanced air conditioning and heater system, crew cab space for family members, and a DVD player for patients. More than 800 children are transported each year to UC Davis Children’s Hospital via the UC Davis Children’s Hospital Transport Team.
Empirical Outcomes

Nurses evaluate quality outcomes to demonstrate the positive contributions of patient care produced by strong nursing leadership and clinical practice.

Nurses by the numbers

Education level of UC Davis nurses
- < 1% Diploma
- 9% ADN
- 71% BSN
- 18% MSN +
- 1% Doctorate

41
Average age of UC Davis Nurse

UC Davis Health nurses by gender
- Female: 80%
- Male: 18%
- Unknown: 2%

57%
Nurses with specialty certifications

Falls
The Falls Prevention Workgroup used the AvaSys telemonitoring system to evaluate and inform best practices for patients sustaining repeat falls and severe injuries.

88 falls with injury in 2018
82 falls with injury in 2019

HAPI
The wound care team enhanced the RN admission assessment process, and leveraged handheld devices to improve identification of pressure injuries present on admission.

15 HAPI IN 2018
13 HAPI IN 2019

CLABSI
The Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI) Workgroup created job aides to standardize practice, worked to increase scrub-the-hub disinfection methods, and is working to create a toolkit of best practices for patient care.

45 CLABSI IN 2018
43 CLABSI IN 2019

CAUTI
The Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) Workgroup implemented the Urethral Catheter RN Removal Protocol and a female external catheter; expanded unit-based RN representation; partnered with physician champions to support improved clinical decision support; and continues to work to improve insertion practices across patient care.

46 CAUTI IN 2018
31 CAUTI IN 2019
We believe all the technical tasks underlying the provision of care work better when we tend to relationships.
2019 Presentations

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTER: Christy Adams, Ph.D., RN, MPH  
DEPARTMENT: Trauma Prevention Program  
PRESENTATION TITLE: A roadmap to the future for hospital-based injury and violence prevention  
CONFERENCE: TraumaCon 2019  
LOCATION: Lexington, KY

PRESENTER: Catherine Adamson, RN, MSN  
DEPARTMENT: PCS Quality and Safety  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Innovative and evidence-based strategies reduce hospital-onset C. difficile by 53%  
CONFERENCE: Vizient Connections Education Summit  
LOCATION: Las Vegas, NV

PRESENTERS: Mary Jane Dunn, RN, BSN, CIC and Kimiko McCulloch, RN, MSN, NPD-BC, CIC  
DEPARTMENT: Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention and CPPN  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Expanding horizons: Infection prevention in the outpatient setting  
CONFERENCE: APC 2019  
LOCATION: Philadelphia, PA

PRESENTER: Michelle Linnenberger, RN, MSN Ed, CCRN-K, NPD-B  
DEPARTMENT: UC Davis Children’s Hospital  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Pediatric patients in adult hospitals  
CONFERENCE: Healthcare Research and Education Conference  
LOCATION: Stanford, CA

PRESENTER: Lori Madden, Ph.D., RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN-K, CNRN  
DEPARTMENT: Center for Nursing Science  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Advanced practice provider workshop – TTM in OHCA  
CONFERENCE: 17th Annual Neurocritical Care Society Meeting  
LOCATION: Vancouver, BC

PRESENTATION TITLE: Enhancing the impact of implementation strategies in health care  
CONFERENCE: 6th Annual EBP & Research Conference, NorthBay Healthcare  
LOCATION: Fairfield, CA

PRESENTATION TITLE: ENLS  
CONFERENCE: Subarachnoid Hemorrhage  
LOCATION: Sacramento, CA

PRESENTATION TITLE: ENLS  
CONFERENCE: Intracerebral Hemorrhage  
LOCATION: Sacramento, CA

PRESENTATION TITLE: Postoperative care for adult congenital heart disease patients in a Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit  
CONFERENCE: Cardiology 2019  
LOCATION: Huntington Beach, CA

