A Message from Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer Toby Marsh

I am so grateful for our UC Davis Health nurses. They continue to give our patients science-based, unparalleled care each day. In this issue of UC Davis Nurse, you will read about our newest DAISY Award recipients, who exemplify the nursing values of courage, compassion, and integrity in every situation. You will also learn about Aron King, a 2022 Under 40 awardee, our Always Nurses awardees, recently certified nurses, and the new nurse cohorts 42 and 43.

Please take a moment to read about the inaugural Hmong Nurses Association (HNA) national conference, the Philippine Nurses Association California Capital City (PNAC3) chapter’s activities in honor of Philippine Independence Day, and the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) Sacramento Chapter’s, together with the Center for Professional Practice of Nursing, celebration in honor of Hispanic Nurses Day and Hispanic Heritage Month.

I am honored to share these stories that highlight UC Davis Health nurses and the exceptional care they continue. In July, King served as the keynote speaker for the School of Nursing 2022 Commencement. In July, he joined Piri Ackerman-Barger, School of Nursing associate dean for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, to present to an international audience of nursing researchers.  

Assistant nurse manager and School of Nursing graduate named Under 40 awardee by National Black Nurses Association

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) named Aron King a 2022 Under 40 Awardee. King, an assistant nurse manager at UC Davis Medical Center and a 2021 graduate from the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, is one of only 16 nurses in the nation to receive the honor.

“These nurses are our present and our future. They are the next generation of nurse leaders,” said Martha A. Dawson, NBNA president. “We look forward to honoring these NBNA young notables under the age of 40 who are rocking the nursing world through professional and educational achievement, leadership and civic involvement in their NBNA chapters and in the communities they serve.”

After caring for patients as a bedside nurse for eight years, King entered the master’s-degree leadership program at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing in 2019. He said through that educational experience, he began to see the bigger picture of how he could serve the Black community and inspire future Black nurses. He joined the Capitol City Black Nurses Association, founded by School of Nursing alumni, to advocate for the needs of nurses and optimize health outcomes in communities where health disparities persist.

“Health care is in a battle to undo decades of valid mistrust in communities of color. From unjust medical trials to the treatment of undocumented people and those battling drug addiction,” said King, the organization’s former secretary who now serves as an executive board member. “Winning the trust of these communities means having a workforce that has representation. We have work to do.”

Aron King, 2022 under 40 Awardee.
Linenberger reappointed as chair of ANPD’s Recognition Committee for a second term

Michelle Linenberger, a board-certified nursing professional development specialist and nurse educator at UC Davis Children’s Hospital, has been reappointed as chair of the Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD)’s National Recognition Committee for a second term. The ANPD advances the specialty practice of nursing professional development for the enhancement of health care outcomes.

The chair position is appointed by the ANPD National Board and the Recognition Committee reviews submissions and selects recipients of awards and scholarships offered by ANPD.

“Serving on a committee at the national level for my professional organization was important to me to not only get more involved and represent my institution, but also to grow my network nationally and share my expertise,” Linenberger said. “I am honored to work with a dedicated group of nursing professional development specialists from all over the country to improve the quality of care we provide and enhance patient outcomes by recognizing the outstanding achievements and contributors to ANPD.”

DEI Grand Rounds featuring the Philippine Nurses Association California Capital City Chapter

Philippine Nurses Association California Capital City Chapter (PNAC3) and UC Davis Health Celebrates the 1st PCS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Grand Rounds at Sacramento Campus

The Philippine Nurses Association California Capital City (PNAC3) chapter and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee came together to celebrate the history, work experience, and culture of the Filipino nurses who have chosen to work at UC Davis Health. Filipino nurses make up a sizable proportion of the UC Davis Health workforce. This event also commemorated the Philippine Independence Day Celebration happening on June 12 (from the Spanish colonization in 1898).

The DEI committee held its first Grand Rounds on June 7, 2022, in collaboration with the PNAC3 chapter. At the Grand Rounds, the panelists talked about their previous experiences, current issues that Filipino nurses may be facing, and how to become future leaders within UC Davis Health. Aida Azurin, a retired RN who worked at UC Davis for 35 years and was the Assistant Nurse Manager on East 6, was one of the panelists. The other panelists were Jane Pena, Inpatient Unit Director and Nurse Manager of Tower 8, and Nico Buan-Lagazo, Outpatient Transplant
Center Nurse Manager. The question-and-answer portion of the DEI Grand Rounds was moderated by Kywaita Keys, Chair of PCS DEI Council. Participants at the event earned Continuing Education credits via the Center for Professional Practice of Nursing.

In closing, Elizabeth Navarra, Mark Buan-Lagazo, Salvador Mislang, and Jojo Melendres performed the national bamboo dance “Tinikling.” Tinikling is the skillful tottering of dancers over parallel bamboo poles that open and close rhythmically with the traditional music. It is based on the folklore of birds trying their might pecking on the harvest grains while farmers are at work in the rice fields. Attendees enjoyed the Filipino version of hors-d’oeuvre, main course, and dessert consisting of lumpia, sumptuous barbeque and vegan cupcakes.

