

# Recognition

## Nurses Who Passed Boards

Patricia Snyder- PPHP 8- SLB  
Kelly Kelchner- PPHP8- SLB  
Maureen Lenhan- OR- SLA

## Professional Presentations

Maria Schantz, RN, PhD. Of SLH School of Nursing at Moravian College presented a poster entitled: Dialogical, Problem-Posing Education at the NLN Nurse Educator Conference at Orlando, FL on January 11-13/08.

Kerry H. Cheever, PhD, RN of SLH School of Nursing at Moravian College presented a paper and lecture entitled Integrating EBP into the Nursing Curriculum at the Nursing Education Symposium, Kingston, Jamaica on February 16, 2008.

## Professional Publications

Kerry H. Cheever, PhD, RN of SLH School of Nursing at Moravian College has published a book entitled IV Therapy DeMystified. It was published in 2008 by McGraw-Hill.

## Professional Awards

Kerry H. Cheever, PhD, RN of SLH School of Nursing at Moravian College received an American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year (2008) Award for work as associate editor on: Smeltzer, S., Bare, B., Hinkle, J. & Cheever, K. (2008). Brunner & Suddarth's textbook of medical-surgical nursing (11th ed.). LWW: Philadelphia.

## Certifications

Kris Levine, LPN, Neurology Specialty Program Coordinator, earned an MS Certified Specialist (MSCS) designation that is awarded to physicians, rehabilitation professionals, licensed nursing professionals, social workers, psychologists, neuro-psychologists and other licensed personnel who successfully complete a rigorous examination. Since the first exam in 2004, Kris is among only 140 health care professionals nationwide to have achieved this special level of expertise.

## Congratulations

Eileen Taff, RN, BSN, Manager of CV Integrated Clinical Trials, was recently named one of Northampton Community College's 40 Fabulous Alumni.

## Correction

Last issue, an article about Home Bound Patients that was written by Mary Louise Zimmerman, BSN, RN, Home Care Nursing Administrator, was accredited to Deb Holmberg. Our apologies!

## Quest for Nursing Excellence campus representatives:

Alicia Afif, SLA, Ext. 8319 or [afifa@slhn.org](mailto:afifa@slhn.org)  
Jane Fisk, SLB, Ext. 4395 or [fiskj@slhn.org](mailto:fiskj@slhn.org)  
Marianne Kellner, SLM, Ext. 134 or [kellnem@slhn.org](mailto:kellnem@slhn.org)  
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Judy Wlostowski, VNA, Ext. 2717 or [wlostoj@slhn.org](mailto:wlostoj@slhn.org)  
Network Marketing Director and Quest editor Denise Rader, Ext. 4104 or [raderd@slhn.org](mailto:raderd@slhn.org)

## Governor Rendell's RX for PA continued from page 3

prevention of hospital-acquired infections (HAI's), with reporting on outcomes to the public. Charges for an average hospital stay is \$35,000, an extended stay complicated by infection costs \$100,000-\$150,000 - the human and economic implications of preventing infection is clear. The challenge for nursing is tremendous.

### Cover All Pennsylvanians (CAP):

Included in the governor's Rx for PA is the Cover All Pennsylvanians (CAP) proposal, which will provide low cost health insurance for eligible participants. There are close to 800,000 residents in Pennsylvania who do not carry health insurance, primarily due to the rising cost of premiums. Health insurance premiums are costly, making it very difficult for individuals and employers with small businesses to pay. Since 2002, the average wage earner's salary has only increased by 13% while costs of health insurance have gone up 75%!

Funding for CAP is expected from multiple sources, including monies from surplus funds in the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) budget, Medicare matching funds, and increased tax on tobacco products. Legislation related to this and another proposal is currently being debated in the House of Representatives.

This summarizes components in the governor's recipe for a healthier health care system (so far). More information is available at the web areas cited in the sources below.

### Sources:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 2008-2009, Executive budget facts. Retrieved March 10, 2008 from <http://www.governor.state.pa.us>.  
Rendell, E.G.. (2008). Frequently asked questions. Retrieved March 10, 2008 from <http://www.RxforPA.com>.



