

2009 Nurse of Excellence



AWARD RECEPTION



Wednesday, May 20, 2009
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Woodbury Country Club
884 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY



May 20, 2009

Kevin W. Dahill
President and
Chief Executive Officer

A Message from the Council

The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council is a regional hospital association representing the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. The Council serves its members in the areas of advocacy, education and collective initiatives.

The hospital industry provides a wide variety of health care services to the 2.8 million residents of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Many health care professionals contribute to the quality care rendered here on Long Island – care that is among the best in the state and even the nation. Perhaps the single most indispensable, multi-talented, and omnipresent hospital worker is the registered nurse.

The New York State Legislature in 1989 created a Nurse of Distinction Program. The program, coordinated at the time by Senator Tarky Lombardi Jr., recognized individual excellence in the nursing profession. Hundreds of nurses were nominated from across the state, eight regional designees were selected by peer review, and one nurse from that group was awarded. The program was highly regarded by those within the health care industry and continued until 1995.

Since then, it has been the honor of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council to continue this tradition on a regional level through its annual "Nurse of Excellence" program. The Hospital Council opted to maintain this recognition program because the registered nurse is truly the core of any hospital. We have expanded the award to include nominations from the nursing schools who also participate in the Nurse Executive Committee.

Each member hospital and nursing school selects a nominee based on specific selection criteria. The nomination in and of itself is an honor. Then a Council peer review committee selects "the best of the best." More important than those individuals named and honored is the celebration of the entire nursing profession that pervades this program.

We are proud of the nominees and congratulate this year's top nurse. We are just as proud of *all* of the nurses who care for thousands of Long Islanders, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. On behalf of our board of directors, the Council staff and the leadership of all of our hospitals, we express our sincere appreciation to all nurses and salute their commitment to compassionate quality patient care.

Kevin W. Dahill
President/CEO

MEMBER HOSPITALS

**Brookhaven Memorial Hospital
Medical Center**
Patchogue

**Catholic Health Services of Long
Island**

- Good Samaritan Hospital
Medical Center
West Islip
- St. Catherine of Siena Medical
Center
Smithtown
- St. Charles Hospital
Port Jefferson

Eastern Long Island Hospital
Greenport

Long Beach Medical Center
Long Beach

John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
Port Jefferson

Nassau University Medical Center
East Meadow

New Island Hospital
Bethpage

**North-Shore - Long Island Jewish
Health System**

- Franklin Hospital
Valley Stream
- Glen Cove Hospital
Glen Cove
- Huntington Hospital
Huntington
- North Shore University Hospital
Manhasset
- Plainview Hospital
Plainview
- Southside Hospital
Bay Shore
- Syosset Hospital
Syosset

Peconic Bay Medical Center
Riverhead

Southampton Hospital
Southampton

Stony Brook University Hospital
Stony Brook

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Northport

**Winthrop South Nassau University
Health System**

- South Nassau Communities
Hospital
Oceanside
- Winthrop-University Hospital
Mincola

THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

2009 Nurse of Excellence

ORDER OF PROGRAM

<i>Welcome and Introductions</i>	Kevin W. Dahill President/Chief Executive Officer, Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council
<i>Greetings from the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council</i>	Kevin Lawlor Chairman of the Board, Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council & President/Chief Executive Officer, Huntington Hospital
<i>Introduction of Nurse of Excellence Committee Members</i>	Patricia Darcey, MS, RN-CNA Chairperson, Nurse Executive Committee & Chief Nursing Officer & Vice President of Patient Care Services Southampton Hospital
<i>Acknowledgement of all "Nurse of Excellence" Nominees</i>	Gara Edelstein, RN, MSN Chairperson, Nurse of Excellence Sub-Committee & Sr. Vice President of Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center
<i>Recognition of the 2009 Nassau-Suffolk Nurse of Excellence</i>	Patricia Hogan, RN, MA, CNA Sr. Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, Charles Bove Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
<i>Remarks by the Honoree</i>	Eileen M. Roberto, RN, BS, CHPN Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
<i>Presentation of the Teapot</i>	Amy B. Pakes, RN, MS Nassau University Medical Center 2008 Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse of Excellence
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	Gara Edelstein, RN, MSN Chairperson, Nurse of Excellence Sub-Committee & Sr. Vice President of Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

THE NASSAU–SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

NURSE EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE

The Nurse Executives Committee is comprised of the chief nursing officers from all member hospitals and the deans and directors of schools of nursing.