First Annual Hmong Nurses Association Conference

The inaugural Hmong Nurses Association (HNA) national conference, A Nursing Storycloth: Reflecting on our Past, Building our Future, was held at the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in August 2022.

Voting for HNA national officers was held during the conference, and the 2023-2025 officers were announced, which included Diane Mua-Xiong, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN-K, from Center for Professional Practice of Nursing, as the vice president. Diane and the other newly appointed HNA leadership look forward to bringing the next HNA conference in two years, as well as leadership training for chapter leaders nationwide. The local HNA chapters will focus on health promotion in the Hmong community and promoting nursing and other healthcare fields to young adults.

The conference provided an opportunity to network, build support systems, and identify significant issues facing the Hmong community. Presentation topics included the history of Hmong leaders in nursing, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Hmong community, Hmong hospice care, healthcare continued on page 4
understanding how microaggressions in health professions schools can poise students for inclusion.

“Aron is being recognized for his commitment to high-quality practice, his accomplishments as a leader and his work as a scholar,” Ackerman-Barger explained. “It is an honor to have him join us once again as he pursues his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at the School of Nursing.”

King recently entered the school’s Ph.D. program. He expects with the rigorous research program and the demands of his nursing career, the lift to continue the drive to end disparities will be heavier.

“The role of a nurse is not limited to the bedside and we as nurses shouldn’t measure our worth by looking at technical skills,” he said. “We are advocates and leaders in patient care. We need to be proactive in our approach by investing our energy in preventive interventions.”

NBNA honored this year’s winners at its 50th Annual Institute and Conference in Chicago. NBNA is comprised of nurses at all levels and serves as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations to ensure equal access to professional development, promote educational opportunities and improve health.

On September 22, 2022, the UC Davis Health Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council hosted Grand Rounds to celebrate Hispanic Nurses throughout the health system and community. The chair and co-chair of the DEI Council, Misara Bambao, MS, BSN, RN, OCN, and Kywaita Keys, MSN, FNP, partnered with members of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) Sacramento Chapter and the Center for Professional Practice of Nursing to host a two-hour in person and virtual informational, fun, and engaging “Celebrating Hispanic Nurses Day and Hispanic Heritage Month.”

From left to right- Kywaita, NAHN Sacramento members, Misara, Lourdes, Lisa, Eduardo, Martha, Jason, and Monica.
Hispanos: Our challenges, resilience, and triumphs”. The celebration featured a description of Hispanic Heritage Month, an explanation of Hispanic Nurses Day, a historical overview of the National Association of Hispanic nurses, a panel discussion, food, colorful decorations, cultural attire, upbeat Spanish music, and a cultural dance.

Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 to October 15, is an opportunity to celebrate the cultures and traditions of people from Latin American countries who immigrated to the United States of America. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the law to establish National Hispanic Heritage Month. People from Latin American countries represent a large sector of the population of the United States of America and contribute to making this country a powerful nation, including its healthcare system.

In September 2020, the House of Representatives signed Resolution 1141 introduced by Representative Donna Shalala. The resolution encouraged “the people of the United States to observe National Hispanic Nurses Day with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities and programs to demonstrate the importance of Hispanic nurses to the everyday lives of patients and communities they serve” (Congress.gov).

During the celebration, the president of NAHN Sacramento Sandra Calderon, MSN, FNP-BC and Ph.D. student at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, described the beginnings of the NAHN along with a recorded presentation by one of the founding members and former president of NAHN and Professor Emeritus of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, Mary Lou De Leon Siantz, Ph.D., RN, FAAN. NAHN was established in 1976 and incorporated in 1977. The mission of NAHN is to promote the health of all Hispanics in the United States, support Hispanic nurses in education, clinical practice, research, and public policy, and change the face of nursing in the United States.

The celebration was followed by a panel discussion of five members of the NAHN Sacramento Chapter. The panelist included: Eduardo Tanori, BSN, FNP Student, Martha Benavides, MSN, FNP-BC, CDCES, BC-ADM, Sandra Calderon, MS, RN, FNP-C, Lisa Rodriguez, RN, and Arthur Hernandez, RN, MSN, FNP. The focus of the panel discussion was centered around Hispanic nurses’ challenges, resilience, and triumphs.

The celebration concluded with a cultural “Salsa Dance” by Dulce Ruatii and Michael Green to the “Brujeria-Sala Remix” by El Gran Combo de Puerto. After the dance, Dulce and Michael gave the audience a lesson in salsa steps.