PRESENTATION TITLE: 24-Hour oral Chlorhexidine for burn patients reduces VAP  
CONFERENCE: American Burn Association  
LOCATION: Las Vegas, NV

PRESENTATION TITLE: Reducing CLABSI through RNs placing the initial central line dressing: A quality improvement project  
CONFERENCE: Healthcare Con 2019  
LOCATION: Palo Alto, CA

PRESENTATION TITLE: Improving time to first antibiotic in open fractures  
CONFERENCE: TOIP  
LOCATION: Dallas, TX

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTER: Sydney Mullins, RN, BSN  
DEPARTMENT: PCS Quality and Safety  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Q4-Hour oral Chlorhexidine for burn patients reduces VAP  
CONFERENCE: American Burn Association  
LOCATION: Las Vegas, NV

PRESENTER: Janine Tunnell, RN, BSN  
DEPARTMENT: Trauma Program  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Improving time to first antibiotic in open fractures  
CONFERENCE: TOIP  
LOCATION: Dallas, TX

PRESENTER: Aaron Wright, RN, MSN FNP-C  
DEPARTMENT: Trauma Program  
PRESENTATION TITLE: Postoperative care for adult congenital heart disease patients in a Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit  
CONFERENCE: Cardiology 2019  
LOCATION: Huntington Beach, CA

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DEPARTMENT: PCS Quality and Safety  
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PRESENTER: Jennifer Prevatt, RN, BSN, MS, CNOR
DEPARTMENT: Perioperative Services
PRESENTATION TITLE: Presented thesis work with “Working nurses and musculoskeletal pain: Evidence-based education to prevent injury and disability” poster
CONFERENCE: Sigma Region 1 International Education, Research, and Leadership Conference, and Sigma Healthy Work Environments
LOCATION: Sacramento, CA and New Orleans, LA

PRESENTATION TITLE: A brand new OR: Staff orientation based on pediatric patients’ needs
CONFERENCE: American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference
LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

PRESENTER: Angelique Silva, RN, MS, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
DEPARTMENT: University Birthing Suites
PRESENTATION TITLE: Conjoined twins: Creating a multidisciplinary palliative plan of care
CONFERENCE: 2019 AWHONN Convention
LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

PRESENTER: Karen Stepp, RN, MSN, Inpt-OB
DEPARTMENT: University Birthing Suites
PRESENTATION TITLE: Emergency peripartum hysterectomy – A case study: Expect the unexpected
CONFERENCE: 2019 AWHONN Convention
LOCATION: Atlanta, GA

PRESENTER: Maribel Vera, RN, MS
DEPARTMENT: D5 Neonatal Units
PRESENTATION TITLE: Moral distress in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurses: A phenomenological view
CONFERENCE: Western Institute of Nursing
LOCATION: San Diego, CA

PRESENTER: Julien Wardinsky, RN, BSN, CIC
DEPARTMENT: Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention
PRESENTATION TITLE: Innovative and evidence-based bundle reduces hospital-onset C. difficile by 53%
CONFERENCE: 2019 HQI Annual Conference
LOCATION: Sacramento, CA

PRESENTER: Virginia Ashley Wood, RN, BSN, CCRN
DEPARTMENT: PICU/PICU
PRESENTATION TITLE: Honor Guard: A multidisciplinary ritual to honor patients and families who choose organ donation
CONFERENCE: AACN National Teaching Institute
LOCATION: Orlando, FL

PRESENTER: Aaron Wright, RN, MSN, FNP-C
DEPARTMENT: Trauma Program
PRESENTATION TITLE: Improving time to first antibiotic in open fractures
CONFERENCE: TQIP
LOCATION: Dallas, TX

PRESENTER: Jessica Yen, RN, BSN, CPN
DEPARTMENT: Pediatrics Davis 7
PRESENTATION TITLE: Practice change vs. enhancing nursing education: What one multi-service 36-bed pediatric unit found worked best to reduce CLABSI
CONFERENCE: Society of Pediatric Nursing
LOCATION: Washington, D.C.