Kathleen Baker, RN

*Coordinator of Health Careers
Western Suffolk BOCES*

Kathleen Capitulo

*Chief Nursing Officer
No. Shore University Hospital at Manhasset*

Rosie Chapman

*Chief Nursing Officer
Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

Patrick R. Coonan, EdD, RN, CNAA

*Dean & Professor
Adelphi University*

Patricia Darcey

*VP Patient Care Services & CNO
Southampton Hospital*

Faye Duda

*Chief Nursing Officer
Long Beach Medical Center*

Gara Edelstein

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services & CNO
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center*

Nicolette Fiore-Lopez

*Chief Nursing Officer
St. Charles Hospital*

Pat Hogan

*Sr. Vice President & CNO
Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center*

Catherine Hottendorf

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Southside Hospital*

Minna Kapp, EdD, MBA, RN

*Chairperson, Dept. of Nursing
C. W. Post College*

Susan Kwiatek

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Glen Cove Hospital*

Frances LaFauci, RN, MS

*Associate Dean, School of Nursing
Suffolk Community College*

Lenora McClean, EdD, RN

*Dean & Professor of Nursing
Stony Brook School of Nursing*

Kim Mendez, EdD, ANP-C, RN

*Vice President & CNO
Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center*

Margaret Minnick

*VP Patient Care Services
New Island Hospital*

Yvette Mooney

*Sr. VP Patient Care Services
South Nassau Communities Hospital*

Carol A. Mottola, PhD, RN

*Chairperson, Dept. of Nursing
Nassau Community College*

Jeannine D. Muldoon, PhD, RN

*Dean & Professor, Dept. of Nursing
Molloy College*

Marie Mulligan

*VP Nursing & CNO
J. T. Mather Memorial Hospital*

Myrna Myers-Laque

*Chief Nursing Officer
Huntington Hospital*

Susan Neville, PhD, RN

*Chairperson & Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Nursing
New York Institute of Technology*

Patricia Pispisa

*VP Patient Care Services
Eastern Long Island Hospital*

Barbara Popkin

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Franklin Hospital Medical Center*

Carol Powell, RN

*Program Administrator
Eastern Suffolk BOCES*

Barbara Sands, PhD, RN

*Professor & Director, Dept. of Nursing
St. Joseph's College*

Kathy Skarka

*Acting CNO
Nassau University Medical Center*

Valerie Terzano

*VP Nursing & CNO
Winthrop University Hospital*

Marianna Vazquez

*Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services
Plainview & Syosset Hospitals*

Kathleen Walsh, EdD, RN

*Chairperson, Dept. of Nursing
Farmingdale State College*

Maureen White

*VP Patient Care Services
No. Shore – LIJ Health System*

Lee Xippolitos

*Chief Nursing Officer
Stony Brook University Medical Center*

Gerald Zunno

*VP Patient Care Services
Peconic Bay Medical Center*

NURSE OF EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

A sub-group of the Nurse Executives Committee

Gara Edelstein, Chairperson

Sr. VP of Patient Care Services & CNO, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

Rosie Chatman, CNO
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Faye Duda, CNO
Long Beach Medical Center

Valerie Terzano, VP Nursing & CNO
Winthrop University Hospital

Patrick Coonan, EdD, RN, CNAA
*Dean & Professor
Adelphi University*

Dianne Gianfelice, NM
Nassau University Medical Center

Amy Pakes, NM
*Nassau University Medical Center
2008 Nassau-Suffolk Hospital
Council Nurse of Excellence*

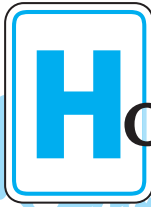
THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

NURSE OF EXCELLENCE SELECTION CRITERIA

Outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and to the field of health care must be demonstrated based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Significant achievement within a particular area of nursing, including clinical practice, education, research, or administration. The provision of direct nursing services to assist patients and their families to function at optimum levels of health is one example within clinical practice.
- ✓ Demonstrated leadership that provides a role model to the quality of his or her performance and assists other nurses in their development.
- ✓ Participation in activities that foster a positive public image of nursing as a profession.