The Year of the Educator

Ambulatory Operations Educator

Jennifer Edwards, MSN, RN, BSN, SNSC, AMB-BC, came to UC Davis Health more than two years ago as the first educator in the ambulatory operations department. This much-needed position assists the clinics with education within the ambulatory division. Her 23 years of experience includes the Emergency Department, school nursing, faculty of nursing students, and she is currently a clinical nurse educator. Since joining, Jennifer has implemented a new employee orientation program, a medication administration class for medical assistants, and helped the clinics become more prepared to handle emergencies in the clinical setting.

Jennifer also collaborated with the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing to incorporate a clinical rotation in the ambulatory clinics as part of their nursing curriculum. Preceptorships are offered to students within the ambulatory division to expose new nurses to potential careers in the ambulatory setting. Future goals for the ambulatory setting include a new graduate residency program specific to ambulatory so that nurses who desire a career in the ambulatory setting can pursue that without inpatient experience.

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Emergency Department Educators

Got an education need? Just call JAMA! JAMA is not just the Journal of American Medical Association; it is also Julia (Tak), Alex (DePew), Merrilee (Catanzaro) and Alyssa (Johnson). Together, they make up the Emergency Medicine Education Team. Between the four, they have 45 years of nursing experience in Emergency Medicine, and they are eager to share their knowledge and expertise. The team consists of Alex and Alyssa, the Professional Development AN2s, and Julia and Merrilee, the Clinical Nurse Educators. They are committed to improving the educational experiences of RNs in the Emergency Department and strive to make an impact on a hospital level as well.

As a team, they create and oversee skills days for the department, onboard new-hire nurses, and provide education days for new grad nurses. They enjoy exploring alternative methods of education, such as the ‘gamification’ of learning to make teaching topics more engaging for staff. They have also incorporated “speed dating” to match the disease to symptoms, Escape Rooms, Family Feud, and The Amazing Race into their teachings.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

Going further than the tasks, learning beyond the person behind the hospital gown. Providing the best care available, as individualized as possible factoring their emotional state of mind, that is how I show my love as a bedside nurse.

Meet Our Professional Governance Chairs and Co-chairs

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?

Six years as an RN – 15 years at UC Davis Health.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?

The opportunities to grow and the support given to those who want to grow in their careers.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?

Being part of the 5s team in our unit wherein we cleaned up the unit, and made some changes to remove clutter, creating a more polished system.

What is your favorite self-care activity?

Shopping (even if it is window shopping only)!

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?

That I do get scared, too. With all my achievements, my peers seem to think that I am fearless, but little do they know that with all that I do, it scares me a lot. I am simply scared to fail.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Watch movies

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

The pandemic has changed my perspective in life in a way that time is really gold. That in an instant, a person can lose everything. You see, as a new nurse, my adrenaline is still about saving lives, that medicine cures,
that doctors can help cure, that researchers will find a cure and that this country has the financial means to cure. But not knowing what we were against with Covid-19, showed us that we do not know everything in this world and people died, too many of them.

As one of the people on the frontline, seeing it with my two eyes - how patients fighting for their lives were not able to breathe normally, I started to show my love more to my family, friends, and colleagues as I didn’t know if one day it will be me behind the hospital gown.

Professionally, this is the time that I learned that my compassion as a nurse is on high alert, and I was using it well according to my patients. Before the pandemic, I feel to relieve patients’ pain and coordinate their recovery, I used compassion, but it was not noticeable because the tasks were the same, and I felt like I was just simply doing my job. During the pandemic, the tasks were different, and the nursing approach was different, so I saw more of the compassion aspect, and I was able to use it more. Patients and families started to verbalize their appreciation more.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

For me, the three components compassion, courage and integrity would not be possible without love. I have passion for my profession, and I reflect that passion and love by providing patient-centered care for my patients.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?

I am proud of being a part of the visitor management policy during the pandemic.

What is your favorite self-care activity?

Praying to God and reading books.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?

I am a good cook.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Watching movies and swimming.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

The pandemic certainly made me highly conscious about self-care. My self-care indulgence, such as taking multi-vitamin tables, eating nutritious, simple food, and spending time with the family, changed my thinking that every day is a new beginning. My self-care prepared me to be strong physically and emotionally, and to be present for my patients when they need me.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?

I appreciate the opportunity to advance my learning and have the support of my supervisor. I love working with all the staff on my unit. We are a family and care deeply for each other, giving you a strong feeling of confidence and appreciation.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

I feel taking the time to know my patients both inside and out and having a connection with them and knowing what their personal and medical needs are. Love comes through when you display kindness and compassion with all your patients and with your peers.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?

I am proud when I finished precepting a new graduate and they changed the way they approached their patients with compassion and understood that if they just took 10 minutes to sit and listen to their patients a special connection can be developed. I am proud when I hear
them say, “today was a great day”!

What is your favorite self-care activity?
My favorite self-care activity is to take care of all 31 of my chickens to see them get so excited when you give them a special treat! My most all-time favorite is to go and see the beauty of what God has done in hiking in the mountains and sleeping under the stars.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I love to collect items with hearts on them!