# Quest for Nursing Excellence

Spring 2008

Throughout St. Luke's Network I see and hear of nurses making a difference everyday – continuously, effectively and efficiently. So often in fact do we change lives that we often fail to appreciate the impact we have on others.



Carol Kuplen, RN, MSN

**St Luke's**  
My Health. My Hospital.™

Dear Colleagues,

The theme for this year's Nurse Week is *Nurses: Making a difference Everyday*. This "truth" spans all nursing specialties, roles and sites of practice.

Whether through comprehensive assessments, application of evidence based nursing interventions, professional contributions or educating new nurses; nurses change lives. Making a difference is the hallmark of nursing.

Throughout St. Luke's Network I see and hear of nurses making a difference everyday – continuously, effectively and efficiently. So often in fact do we change lives that we often fail to appreciate the impact we have on others.

At this special time of the year I'd like to ask you to join me in reflecting on our good fortune to be part of such an incredible profession who on a daily basis has the honor to positively influence the lives of others. And we practice our profession surrounded by great colleagues in a supportive, challenging and ever growing network. We are truly blessed.

Thanks for everything you do that makes a difference, that changes lives.

*Carol Kuplen*

Carol Kuplen, VP & Senior Nurse Executive (center), visited the Incredible CW4 Multidisciplinary Team and was introduced to the various roles, processes and challenges on the unit. Kerri Weintraub, RN, BSN, Patient Care Manager (left) and Charity Ciccone, RN (right) spent time with Carol initiating her to the daily activities on the unit – multiple discharges, quickly followed by multiple admissions, one-on-ones, medication administration and treatments.

## St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital Receives Support of SANE Program

St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital was recently the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from Verizon to contribute to the purchase of vital new equipment for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at the hospital. SANE is a nationally accepted program which was developed to address the inadequacies in the traditional model for sexual assault medical evidentiary exams.

According to St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network SANE coordinator Janet Murray, BSN, RN, "The program consists of eleven nurses who share call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The nurses' backgrounds are in emergency medicine, intensive care and obstetrics. When an alleged rape victim comes into the hospital, the nurses are called upon for a head-to-toe forensic inspection."

She continued, "Most vital to the success of the program is collection of forensic evidence using a MedScope, a video colposcope used for the documentation of forensic evidence in cases of suspected sexual and physical abuse."

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## St. Luke's to Open Integrated Blood Management Program

By Kathy Ramson, RSN, MSN, Critical Care Director



St. Luke's will implement a Regional Blood Management Program at the Allentown and Bethlehem campuses beginning in July, 2008. Staffing the program is manager Robert Hodor, RN BSN and Susan Gonzalez, RN BSN. (For more information

on Bob, please see the *Stepping Up* section.)

Susan Hurst Gonzalez, RN, BSN, became a member of the St. Luke's team in January 2008 and is Coordinator of Blood Management. She is a graduate of the School of Nursing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and received her BSN from the University of Pennsylvania. Susan's previous nursing experience includes the Operating Room and Renal Transplant Specialty Services.

In addition to Susan and Bob joining the program, several of the staff received certification in Developing an Integrated Blood Conservation Program at the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Institute (BSMI). The certified nurses include Susan, Bob, Kathy Ramson, RN, MSN, and Marie Dieter, RN, BSN.

More information will be forthcoming about what integrated blood management is, how is it done and what treatable conditions use blood management techniques. This program will be the first of its kind in the Lehigh Valley.

## Springing into Action

By Cindy Max, RN, MSN, CNA, AVP, Patient Care Services

As we enter the spring season, it seems appropriate to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate our past accomplishments. The organization has vigorously embraced the framework of the Magnet program, while responding to the employee satisfaction feedback. Both these initiatives are very synergistic and complimentary in nature.

For example, employees identified the need to increase involvement in decision making. A plan for formalizing unit councils has been completed for every department. The majority of areas through out the network have councils in place or have identified membership and a timeline for this to occur.

In addition, increased staff representation has occurred for all entity and network wide committees, along with a transition for staff chairing or co-chairing these groups. Employees have also been involved in the development of action plans, based upon their department survey results. The over-riding goal is to involve the experts, bedside care-givers, in decisions that impact patient care.