Note: All registered professional nurses employed at a Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council membership organization, or affiliated school of nursing, at any employment level or scope of responsibility, are eligible to be nominated for the Award. Prior nominees are not eligible. Each hospital or nursing school member of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council's Nurse Executive Committee is eligible to nominate one individual for the Award. Each nominating entity has an internal selection process to facilitate making an appropriate nomination.



Nassau-Suffolk
Hospital Council, Inc.

THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

Award For

Nursing Excellence

Is Presented To

Eileen M. Roberto, RN, BS, CHPN

2009

*For achieving significant accomplishments in an area of practice,
serving as a mentor and inspiration for staff, providing assistance to patients
and families, and fostering a positive image of nursing.*

THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

2009 Nurse of Excellence

NOMINEES

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center

**Margaret Galvin, RN, BSN, CCRN, MSN,
NPP-C**

Staff RN - CCU

Margaret has been part of Brookhaven's team for 33 years. She currently works in the coronary critical care unit. She mentors student nurses and preceptor nurses new to coronary critical care, works outside of her staff role to assist in clinical education at orientation, and teaches in the medical center's critical care continuing education sessions. She has a calm, confident, and skilled approach when providing care to the patient and interacting with family and other clinical staff. She actively embraces continual professional growth through formal academic studies and supplemental clinical experiences outside of Brookhaven. She has continuously given of her time and expertise by serving on Brookhaven's organizational committees and significantly contributed to their ongoing goal of improving patient care. Margaret maintains an active role as a certified psychiatric nurse practitioner in private practice, thereby contributing to the well-being of the community. She is a true renaissance woman who is the very vision and image of the professional nurse.

Eastern Long Island Hospital

Caprice N. Grace RN, BSN

Caprice has been at Eastern Long Island for 14 years. She presently works in the PACU/ASU, where she assesses patients in response to the surgical procedures and anesthesia throughout the peri-operative period. She exudes a calm confidence, which conveys a reassuring, relaxed and efficient atmosphere to both patients and staff. Caprice is able to keep a level head in a fast-paced area. Her professionalism and personality combined create a soothing environment for patients and peers. She is articulate and empathetic in communicating with her patients. She always

presents a positive attitude, demonstrates a willingness to work with patients, and supports her peers in advancing their knowledge and expertise. Teaching plays a large role in both her professional and personal life. During working hours, she spends time educating both pre-and post-surgical patients. She teaches at community events promoting health awareness. Caprice is a valued and respected asset to Eastern Long Island Hospital.

Franklin Hospital Medical Center

Lisa B. Chung, RN, C-MA

Director of Nursing Education

Lisa joined Franklin Hospital in 2003 and is responsible for the education of nursing staff at all levels. She has implemented numerous programs and projects, including an ongoing process for competency, management in the patient care areas, the Health System's model of care ("patient comes first"), mandatory program development, and an on-site preceptor program, to name a few. She coordinates initial and continuing education programs that are either computer-based or instructor-led sessions, and has oversight for the orientation program of new nursing employees. Lisa initiated and chairs a multidisciplinary patient education committee, representing physical therapy, nutritional services, social work, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, and nursing. She participates in community health fairs, both on-and off-site, and provides education and screening for members of the community. Lisa is the epitome of a nurse and a nurse leader.