What are your favorite hobbies?
Gardening, reading, snowshoeing (anything in the snow!), I like just about everything!

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?
I have realized how people can be so judgmental of others when they do not agree with what the government has to say about COVID. This pandemic has made me realize how truly blessed I am to have all my family stay healthy. Some of my family members have lost their jobs and we all have stayed together to help each other. Professionally, it feels good to be able to help volunteer in the community to help others, to just sit and listen to their story and provide comfort.

Advanced Practice Provider Council

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
I’ve been an RN for 23 years, 20 years at UC Davis Health.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
The collaboration between the multidisciplinary teams to optimize patient care and clinical outcomes.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
I truly love my patients. I greet them with a smile and a loving heart. I stay true to who I am and the genuine love, compassion, and empathy I have relays to them.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
I created a COVID-19 space at the CCRC at the height of the pandemic. This allowed for research participants with active COVID-19 disease to be evaluated while on clinical trial protocols.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
Hiking.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I minored in classical voice in college.

What are your favorite hobbies?
Travel and exploring.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?
I enjoy life and realize how short life can be. I spend more time with friends and family. I don’t sweat the small stuff.

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
I have been with UC Davis Health since 2005. I have been working as a nurse practitioner since 2009.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
I enjoy the teaching environment and the camaraderie among the staff and teams.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
I take a moment to acknowledge that each patient comes with their own personal experiences and views, and I do what I can to support them and their families based on what they need.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
Our team has become more active in educating staff about palliative care.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
Napping and spa day.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I hate spiders.
How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

I have grown to be a more patient and compassionate person as I have witnessed the challenges and struggles families have faced during these very trying times.

Clinical Practice Council

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?

Two and a half years as an RN and two years at UC Davis Health

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?

The challenge and prestige that comes with working at a level 1 trauma center that is also an educational and research connected institution. The commitment to continued growth and development within. The diverse and abundant community outreach and support programs. The level of inclusion to various populations, including those with disabilities and impairments. Equal opportunity.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion, courage, and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

My love for the field of nursing and all that nurses bring to their patients is rooted deep within me from my time and experiences as a patient fighting cancer, with many complications. I now bring to my own patients a love and commitment to the calling of nursing, and to the purpose that nurses carry with them while providing care.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?

BHCA capstone queuing theory project that identified congestion points and contributing factors in the patient flow process at an ENT outpatient clinic. Changes implemented decreased patient wait times, touch point times, and increased department efficiency.

What is your favorite self-care activity?

My long-standing self-care activity is landscaping. I enjoy spending time outside in my yard taking care of my plants, lawn, and hardscape. I take pride in these things, and I value this time to take my mind off the hustle of life.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?

That I was at one point in my life admitted at UC Davis Medical Center for almost nine months straight while fighting cancer. In my first career, I was a warehouse manager, and after getting diagnosed with cancer, I had an extremely hard fight to beat it. My time as a patient and my experiences through that process led me to redefine myself and pursue a career in the medical field.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Coaching wrestling, I have been a youth and high school wrestling coach for more than 20 years. I love being on the mats with the team and staying active working out with them.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

The pandemic forced me to grow and develop my skills and comfort level with online meetings, presenting, and learning. It has also made me more mindful and appreciative of the in-person time spent with family and friends.

Diversity, Equity Inclusion (DEI) Council

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?

I’ve been an RN for 14 years and have been blessed to be employed at UC Davis Health for 16 years.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?

UC Davis Health is a nationally recognized academic medical center. As a nursing student, I experienced the hierarchy that exists between some doctors and some nurses at other hospitals, but I never felt that here. I sensed a level of respect among all team members. That was important to me. In addition, I’ve always loved how multidisciplinary teams work together and how lifelong learning is supported.
Love has been added to the values along with compassion, courage, and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

When I think of love, my heart and mind go to my family. I connect love with my nursing practice by remembering my patient is somebody’s family member, and I do my best to treat them how I would want someone to treat my loved ones. We are all humans just trying to get by in this life, and we all have feelings, and a back story. Love always prevails!

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?

My passion lies in providing a voice for our Limited English Proficient patients. I wrote my master’s thesis at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing around this subject and focused on “Barriers to Using Certified Interpreters: the Hispanic Bilingual Nurse Experience”. I am currently working alongside the Clinical Practice Council (CPC), and the IT Department on system-wide standardized documentation of when we use our certified interpreters. In addition, I have worked alongside CPC and Cypher Health to incorporate patient rounding on our Limited English Proficient Patients. Although system-wide standardized documentation of interpreter utilization is a work in progress, I’m proud to be given the opportunity to provide a lens on how it is that we can improve upon our delivery of care of our Limited English Proficiency patients.

What is your favorite self-care activity?

My favorite self-care activity is exercise! I really enjoy either jogging, riding my Peloton bike, or if I ever get back to it, “Orange Theory Fitness”.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?