Other accomplishments have included initiation of a clinical advancement program and peer review pilot. These strategies correlate to the employee's request for enhanced recognition of staff efforts and opportunities for professional growth. We have also implemented an improved performance based orientation program (*see related article on page 3*) and embarked on a staff nurse-driven research project involving a formal mentoring program. An evidence-based nursing internship program has also been initiated. Thirteen staff members have applied for these three exciting positions. The organization continues to encourage employee education, certification, national conference attendance and poster/oral presentations.

Improving communication has also been an important strategy. This relates to spreading the word about Magnet framework and philosophy, as well as meeting employee satisfaction survey recommendations. The senior administration visibility plan, which includes department rounding and staff shadowing experiences, has been implemented. The new intranet system will also certainly improve these processes. Multiple interdisciplinary and physician meetings have been held to review the Magnet designation process and reinforce the need for organizational support.

As the culture of our institution evolves, the Magnet program is doing the same. The existing fourteen forces of Magnetism will now be incorporated and organized around five model elements. These include transformational leadership, structural empowerment, exemplary professional practice, new knowledge and innovation, and empirical quality outcomes. The new manual and criteria will be available sometime mid 2008. It truly will be an exciting year! I hope you are looking forward to the future as we continue to embrace our profession and the Magnet philosophy.



## Governor Rendell's RX for PA

By Lori Hoffman, PhD, RN, Associate Professor  
St. Luke's School of Nursing at Moravian College

Introduced early in 2007 as HB 700, Gov. Edward Rendell's Prescription for Pennsylvania (Rx for PA) outlined initiatives to reform health care. The Rx for PA is a "recipe for health", an attempt to nourish our faltering health care system. We nurses must be informed, as these bold changes clearly impact our practice futures.

Three major areas are addressed through the Rx for PA: (Rendell, 2008)

- Guaranteeing affordable health care and coverage to Pennsylvania businesses and individuals
- Expanding access to the right kind of care, at the right time and place, and for the right cost
- Improving the quality of care that Pennsylvanians receive



### The Executive Orders:

Governor Rendell signed two executive orders in May 2007. The Chronic Care Management, Reimbursement and Cost Containment Commission was created through executive order and given responsibility for developing a comprehensive model for effective management of chronic diseases, such as asthma, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In that 78% of health care costs come from

20% of our patients with chronic illness, the work of this commission is important. Administrators from our network, including Carol Kuplen, Senior Nurse Executive, serve on advisory committees for the Commission.

The Office of Health Equity, was also created by executive order, and now exists along with an advisory group within the Department of Health. The office is responsible for leadership to improve the health status of underserved and disparate groups.

### Legislation

Last July, the governor signed scope of practice legislation enabling certified registered nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, physician assistants and dental hygienists to practice to the full extent of their education and training. For example, certified nurse midwives are now given prescriptive authority for managing ob-gyn patients, not heretofore recognized in the Pennsylvania. Another piece of legislation extends services that CNRP's provide, services which could only be ordered by physicians previously.

Enacted with the Governor's signature in July, was Act 52 of 2007: Healthcare-associated Infections. This new law requires health care facilities to develop system-wide, evidence based approaches to the

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## Neonatal Resuscitation Provider and Renewal Courses Provide Real-Life Simulation Training

By Toni Prelovsky, RN, MSN, CRNP

It was clear that the patient was in crisis.

The neonatal staff, consisting of the medical staff and unit nurses, jumped into emergency advanced life support and saved the baby, who in this case was a rubber doll with an attached computer.

The computer and doll were used as part of the Neonatal Resuscitation Provider and Renewal course that midwife Pat Bates, CRNP, Charlie Sondag, CRNP, and Toni Prelovsky, RN, MSN, CRNP, used to simulate a real-life scenario.

The interactive learning provides a practice situation in a real life-threatening scenario. The exercise is video-taped and participants may review in a non-punitive environment where they did well and where opportunities for improvement existed.

The multi-disciplinary team used actors as members of the family so that the staff was prepared to not only handle the medical emergency, but also to deal with the psychological, spiritual and social components of the patient and family.