Glen Cove Hospital

**Evelyn Mulvaney, RN, BSN, BLS, ACLS,
PALS, TNCC**

Nurse Manager

Evelyn has been at Glen Cove for 28 years and is currently nurse manager of the emergency department. She functions as a role model and mentor and has demonstrated many achievements in this role. Under her leadership, the

emergency department has achieved excellence in many areas. The most significant accomplishment is in the Press Ganey Scores for patient satisfaction: the Emergency Department has reached its goal of the 90th percentile for the last 14 quarters. To achieve this success, it was necessary for this manager to motivate the staff to change many processes. She is compassionate to her patients, as well as to her staff. She does not think twice about getting out of bed in the middle of the night to assist the ED if there is a surge in volume. She has inspired many nurses to continue their education. Evelyn is a tremendous asset to the emergency department, as well as to Glen Cove Hospital.

Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
Eileen M. Roberto, RN, BS, CHPN
Nurse Manager, Breast Health and Palliative Care Services

Eileen has been a nurse for more than 25 years. As nurse manager of the Breast Center and Palliative Care Service, she continues to work tirelessly to transform the quality of life for all patients she encounters and for those who will be touched by the staff she has mentored. She coordinates community education projects, and personally facilitates several support groups. Her vision and leadership is responsible for the birth and growth of the palliative care program at Good Samaritan with the addition of an 11-bed Acute Palliative Care Unit. The vision then moved beyond the walls of the hospital to include its sister hospitals and nursing homes. Eileen has partnered with nursing colleagues from hospice and home care to form the Long Island Chapter of the Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association, for which she serves as its vice president. She continues to share her vision at the national level.

Huntington Hospital
Marie O. Cazeau, RN, MSN, ANP-C
Clinical Nursing Supervisor/Adjunct Faculty/Adult Nurse Practitioner

Marie has been a nurse for 24 years and wears many hats: she is currently a full-time clinical nursing supervisor at Huntington Hospital, works part-time as an adult nurse practitioner at a cardiology office and serves as an adjunct clinical instructor at a local university. One of her job responsibilities is to act as the liaison to the ancillary staff, in addition to being responsible for routine environmental rounds. The charge and staff

RNs all feel secure when she is making rounds, as they know she maintains a calm demeanor and works hard to obtain what the individual units need. There are no issues that are too big for Marie to handle, nor too small that she would deem unimportant. After learning that a school collapsed in Haiti, she obtained donations and went there twice with medical supplies, equipment, and clothing. She has advanced her career as a nurse and truly embraces the profession clinically, in education for herself and others, as a leader in a supervisory role, and through her tireless community involvement. She is an outstanding role model.

John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
Denise Driscoll, RNC, CARN, CS, NPP
Director, Adult Partial Hospitalization Program

Denise has been a nurse for 22 years. This program is a comprehensive outpatient program that provides individual, group and family therapy, medication management to patients, and support for their families for six hours per day. In that capacity, she is the consummate role model for clinical excellence and patient advocacy. She excels in maintaining the smooth functioning of this very demanding partial hospitalization program for mentally ill adults. She provides leadership to an interdisciplinary team of psychiatric social workers, psychiatric nurse practitioners, mental health counselors, and psychiatrists. Denise coordinates the quality assurance and performance improvement projects for the program, which are utilized to enhance the delivery of patient care. She functions as a preceptor to graduate nursing students from the local university. She is always available, approachable, accountable, loyal to her peers and hospital, and always is seen as an excellent leader and role model.

Long Beach Medical Center
Maria B. Thompson, BSN, RN C

Maria is a staff nurse on a very busy medical surgical unit who is well respected by her colleagues, medical staff, patients and their family members. As a senior nurse on the unit, she functions as a source of leadership and guidance for her colleagues. She is an exemplary professional, always remaining calm and composed, even in the most stressful situations. She has taken on the role of mentor to students, orientees, and agency nurses. Maria has an innate ability to function and lead in

various conditions. This ability enables her to precept and mentor new nurses, regardless of their experience. She has an excellent rapport with the medical staff, as well as other disciplines in the hospital. She is the ultimate team player and has been known to change her schedule in order to provide better coverage for the unit. Maria works diligently to make things better for the next generation of nurses and she will definitely be leaving her mark on the profession. She is the true “nurse’s nurse” who takes pride in her work and the profession of nursing.