One thing my peers may not know about me is that in kindergarten, I didn’t know how to speak English. My mom recounts I “made up” my English to sound like what I thought my classmates sounded like speaking English. I guess that counts as creativity! My mom says the kids looked at me as if I was crazy. I’m sure they wondered, “what in the world is she saying?!”

What are your favorite hobbies?

My favorite hobbies include exercise, walking with my best fur friend “Nacho”, and spending time with my husband, Jerry, kids, and the rest of my family.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

The pandemic has provided me with a greater appreciation for life and for my loved ones. I try not to take anything for granted because, as we all learned, life can change in an instant.

EBP/Research Council

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?

I have been an RN for 18 years and at UC Davis Health for 16 years.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?

I like working at a university hospital in a teaching-learning environment. It is exciting to work at a hospital that values research, evidence-based practice and innovation.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion, courage, and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

I love being a nurse. I love caring for critically ill and injured patients and helping them get better. I also love reviewing current literature and finding solutions to problems within my profession. I believe that nursing is truly what I am meant to do.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?

I organized a high-fidelity escape room skills lab for the surgical intensive care unit (SICU) last year. This was a huge project that I spent a great deal of time and energy creating with two of my co-workers. These types of educational activities are proven to increase knowledge retention as well as teamwork and collaboration. I look forward to creating another escape room in the future with a larger multi-disciplinary team.

What is your favorite self-care activity?

My favorite self-care activity is exercise! I really enjoy either jogging, riding my Peloton bike, or if I ever get back to it, “Orange Theory Fitness”.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?

One thing my peers may not know about me is that in kindergarten, I didn’t know how to speak English. My mom recounts I “made up” my English to sound like what I thought my classmates sounded like speaking English. I guess that counts as creativity! My mom says the kids looked at me as if I was crazy. I’m sure they wondered, “what in the world is she saying?!”

What are your favorite hobbies?

My favorite hobbies include exercise, walking with my best fur friend “Nacho”, and spending time with my husband, Jerry, kids, and the rest of my family.
What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I tend to be an open book and can talk to anyone. If someone wants to know more about me, they should just ask!

What are your favorite hobbies?
I love hanging out with my family, especially if anything Disney is involved!!

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?
The pandemic didn’t change much for me personally. My family has always loved one another, and we love spending time together. Having more time together for a while was lovely.

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
11 years, all at UC Davis Health

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
The interdisciplinary teamwork and collaboration across all disciplines and departments. The cafeteria is a close runner-up.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
Love is an action, not a feeling. So, despite how I am feeling, I try to make sure my actions reflect compassion and kindness. Try is the keyword.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
I am proud to have been involved in the bloodborne pathogen reporting system change; because of the teamwork and collaboration it involved.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
Watching educational, informative, and uplifting shows like Jeopardy, Judge Judy, and Seinfeld

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
My peers may not know that I was my high school senior prom queen, valedictorian, and female athlete of the year. They may also not know that my graduating class had 15 students.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?
Professionally, it has inspired me to focus on preventative care and has reminded me how proud I am to be a nurse. Personally, it has provided me with more time to watch educational, informative, and uplifting shows like Jeopardy, Judge Judy, and Seinfeld.

EMR Council

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
I have been a nurse since 2010, so 12 years. I have been a nurse at UC Davis Health for ten years.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
I love how we are innovative and listen to staff on always improving our processes, with the patient always being the focus - doing what is best for the patient.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
I have to say I absolutely love my position in supporting our nurses from the IT perspective. Helping staff improve the documentation process to be efficient and still provide safe patient care.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
I lead the effort with Elsevier and our care planning and flowsheet content within the EMR. In our last review and upgrade process, we were able to get all the ancillary disciplines on flowsheet documentation which standardizes our care and makes the documentation more streamlined. The ancillary groups are also contributing to the plan of care notes which is intended to be a multidisciplinary piece of the patients’ record. This really helps build the patient story to understand the unique needs of every patient.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
In the summer, you will find me on the boat with my kids
enjoying the water and sunsets! In the winter, you will find me camping on the weekends with our dirt bikes and at the races.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I love to do arts and craft DIY projects.

What are your favorite hobbies?
I love to bake in the winter. I make homemade cinnamon rolls around Christmas time.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?
Personally, the pandemic has made me focus on my boys and getting back to the basics in a normal ‘slower’ paced routine. Professionally I have learned to better prioritize nursing EMR projects based on the health system needs at the moment.

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
I graduated from nursing school in 1985, 37 years ago, and I’ve been with UC Davis Health for 27 years.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
Nursing has a lot of input, shared governance, and I enjoy teaching facilities.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
There can be a lot of stress in nursing and loving what you do helps get you through the stress. Our patients and coworkers can tell if those caring for them have that love and integrity and it can be a comfort during their times of stress.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
I have assisted with many of the EMR changes, and I feel it is important that those who complete the documentation have some say in how it goes.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
Traveling; it helps me relax. We have traveled most recently to visit family as our grandchildren live in different states.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I don’t think there is much at this point. I have been at UC Davis Health for many years and have met a lot of staff.