The team participates in four or five scenarios to provide as much real-life hands-on experience as possible.

Toni Prelovsky, Clinical Nurse Specialist, said, "The result of the training is better prepared nurses, who feel empowered to respond to neonatal emergencies."

The training was originally provided to Toni, Charlie and Pat at Stanford University last spring. They have been offering the training since last March and have recently begun to conduct adult code blue training, as well. For more information, please contact Toni Prelovsky at 610-954-3023.



## Professional Practice Model and You!

The Transformational Model and Care Delivery Task Force, composed of staff nurses and managers from the Network, was formed to address deficiencies in SLHHN's (gap) analysis of magnet readiness in the area of professional models of care. Our "job" for the past year has been to create a Professional Practice Model for our network based on the Transformational Model.

What is the Transformational Model (TM)? It is a professional practice model in place at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. We chose the Transformational Model as a basis for our model because it allows for preservation of the individual personalities of the entities within a network similar to SLHHN. This model addresses 4 main components in a healthcare organization: Professional practice, process, primary outcomes, and strategic outcomes.

What is a Professional Practice Model (PPM)? It is a document which articulates the activities, principles and goals that guide nursing practice. Our model is patient centered. It consists of eight (8) components that we have aligned with our St Luke's Star (Fig. 1).

### Highlights from the 8 points include:

- Transformational Leadership – Defines our nursing vision: expert providers of patient care, patient centered, participatory leadership, PCRAFT, ease of access and patient centered.
- Care Delivery System – Focus on evidence based standards, accountability, responsibility, skill mix and patient needs, communication, partnerships for care
- Collaborative Practice – Shared Governance, Network integration, Interdisciplinary and Professional communication and conduct
- Professional Growth and Development – Continuing education, research, peer review, succession planning, precepting, and mentoring
- Process of Care - Critical thinking, negotiated and individualized plan of patient care, evidence based, outcome evaluation
- Patient Outcome Principles - Improved quality in processes, satisfaction, safety, technology and communication



- Network Integration – System integration for safety, quality, satisfaction, fiscal responsibility and work force vitality
- Strategic Outcomes – Consumer, organization and professional health

The SLHHN Professional Practice Model, along with our Philosophy of Nursing and our Governance Model will be found as addendums to the Plan for Providing Nursing Care in the Nursing Policies and Procedures Manual. In addition to developing the Professional Practice Model, we reviewed the Philosophy of Nursing (to which no changes were made) and the Plan for Providing Care.

What is the Plan for Providing Care? This document outlines the responsibilities of the Senior Nurse Executive and the Network Nurse Executive Council (NEC). It then defines nursing, its role, and reviews the development of staffing guidelines and staff mix.

Why do these documents make a difference to me? The SLHHN PPM provides the framework for the delivery of patient care and the environment in which it is delivered. It is our roadmap to quality outcomes. When read in their entirety these documents provide evidence of a commitment by SLHHN to excellence in patient care, staff and community satisfaction.

## Miners Cancer Nurse Sharon Oravec Recognized for Fighting Cancer



St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital Oncology Nurse Manager Sharon Oravec, RN, was recently honored by the American Cancer Society as one of three distinguished local volunteers.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), Sharon is a volunteer whose individual efforts have contributed to the success of ACS and has inspired others to join in the fight against cancer.

As a graduate of Pottsville Hospital School of Nursing, Sharon showed leadership as the class president for two years. She began her career at Coaldale State General Hospital and worked in pediatrics for nine years, three as head nurse. Fifteen years ago, she became the nurse manager of Oncology and ever since has been an active bedside cancer nurse manager.

In 1994, Sharon began her volunteerism with ACS when she represented Miners Memorial Medical Center at the ACS annual telethon to answer phones and solicit donations. Since then, she is a standard fixture at each telethon. Additionally, she has participated in the Relay for Life since the mid-1990's and has been a team captain for the past 10 years.

She is a member of the ACS Oncology Committee and has been a Daffodil Days direct sales coordinator for the past six years. She is affiliated with the Oncology Nursing Society, Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society and the Lehigh Valley Women's 5K.