Molloy College

Joan T. Ginty, MS, RN, C-ANP Assistant Professor/Coordinator Adult Nurse Practitioner Tract

Joan has been a faculty member in the graduate nursing program since 1993. She was instrumental in developing the adult nurse practitioner tract and has continued to be a key figure in the continuing development and refinement of the nurse practitioner programs over the last sixteen years. As a tenured assistant professor of nursing, Joan is flexible, fair, and an excellent role model for combining teaching, practice, her family and her community, balancing all with amazing finesse. To her colleagues, she is a “go-to” person. She is known for her dependability and as the dispenser of common sense advice to fellow faculty colleagues and students. She has a reputation for being an outspoken advocate for students and faculty. She maintains her clinical practice by volunteering at a primary care clinic that serves the uninsured and underinsured on Long Island. Joan is a trusted and respected teacher, colleague, committee member, community member, and friend to all who interact with her.

Nassau University Medical Center

Christine D. Mancuso, RN, BSN Public Health Nurse, Nurse Manager, Director of Cancer Screening Grant

Christine is the nurse manager of the Breast Imaging Center, which includes oversight of the mobile mammography van. She oversees the New York State Department of Health Screening Grant. She is a long-time advocate for cancer screening services for the uninsured and under-insured population. Christine is the ultimate professional who expects the same from all levels of staff and always strives to create a patient-centered model of care. She maintains good communications with

all disciplines to foster the highest expectations and quality outcomes for her patients. Local nursing students rotate through the breast imaging area and always leave feeling mentored and enthusiastic about their future roles as professionals. She has demonstrated 30 years of commitment, compassion and caring to the patients she serves. Her special quality extends far beyond the walls of the Medical Center as she participates in significant outreach programs to promote healthy living with a focus on women’s health.

New Island Hospital

Loretta Cassese, RN, BSN, J.D. Administrative Supervisor – Nursing Supervisor

Loretta’s energy and enthusiasm for doing the right thing for her patients has been contagious at New Island. Discharges, admissions, transfers to rehab, post-operative patients to be placed, visitors wanting to talk, add-on surgeries, and a busy E.D. are all part of a normal afternoon. This supervisor handles it all, not to mention mentoring staff and making sure everyone is doing what they are supposed to be doing. Loretta goes from place to place with the wherewithal of the Energizer Bunny and does not forget, even for a minute, that every step she takes affects a patient. She went to law school but, instead of leaving nursing behind, she embraced it. What she does is come to work every day with the true spirit of nursing, with a dedication that is communicated to every staff member, patient, and physician she meets. She represents the best interest of her patients with the vigor that an attorney represents a client, and she does it for the love of her profession.

North Shore University Hospital

Mary L. Fay, RN, MS, ANP-BC Nurse Educator in the Emergency Department

Mary has been a nurse for 29 years and presently works as a nurse educator in the emergency room. Her professionalism, compassion, empathy, and sensitivity make her a role model as she safeguards the pride, privacy, and self-respect of patients, leaving them with a sense of caring and well being. As an adjunct professor at Farmingdale State College, she has mentored future nurses since 2000. She is a proponent of the stroke program, collaborating with the stroke coordinator in the planning and implementation of the stroke code process and stroke educational

initiatives for neuroscience and emergency department nurses. One of her most satisfying and rewarding commitments is her yearly 10-day trip to a clinic in Honduras, doing physical assessment, treatment, medications, dentistry, and ophthalmology, and dispensing food and clothing. Mary is a role model and a caring nurse who has demonstrated the same values throughout her career.