What are your favorite hobbies?
Traveling in our RV and then during the holidays, I bake quite a few cookies to bring into my unit for the staff.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?
It has made me much more appreciative of UC Davis Health, after talking with other nurses from other hospital systems. I felt we were always supported, and that staff and patient safety was a priority. UC Davis Health took the initiative to proactively hire, so even at the busiest times, we were supported.

Professional Development Council

How any years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
In February it will be 20 years for being an RN, and this month marked 16 years at UC Davis Health.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
The people and the work environment.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
There can be a lot of stress in nursing and loving what you do helps get you through the stress. Our patients and coworkers can tell if those caring for them have that love and integrity and it can be a comfort during their times of stress.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
I am proud of the success of Certified Nurse’s Day that I have helped plan on the Professional Development Committee throughout the last two years.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
Yoga and regular massages.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I love to play tennis.
What are your favorite hobbies?

Watching my kids sporting events, gardening, and baking.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

It has made me appreciate the little things more. And to be more empathetic toward everyone because the pandemic has affected everyone to some degree in different ways.

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?

Thirteen years, all at UC Davis Health.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?

Nurses are empowered to influence change based on identified patient and department needs. There is also a strong collaboration among different disciplines.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion courage and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?

Although my role has changed from a bedside nurse to a nursing professional development generalist, love continues to be a part of my nursing practice. I endeavor to hold and attune to my co-workers and embody those values when I’m presenting to new hires.

What is your favorite self-care activity?

Snuggling with my cat, eating, and sleeping. (I envy my cat’s life).

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?

I have had a total of 17 piercings.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Going out to eat with friends, having monthly game nights with my friends, and watching movies.

How has the pandemic changed you personally and/or professionally?

Personally, I am making a more concerted effort to spend time with my family. I also recognized how important self-care is to both my physical and mental health. This carries over professionally as I work toward being more assertive in maintaining boundaries for a healthy work-life balance.
Happy Float Pool Week

Float Pool Week celebrates all the healthcare providers who choose to float as their specialty. This includes a wide variety of staff, including RNs, LVNs, MAs, MOSCs, and HUSCs. The inpatient float pool covers both Acute Care, Critical Care and our Children’s Hospital. We have about 250 float pool staff, which includes daily float staff; career and per diem staff, SOS RNs; STAN Nurses; Children’s Hospital Seasonal staff; Action/Rapid Team; and our New Grad Acute Care floats.

Float pool week began in 2020 when it was discovered there was no celebration time other than nurse’s week for this unique group. Float Pool is unique as it’s a unit with no walls but is held to all the same standards as the unit-specific nurses. In 2020, all the other UC float pools joined in on the celebration and, in 2023, we have more than 20 different hospital systems nationwide that celebrate their Float Pool staff during the third week of September each year.

How many years have you been an RN? How many at UC Davis Health?
I have been an RN for 18 years, and 12 years at UC Davis Health.

What do you like most about UC Davis Health?
I like that UC Davis Health is a teaching hospital, with the opportunity for consistent learning and education. I observe that the nurses at UC Davis Health have more autonomy within the nursing field of practice than any other institution.

Love has been added to the values along with compassion, courage, and integrity. How do you connect love with your nursing practice?
I connect my love with my nursing practice by understanding the ability to provide nursing care with responsibility, kindness, attention and concern, esteem, and understanding of others as a human being.

What one change have you been involved with that you are proud of?
One change that I have been proud of was voicing my opinion, leading to increased patient safety/care measures.

What is your favorite self-care activity?
My favorite self-care activities are outdoor activities consisting of both hiking and jogging.

What is one thing your peers may not know about you?
I am family-oriented, and I have a work-life balance.

What are your favorite hobbies?
My favorite hobbies are both traveling and shopping.
DAISY Nurses
Leader Awards

Frances Noriega, MSN, RN
Nurse Leader Award: Emergency Department
Frances deeply believes in the mission and vision of the emergency department and works to create a safe, inclusive environment for patients and staff. She is a transparent, thoughtful, and dedicated leader who strives to grow her team. The Emergency Department is a high-stress environment and Frances has effectively navigated the environment for staff.

Tracy Seward, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Nurse Leader Award: J Street Pulmonary
The entire clinic operation had to be relocated to the Point West clinic in a single day. This included contacting all scheduled patients to notify of new location; transporting medications, biopharmaceuticals, medication refrigerator, and temperature monitoring system to the new location; transporting and coordinating the delivery of oxygen racks and tanks to the new location; moving medical equipment and supplies to the new location; and relocating staff workstations and telephone numbers. New documentation was quickly developed to identify the location of services. Pulmonary Rehabilitation was pivoted to virtual visits and equipment was relocated in the days to follow. Tracy led this transition to the new location, and communicated with IT, real-estate teams, disaster preparedness teams, staff, physicians, and other stakeholders.