Locally, she chairs the St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital's Annual Women's Breast Cancer Tea committee and is a previous winner of St. Luke's Nursing Excellence Award for Community Service.

## St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital Receives Support of SANE Program

*continued from cover page*

We are very thankful to Verizon for securing the funds to purchase our new MedScope."

"The forensic evidence collected by St. Luke's SANE nurses has dramatically increased the rate of conviction. Of the cases that were handled last year at St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital, 75 percent of the known perpetrators were convicted. They did not even go to trial because the forensic evidence collected was so strong, they all pleaded guilty prior to their trial," stated Murray.

Network-wide, the following nurses and physicians are SANE-trained:

- Keshia Dail SLB
- Gina Hausman SLA
- Nichole Misero SLB
- Janet Murray, BSN, RN Clinical Coordinator
- Michele Rafferty SLQ
- Diane Rinker SLA
- Diane Rinker SLA
- Lisa Rutter SLB
- Cindy Stettner SLB

## St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus Expansion Explained

Today, St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus has more than 7,300 adult admissions annually and has experienced growth annually since 1997. The number of new parents choosing to deliver their babies has reached



an all-time high. Nearly 1,600 births were recorded at the end of Fiscal Year 2007 – from 325 in 1997. Also, the emergency department has nearly 35,000 visits annually. To continue to meet the community's growing needs, the campus is currently undergoing an ambitious expansion that will more than double the size of the existing campus.

In January 2007, St. Luke's nationally-recognized heart program was introduced at the campus.

Some of the most advanced surgical procedures in the region, and even the world, are performed at the campus, including computer-assisted knee replacement surgery and total lumbar disc replacements.

And just recently, St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus began offering adjustable gastric lap banding.

What will the new expansion bring? To support growing volumes, the initial phase of the project will increase the number of medical-surgical beds to 88 and the number of critical beds to 15. The hospital is also doubling the size of its emergency department and adding an operating room and an additional cardiac cath lab to allow for more complex procedures. The plan also offers flexibility for future expansion of key departments, including inpatient beds, surgical suites and support space.

Ultimately, the hospital's expansion will also expand the workforce. An estimated 115 new direct positions will be available to qualified professionals as a result of campus growth. This includes openings for nurses, doctors, managers, technologists, clerical and administrative staff.

## Everybody Knows Ida



If you mention Ida Schuler's name on the Bethlehem Campus, most people will smile, nod and say, "I know Ida!"

As the youngest of 16 children growing up on a farm near Bangor PA, Ida's siblings pooled their funds to send her to nursing school.

As a graduate of the St. Luke's School of Nursing, class of 1950, you can say she's been part of the St. Luke's system for decades - almost six, to be exact. When she entered the St. Luke's School of Nursing in 1946, the school only accepted unmarried women directly out of high school to participate in the four-year program. The student nurses were strictly monitored and had to follow a high personal standard that included a modest night curfew to return to the dormitories, as well as scholastic and clinical accomplishments.

The plebe nurses wore black stocking and shoes upon entering nursing school and participated in an annual bonfire to burn the shoes and stockings that marked them as new students.

"Everyone who made it through the first six months participated in the bonfire," said Ida. "We couldn't wait to wear the nurse whites." Nurses in those days also wore the standard white cap that came unfolded. Student nurses were taught, among patient care and anatomy, how to fold their cap properly!

Ida started out at St. Luke's as a medical surgical nurse and was asked to develop the psychiatric unit where she was a psychiatric nurse for years, moving on to management, infection control and landing in Educational Services in 1990 where she's been teaching ever since.

As a nurse educator, she's touched the lives of employees, patients and community members alike. She teaches and coaches assistive personnel, participates in employee orientation and coordinates and conducts the campuses' CPR classes.

After being a nurse for 58 years and working at St. Luke's for 45 of those years, Ida has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

"I enjoy teaching and doing what I'm doing," she explained. "I have no plans to retire and will stay at St. Luke's as long as they will have me!"