Peconic Bay Medical Center

Cindy Howell, RN, BSN

Intensive Care Nurse

Cindy has been at Peconic Bay Medical Center for more than 25 years. She has demonstrated achievement in critical care and has served as a role model who inspires other nurses to improve the quality of their own performance. She has constantly provided outstanding performance as demonstrated through her extensive knowledge base, outstanding clinical skills, ability to be a role model, mentoring abilities, leadership and participation in collaborative practice. She exhibits determination and excellence and supports other health care professional team members. Cindy is also the hospital's American Heart Association Community Training Center Coordinator. She coordinates, teaches, and facilitates the staffing of classes while maintaining all administrative records. She consistently improves the perception of nursing through her practice in the hospital and the community.

Plainview Hospital

Maureen McCormick, RN, IBCLC

Staff Nurse and Lactation Consultant

Maureen has been a nurse for 15 years and works in the NICU unit as a lactation consultant. She has worked at Plainview Hospital for nine years. Her primary roles are direct patient care, charge responsibilities, staff education related to lactation, and patient education, including assisting another lactation consultant with running a lactation support group for the community. Maureen also conducts childbirth education classes for expectant parents. She is on a mission to enhance the practices within her unit to benefit patients and their babies, firmly believing that breastfeeding is the best nutrition for babies. She strives to educate and prepare her patients for discharge, instilling them with confidence and skill to expertly care for their newborns. She demonstrates leadership qualities when interacting with her patients and

colleagues on a daily basis. She is a role model for staff and a future leader in nursing.

St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center

Sharon A. Cash, RN

Nurse Recruiter

One of Sharon's biggest job accomplishments was reducing the hospital's vacancy rate from 25 percent when she started her nurse recruiter position in 2000 to the hospital's current three percent vacancy rate. She is responsible for nurse recruitment and retention, and is the hospital's nursing liaison to nursing schools, job fairs, and student nursing associations. She promotes the professionalism of St. Catherine's nurses and facility in all that she does. She fosters a positive image of nursing to the community, coordinating and participating in a "Healthy Sundays" program, and bringing health care to lower income communities. Sharon does monthly blood pressure screenings at a local senior housing complex. She has a warm and kind heart, and the personal time she offers to all employees, her concern for them, their careers, and their families is impossible to measure. She is the nurse people would want to care for them. Sharon is a true leader, role model, confidant and friend to the staff.

St. Charles Hospital

Kathleen Collins, RN

Nursing Care Coordinator of Intensive Care

Kathleen has been at St. Charles for 32 years. Her current roles include serving as the nursing care coordinator of the Intensive Care Unit and the Hemodialysis, Epilepsy, Stroke, and Bariatric programs, as well as the manager of nursing supervision 24/7. She seems to be everywhere at once, and is in the hospital at all hours of the day and night. She is regarded as the pinnacle of stability in a sometimes rocky environment. Each of her units and programs are patient- and physician-friendly, with excellent outcomes. Kathleen rarely says no, and always has innovative and creative ideas for seemingly impossible situations. Her strength brings a source of comfort to tense people in tense situations. She is an exemplary role model for all nursing staff, as well as a pillar of energy, strength, and knowledge. She relates to everyone on every level — her colleagues, staff, administration and physicians. In addition to those she manages, new managerial staff relies on her as their mentor.

South Nassau Communities Hospital

Silvia V. Johns, RN

Assistant Nurse Manager

Silvia is a registered nurse in the Family Medicine Center. Nurses and physicians seek her out when faced with a challenging patient or family situation, and she is always there with a calm demeanor and a helping hand. She demonstrates competence, professionalism and an indomitable work ethic. She maintains patient flow, ensures all team members have the resources needed to provide optimal patient care, provides direct patient care and education, and fosters collaboration among multiple disciplines. Silvia has been a key participant in the implementation of numerous patient care initiatives, including the prenatal care assistance program, antepartum testing services in the clinic, prenatal classes, lactation classes and a teen pregnancy class. She extends her caring into her local community by volunteering annually to participate in local health fairs and community outreach programs for underserved populations. She displays a genuine commitment to South Nassau's goals and values.