Joleen Lonigan, MSN, RN, NE-BC, FACHE
Nurse Leader Award: Patient Care Services
Joleen is the embodiment of a servant leader who models extraordinary behavior and creates an environment of trust, compassion, and mutual respect. She is a champion of multiple initiatives to achieve better patient outcomes and inspires me with her professionalism, compassion, dedication, and boundless energy. Joleen reflects a positive image of nursing in the community as she advocates on behalf of our patients as they transition through the care continuum. She has been integral in fostering a relationship with local skilled nursing facilities and the Sacramento Behavioral Health Hospital to secure new bed lease agreements so that our patients discharge to appropriate settings to receive optimal care.

Ling Tien, BSN, MS, RN, CMSRN
Nurse Leader Award: Davis 14 Ortho/Trauma Unit
Ling is not only dedicated to improving care for older adults, but she also prioritizes the needs of the staff nurses to ensure they are supported with tools and education to provide evidence-based geriatric care. She even helped educate UC staff state-wide as a Delirium Symposium panel member.
Individual Awards

Al Luu, MSN, RN, FNP
Davis 6 Cardiology
He spent time at her bedside when he could see that she was agitated and anxious. He was also kindly firm with her when the situation required it. He was always very knowledgeable and willing to provide insight into treatment and medication changes. What stands out, however, is that each of the subsequent times my wife was hospitalized, Al took the time to come by and present her (and me) with a familiar face, a friendly smile (masked, of course), and a genuine concern for her condition.

Ellen Kim, BSN, RN
East 8 Medical/Surgical Specialty
Coming here, I was very concerned and scared due to my chronic medical conditions and having to start over with new providers. My care at UC Davis Health has been amazing in every way. Ellen is one of the best nurses I've ever had. Her demeanor and professionalism are perfection. She follows all protocols, such as reviewing my medications, and possible side effects, assists with my ADLs, and makes sure I have all my needs met. All the nurses need to be like Ellen. She is kind, gentle, professional, and compassionate.

Shawna McMillan, BSN, RN, CPHON, CRNI
Pediatric Infusion Center
Her cheerfulness and warmth are both inspiring and uplifting. Shawna embodies confidence and kindness and is exceptional for her ease in her presentation and her high degree of genuine sincerity. She strikes me as someone who wears her heart on her sleeve but mixed with grace and professionalism—a unicorn of sorts.

Sokkunthair “Tia” Kem
Patient Care Services - Trauma Surgery
Tia did not hesitate when she facilitated preparation for a mass casualty incident, staying well beyond her scheduled shift to ensure enough trauma trained provider coverage for all victims of the mass casualty incident. I am grateful for Tia’s unwavering dedication to trauma surgery, victims of the mass shooting, and UC Davis Health.

Jackie Jones, BSN, RN
Davis 5 Neonatal Units
All in all, Jackie Jones didn’t just provide us with clinical care; she provided us with human care. She did her part to save our son’s life, but she also did so much more to help a family through a difficult, unexpected, and overwhelming time.

Eric Brickson, MSN, RN
Tower 2 SICU
He went above and beyond for the patient by coordinating with the family to visit the patient (drips, vent and all) outside the hospital for the winter holidays. Not only did he do this once, but twice!! The patient’s two teen and young adult children who live out of town were able to see their father in person for the first time in many months, as well as a reunion with the family dogs who missed the patient dearly.

Robin Huey Lao, DNP, CPNP-AC
Pediatric Surgery
There have been a number of challenges we’ve had to face, and Robyn has gone above and beyond as we’ve tackled each one of them. She is knowledgeable, thorough, supportive, and resourceful. Aside from her being an amazing nurse for our daughter, I honestly can’t imagine getting this far without her support of me as well. Although family and friends can listen and empathize, Robyn’s involvement in teaching and guiding me through my daughter’s care has helped me several times when I thought I was at a breaking point.
Our Newest Nurses

**COHORT 42**

Alejandra Alcantar - Davis 14 Ortho/Trauma Unit  
Alina Tselishchev - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Angelica Haro - Patient Care Resources  
Angelina Camacho - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Anny Huang - Davis 5 Neonatal Units  
Brooke Spring - Davis 7 Pediatrics  
Calli Moore - Davis 7 Pediatrics  
Carleen Aldridge - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Ciarra Dela Cruz - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Coleton Matics - East 6 Cardiothoracic PCU  
Eduardo Cervantes - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Emily Chen - Patient Care Resources-ICU  
Emily Yang - Davis 14 Ortho/Trauma Unit  
Fatima Lopez - OR Training Program  
Gabriel Winn - East 5 Neurosciences  
Jadyn Simperman - Emergency Medicine  
Jasmeet Grewal - OR Training Program  
Jeanelle Rosario - Patient Care Resources-ICU  
Jocelyn Palomera - Patient Care Resources  
Justin Cruz - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Ka Yang - Patient Care Resources