## Celebration of St. Luke's Miners Health Center and Focus on Karen J. Smith, RN, MSN, CRNP

By Andrea Visnosky, Marketing Director  
St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital



When you hear the passion and excitement in Karen Smith's voice as she talks about the importance of nursing, it is no wonder why she played such a critical role in the opening of the St. Luke's Miners Health Center.

Starting out as a nurses' aide at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan at the age of 14, Karen has always known her place in life is in health care, helping people. The Health Center is run on the same principle - helping people by providing them with an opportunity to have access to quality health care, access some people did not have before the clinic opened. Karen and her colleagues were able to open the Health Center in just twelve weeks!

The first of its kind in the region, and the Network, the Health Center began accepting patients in mid-December 2007. The Health Center, otherwise referred to as a rural health clinic, is located in Nesquehoning. The community is part of an identified medically-underserved area. The clinic will provide easy access to quality health care in the area that includes Summit Hill, Nesquehoning, Lansford and Coaldale and surrounding communities.

The Health Center will provide health care coverage to a primary area with more than 3,500 local patients, and according to PA Department of Health projections, an additional 10,000 patients from surrounding areas.

A physician, nurse practitioners and physicians assistants provide the care required to patients of all ages. No patient will be denied access to care - wellness exams, immunizations, sick visits and lab work are all services provided by the highly-skilled staff at St. Luke's Miners Health Center.

The opening of the Health Center has proven to be the most fulfilling experience in Karen's life. She feels rewarded to have been able to use her nursing, administrative and clinical skills to open a facility which will provide care to so many people who wouldn't have received it otherwise.

The goals for St. Luke's Miners Health Center are to add more services directed towards adolescents and to introduce community education programs. Opening a second site could become reality in the near future, as the team at St. Luke's Miners is evaluating other medically-underserved area designations.

St. Luke's Miners Health Center is located at 108 West Catawissa St. in Nesquehoning. The Health Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm. The St. Luke's Miners Health Center can be reached at 570-669-9787.

## Announcing the Advanced Practice Professionals Organization of St. Luke's

By Sandra Mesics CNM MSN RN  
Director, Diploma Program at St. Luke's School of Nursing

More than 60 Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants attended the Inaugural meeting of the Advanced Practitioner Professionals Organization (APPO) of St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network. Participants at this dinner meeting were welcomed by Carol Kuplen, Vice President and Senior Nurse Executive, and Dr. Jeffrey Jahre, Vice President for Medical Affairs.

There has been significant growth in the number of Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) in the St. Luke's Health Network. In 1987, there were four PAs with hospital privileges, and in 2007, the number grew to 159. Likewise, in 1987, there were no CRNPs credentialed, and in 2007, there are 67. Ms. Kuplen and Dr. Jahre both reiterated that CRNPs and PAs are the future of healthcare.

The APPO began in January 2007, with a small committee of dedicated individuals, including Maureen Barrett, MPAS, PA-C, Lisa Culligan, MSN, CRNP, CEN, Joan Crete, MSN, CRNP, Carol Huennekens, CRNP, Mary Fran Lipinski, PA-C, Michelle Mair, MSN, CRNP, and Sandra Mesics, RN, CNM. Co-chairs of the group were named: Maureen Barrett, PA-C and Sandra Mesics, CNM.

In July 2007, the group surveyed all PAs, CNMs, and CRNPs credentialed at St. Luke's to determine their practice profiles, meeting preferences as well as suggestions for specific topics of interest they would like to hear about during meetings. In November, 2007, the APPO adopted a mission statement which included the following functions:



- To establish and provide an effective means of communication among all Advanced Practitioners within SLHHN
- To establish means for ongoing educational offerings
- To actively address functional practice issues, state regulations, billing, reimbursement, quality improvement, and business practice
- To standardize a core orientation piece through Medical Affairs as part of credentialing
- To establish the ability for Advanced Practitioners to serve memberships on Medical Staff Committees.
- To promote the integration of appropriate research findings into practice.

The group's goals for 2008 are to provide quarterly dinner meetings with speakers and CME opportunities, and to initialize an intranet presence linked to the Hospital Intranet. For more information, contact Maureen Barrett or Sandra Mesics.