Southampton Hospital

Katrin Keane, RN, BSN

Nurse Manager, Emergency

Katrin has been a nurse for 24 years and at Southampton for fewer than three years. In that short amount of time, she has made a tremendous impact on the hospital as a whole. Working with the nurse recruiter and on her own, she slowly but steadily started to decrease the vacancy rate in her department from 33 percent to 5.26 percent. She chairs the resuscitation committee, and is an active member of the stroke medication management, infection control, emergency services, and ethics committees. She is a champion of patient and family rights and pushes the thinking of committee members to a higher plane. She has participated in the selection, plan and implementation of a new emergency department computer system and is the nursing representative on the emergency department redesign team. Since she has been at Southampton, she has established the emergency department as a training site for local emergency medical services and holds seats on their advisory committees. She is an educator, mentor and advocate, continuously raising the bar for the delivery of quality patient care.

Southside Hospital

Gloria Defeo, RN, MA, CCRN

Gloria has been a nurse for 38 years and has been at Southside for 28 of those years. In her current role as a critical care nurse in the ICU/CCU, she functions in many capacities. She is a staff nurse, a preceptor to the fledgling critical care nurses, and a relief charge nurse. She delivers patient care with skill, patience, and compassion. One invaluable skill she processes is insight, which allows her to assess all sides of an equation and to make the correct choices no matter what the situation. Gloria is a facilitator and is able to diffuse any situation with her calm demeanor and voice of reason. She welcomes all the changes in medicine and staff. She believes in sharing her knowledge and expertise with others less fortunate. Not only does she organize and participate in medical missions abroad, she sponsors students so that they may attend school. She is very hard working and always looking for opportunities to improve herself, the unit or just to lend a hand.

Stony Brook University Medical Center

Cindyann Beck, RN, BSN

Teaching and Research Center Nurse II

Cindyann works as a bedside nurse in a Level III neonatal intensive care unit. She goes above and beyond her role as a bedside nurse and has a positive, helpful approach toward the families and her colleagues. She is currently working with Stony Brook's legal department to improve the newborn infant identification process. She recently spent a week in Romania with a medical relief program caring for underprivileged infants. Cindyann graduated from and is an active participant in the Quality Fellowship Program and NICU's improvement projects. She always volunteers to take an active role in precepting students during their rotations through NICU. She regularly participates in the SWAT teams for Joint Commission readiness. She maintains a website to promote the nursing profession and offer support and references to nursing students.

Syosset Hospital

Virginia Johnson, RN

Virginia works in the telemetry unit at Syosset and has been a nurse for 30 years. Virginia administers quality care to patients who need cardiac monitoring for various cardiac and respiratory problems, as well as patients who need medical or surgical

intervention for various health issues. She assists the discharge planner and other disciplines to make sure that patients return to the community with the necessary support in place. She has the unique ability to create a calm environment for her patients, their families and her co-workers. Virginia is the president of the nurses' guild at her church and, through this organization, offers blood pressure screenings, seminars and other health-related offerings to the community. She is acutely aware of the need to teach the general public and has written health-related articles for the Christian lifestyle publication, *A More Excellent Way*. Virginia epitomizes what every patient, family member, manager and hospital wants: "a more excellent nurse."

Suffolk County Community College
Professor Alice F. Kucmeroski, RN, MA, BC
Adjunct Faculty Coordinator

Alice has been a nurse for 47 years; the last 14 years of her career have been spent as a nursing faculty member. Teaching nursing has been the highlight of her career, where she is able to share her knowledge and experience to the fullest. Her influence on nursing and nursing education reaches far into the next generation of nurses. She retired from faculty status in the fall of 2007 and returned in the capacity of adjunct faculty coordinator. In this role, she is responsible for orienting new nursing adjunct faculty to the role of nurse educator. She demonstrates the nursing faculty role by providing mentorship in the clinical area. Alice's outstanding communication skills, positive attitude, kindness, patience, and compassion for patients, students and faculty make her an outstanding role model in this capacity.