Karina Lee - Emergency Medicine  
Kathryn Lambert - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Kylie Herman - D-12 Surgical Specialties Unit  
Lauren Doyich - Davis 5 Neonatal Units  
Mackenzie Hazen - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Madison Burgess - Davis 14 Ortho/Trauma Unit  
Madison Gruver - OR Training Program  
Martha Ventura - Patient Care Resources  
Mayra Contreras - Davis 3 University Birthing Suites  
Melody Ayers - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Mercy Xiong - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Moselle DiPane - OR Training Program  
Nathan Petty - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit  
Nicole Kelsey - Patient Care Resources  
Olga Ubryanova - OR Training Program  
Raihanah Bath - Davis 5 Neonatal Units  
Shawn Conway - Patient Care Resources-ICU  
Thuy Tran - Emergency Medicine  
Tia Peck - Patient Care Resources  
Victoria Solis - Patient Care Resources  
Yvonne Burton - Davis 11 Trauma Nursing Unit
Always Nurse

An "Always" nurse received a 100% score on the HCAHPS or Targeted Patient Experience Survey for the following questions.

1. Nurses treated you with courtesy/respect
2. Nurses listened carefully to you
3. Nurses explained in a way you understand
4. Nurses’ attitude toward your requests
5. Amount of attention paid to your special or personal needs
6. How well the nurses kept you informed

How do scores get assigned to individual nurses?
All scores are assigned to each nurse flagged in EPIC as a member of that patient’s treatment team. And each individual nurse’s Top Box score is based on all surveys received in that timeframe where they were part of the patient’s treatment team.

Newly Recognized CN IIIs
Nawal S Al-Harazi – Davis 6 Cardiology
Sandara Clark Burlando – East 6 Cardiotoracic PCU
Caitlin E Carlson – Tower 6 Pediatrics
Jennifer Deaton – CTICU
Dajanae Gresham-Ryder – Adult Acute Care E3/S1
Kori Harder – Rocklin Infusion Center
Anika Kutschmar – Emergency Department
Gabriella Marie Medeiros – Pediatric Infusion Center
Alexandria Ramona Schrick – Stroke Program
Mary Thor (Taylor) – Burn ICU
Jeorgie A Thompson – Burn ICU
Nicole Marie Wall (Soto) – Burn ICU
Cynthia E Walsh – Tower 7 MSICU Blue
Robyn Noelle Whittfield – Emergency Department
Eric J Yai – Gastroenterology Endoscopy Lab
Newly Certified Nurses

Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP-BC)
Stephanie Hodgson

Ambulatory Care Nursing (RN-BC)
Lauren Nicholson

Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (TCRN)
Kassandra Bernal

Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN)
Patrick Arrington
Lia Ceccarelli
Susie Collado
Kyle Gardina
Kyle Irwin
Erin Shields
Lindsi Wehling

Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinator (CCTC)
Amrit Kaur

Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN)
Brittney Houston

Certified Heart Failure Nurse (CHFN)
Zorana Petrovich

Certified Medical Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN)
Grace Aruta
DaJanae Gresham-Ryder
Maria Martinez
Lucy McClinton
Ashley Murphy
Clementine Wamboye
Diana Ramirez

Clinical Nurse Leaders (CNL)
Christopher Pham

Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurse (CPHON)
Anita Johnson

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP-BC)
Nicholas Crill
Bethany Horner
Melanie Tuana
International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)
Elizabeth Libano
Juanita Weathersby

Medical Surgical Nursing (RN-BC)
Adrienne Baker

Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-NIC)
Michelle Arlotta
Nicole Eichman
Jessica Park
Emily Pels
Kellie Tagawa
Sarah Watson
Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN)
Mia Wilson

Orthopedic Nurse Certified (ONC)
Xin Gao

Progressive Care Certified Nurse (PCCN)
Allison Kelly
Leah Sparks

Pediatric Nurse (RN-BC)
Caitlin Carlson
Kati Torrence

Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse- American Nurses Credentialing Center (PMH-BC)
Rick Ames

MESSAGE FROM TOBY | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to provide our patients. I am incredibly grateful for the extraordinary love, compassion, courage and integrity they give each and every day.

Finally, I want to thank all the nurses, employees, and patients who have made my past 18 years here truly incredible. I am so proud and humbled to have been part of such an amazing, talented, and professional team. Because of you, UC Davis Health earned two Magnet designations, with a third pending, and multiple Beacon, Prism, and Lantern awards. Although I will no longer be part of the organization, the future is bright for UC Davis Health and our professional practice of nursing. I wish you continued success in providing exceptional patient care. Please keep in touch through Twitter, LinkedIn, or Instagram.

With much appreciation and love,

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

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