## Meet the St. Luke's Team of Infection Control and Prevention

By Steven J. Schweon, RN, MPH, CIC, HEM

The St. Luke's Hospital - Allentown Campus and - Bethlehem Campus Infection Control and Prevention Department is committed to protecting our patients, employees, physicians, volunteers and visitors from infection and adverse outcomes. We strive to promote a safe workplace environment to reduce the occurrence of communicable disease transmission and hospital-associated infections by using evidenced-based practices.

Our team of registered nurses are specially educated in the principles of infection prevention and epidemiology. We partner with all departments to coordinate efforts and reduce infection risk.

Our infection prevention program's success requires the participation of every member of the hospital community to promote infection prevention interventions (e.g. hand hygiene) during all patient and colleague interactions.

Our team consists of: Steven J. Schweon RN, MPH, CIC, HEM: Coordinator at Ext. 4614; Shyla Harris RN, BSN: Infection Control Nurse at Ext. 4819; and Jacqui Heiserman RN, BSN: Infection Control Nurse at Ext. 4613. (For biographical information about Shyla and Jacqui, please see the *Introducing* section.)

Please feel free to call Infection Control with any concern or questions.



**Lisa Festermaker, RN, BS, CIC**, has been named **Coordinator Accreditation and Standards**. Her previous role at St. Luke's was as the SLQH Director, Quality & Safety. Lisa graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology. After graduation she began working in a microbiology laboratory and spending time teaching physicians, resi-

dents and nurses microsurgery techniques and laser surgery safety. She returned to the evening weekend program at St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing from which she received her diploma in nursing. She has previous experience in operating room nursing and working as an in-vitro fertilization coordinator in a private physician practice. Lisa began working as the Infection Control/Employee Health nurse at SLQH in 2002. She received her certification in Infection Control in 2005.



**Skye Hawk, RN**, was recently named **Clinical Coordinator, Medical Intensive Care Unit**. Skye graduated from St. Luke's School of Nursing in August 2006. She was a Student Nurse Extern during nursing school and transitioned to a graduate nurse in the MICU. Skye has been a preceptor to graduate nurses in the MICU, as well as a member of the scheduling committee. Skye

received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Lafayette College in 2002. She was employed at Fox Chase Cancer Center for 2 years as a Research Scientist, where she studied the development of an ovarian cancer model in mouse colonies. Skye is originally from Newton, NJ and currently resides in Lehigh.



**Carolyn Heft, RN**, has accepted the position of **Education Specialist for Behavioral Health Inpatient Services**. Carolyn is a 2006 graduate of St. Luke's School of Nursing and works as a staff nurse on NW7. Carolyn obtained her BS in Health Education from Russell Sage College in 1981 and worked for many years in the mental health and education fields as a Behavioral

Specialist. In her new role, Carolyn will support the education initiatives for the Inpatient Behavioral Health Staff at the Bethlehem and Quakertown campuses.



**Robert (Bob) Hodor, RN, BSN** was recently named **Manager of the Integrated Blood Conservation Program**. He joined St. Luke's in May of 1977. He has held several positions within the Network, most recently, as the Director of Renal Services. He is a graduate of East Stroudsburg State College where he received his BSN.

Bob served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1968 to 1974. He may be reached at Ext. 4891.



**Carolyn Long, RN, CCRN** was promoted to **Critical Care Clinical Coordinator** in December, 2007. Carolyn has been a member of the St. Luke's family since 1995. She is a graduate of Lehigh County Community College and will be pursuing her BSN at Moravian College. Carolyn maintains certification in critical care nursing (CCRN) and

is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

**Deb Schroettner, RN, BS**, recently joined the management team in the position of **Manager of Ambulatory Systems in the Information Technology** department. Deb has her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Temple University. She has been employed for 18 years at St. Luke's. Her previous positions include staff nurse, assistant nurse manager, house supervisor and clinical analyst in Information Technology.