Veterans Administration Medical Center
Janet E. Allmer, RN, BSN, CIC
Infection Control Nurse Manager

Janet has been at the VA for 20 years. Her dynamic background and expertise have played a vital role in the excellence of the infection control program. She is an invaluable member of the Infectious Disease and HIV screening clinics, case-manages the HIV population, and continues to run the Hepatitis C education clinic for co-infected patients. She works collaboratively with all hospital services to develop effective programs. Part of her role is the orientation of new staff for the infection control team. She always strives to maintain a high standard of care for the patients. An

ardent patient advocate, she goes the distance to ensure patient populations with HIV are provided the services and support they need. Janet provides hands-on care to the complex population of patients: whether being part of the pandemic influenza planning group, mentoring her colleagues, seeking education to expand her already immense knowledge base or managing a floor in the recovery room, she keeps pace. Janet continues to raise the bar for clinical excellence at the VA.

Winthrop University Hospital
Patricia Pearsall, RN, MSN, ONC, NE-BC
Nurse Manager, Orthopedics/Med Surg

Patricia has been a nurse for more than 30 years. She is currently the nurse manager of the orthopaedic unit at Winthrop. She is dedicated to the patients on her unit, making daily patient rounds to evaluate their care and well-being. She introduced innovative practice changes to benefit the orthopaedic patient population, such as improving the post-operative diet. Working diligently with the dietary department, she helped eliminate patients' nausea and vomiting with a light post-operative diet. When OrthoPat, an orthopedic perioperative autotransfusion system, was introduced to Winthrop, Patricia investigated the equipment and developed an education and implementation plan. This resulted in a decrease in required transfusions for post-operative joint patients, which also decreased the staffing required to use this equipment. The need for fewer transfusions is a positive result for the patients and a cost savings for the institution. She successfully obtained certification in Orthopaedic Nursing and Nursing Executive. She is a role model for her staff and peers.

THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

2009 Nurse of Excellence

PRIOR RECIPIENTS

Long Island Nominations to the New York State Nurse of Distinction Award Program 1989 - 1995

Eleanor O'Boyle, J. T. Mather Memorial
Sr. Rita Vanson, Mercy Medical Center
Rachel Lin (deceased), Komanoff Center for Geriatric & Rehab Medicine (NYS recipient)
Dorothy Pessoli, Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Mildred O'Connor, Lutheran Center for the Aging
Nancy Maehl, Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Darlene Paduano, University Hospital at Stony Brook
Carolyn Van Helden, St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

Nassau-Suffolk Nurse of Excellence Award sponsored by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council

1996 *Phyllis Parker*, J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital
1997 *Alice Friedrich*, North Shore University at Plainview
1998 *Elizabeth Devine*, J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital
1999 *Kathleen Miller*, Long Beach Medical Center
2000 *Kathleen Southerton*, University Hospital at Stony Brook
2001 *Susan Hovani*, J.T. Mather Memorial Hospital
2002 *Donna M. Johnson*, Nassau University Medical Center
2003 *Virginia Reichert*, North Shore University Hospital at Manhasset
2004 *Madeline Cozzi-Gottlieb*, So. Nassau Communities Hospital
2005 *Kathleen Perro*, St. Francis Hospital
2006 *May-Lynn Andresen*, No. Shore – LIJ Health System
2007 *Donna A. Tanzi*, Huntington Hospital
2008 *Amy B. Pakes*, Nassau University Medical Center
2009 *Eileen M. Roberto*, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center



The teapot tradition began in the 1980s with the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program. The first recipient of the Long Island Nurse of Distinction nomination spoke of the challenges that nurses and all of health care face, and will face, in the decades to come. In keeping with the message that day, it was recollected her comments included, "most of us nurses are like teabags, we don't know our own strength until we get into hot water."

The allegory resonated among those involved in the program and it eventually became a custom for a prior recipient of the Nurse of Excellence award to bestow a teapot upon the current honoree. The teapots remind our honored colleagues of their achievement and of their strengths. Like each of us, the teapots are seldom exactly alike. They celebrate the unique value that each Nurse of Excellence brings to those they serve. And, the teapot symbolizes and reminds us that "hot water" often brings out the best in us and in our profession.

NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL

*Representing the not-for-profit and public hospitals
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