**Melissa Weigand, RN, BSN**, was promoted to **Manager of Quality and Resource Utilization at the VNA of St Luke's**. Melissa graduated from Northampton County Community College in 1985. Her initial years of nursing experience were acquired on a medical floor followed by five years as a Diabetes Educator at Easton Hos-

pital. During that time, Melissa pursued her BSN from De Sales University graduating in 1995. She joined the VNA of St. Luke's in 1997 working as a field nurse for four years prior to assuming a Quality Resource role in 2001. While enrolled in a leadership course in 2006, Melissa initiated the Laps for Literacy walkathon to purchase books for marginally literate families served in the VNA's community health programs. In the past two years, the walkathon raised more than \$6,800.



**Shyla Harris, RN, BSN**, joined the Infection Control & Prevention Department last year. She is a Lehigh Valley native and graduate of Villanova University. She has clinical experience with both orthopedics and long term care. She has worked at the Allentown Health Bureau during the past 8 years in the areas of lead poisoning, communicable diseases, pandemic preparedness and bioterrorism. Shyla can be reached at 954-4819 or pager # 508-3043.



**Jacqui Heiserman, RN** joined the Infection Control and Prevention Department last year. She is a lifelong resident of the Lehigh Valley. As an RN, Jacqui worked in a variety of community settings, has a strong public health background and is also experienced in orthopedics and oncology. She is a graduate of Cedar Crest College. She has a strong interest in infectious diseases, infection prevention and education. She plans to pursue her MSN next year. Jacqui can be reached at 954-4613 or pager 610-740-2645.



**Jill Williston, RT, RN, BSN, CCRN**, joined St. Luke's Hospital Bethlehem campus this fall as an Education Specialist for MICU and Critical Care Clinical Coordinator for the critical care division. Jill's career in healthcare began 25 years ago as a Radiology Technologist in the Philadelphia area. She received her Associate in Nursing from Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA and her BSN from Hahnemann Hospital/Drexel University in 1996. She has maintained CCRN certification since 1994. Jill has worked in various aspects of critical care including Emergency services, cardiac resuscitation team, Interventional Radiology and PICC service. She served as critical care educator for Central Montgomery Medical Center in Lansdale, PA prior to joining St. Luke's. Jill has been involved with various performance improvement initiatives including the IHI Saving 100K lives campaign, stroke program, Joint Commission Core Measures and patient safety task force. Jill is a BLS/ACLS and ACLS experienced provider instructor and served as site coordinator for ACLS at Central Montgomery Medical Center.

## News from the OR and Beyond

### Nurses Caring For Our Furry Friends

Four members of the OR staff in Bethlehem work or volunteer at the Center for Animal Health and Well Being (formerly known as the Northampton County SPCA).



Julie Kell RN is president for the center, Melanie Wreccsics RN is employed part time and works every Saturday for the past 2 years. Anne Griffin RN BSN CNOR and Sandy Hintze RN volunteer their time for various duties such as general clean up and vaccination clinics. Many pets have been adopted by the OR staff with this team bringing adoptee information and heart breaking stories about some of these pets. Contact information for CAHN 1165 Island Park Rd, Easton PA 610-252-7722 or you may contact Julie Kell directly at 610-657-3492.

### Hosting Explorer Group

In January, the OR staff participated in hosting an explorer group of 21 freshman and sophomore high school students. The students were given a tour of the OR suites, the opportunity to handle surgical instruments, and were dressed in surgical scrub gowns, gloves and masks. Staff volunteers for this program were Gina Castle RN BSN CNOR, Joanne Marth School RN, Michele Mayes RN BSN CNOR Clinical Director Perioperative Surgical Services and Anita Buono RN BSN CNOR Clinical Nurse Manager Surgical Services – Bethlehem. The nurses discussed career opportunities in Nursing and Perioperative Nursing. The evening ended successfully, and two students are planning to return to the OR for a one on one shadow experience with one of the volunteer staff.

### AORN Chapter Meeting – Reducing Surgical Site Infection

The chapter co-sponsored a speaker with Ethicon Suture Company in January. An infection control manager from New England Baptist Hospital, Maureen Spencer RN, M.Ed., CIC, discussed methods to reduce surgical site infections in the operating room including mandatory reporting and SCIP measures. Fifteen staff members from the Allentown and Bethlehem campuses attended.