

## Where kids can be kids *RNs needed*



ABOVE: Camp ClapHans Director Bobbie Hunter kayaks with camper Amir Johnson. Camp activities include canoeing, fishing, stargazing, archery, field trips, and dance parties. Photo provided

ABOVE LEFT: Camp Director Bobbie Hunter gets a hug from a camper during the 2021 camp sessions. Photo Provided

by Bobby Anderson, RN, Staff Writer

Swimming, water balloon fights, and telling stories around the campfire with friends are things most kids take for granted.

But for some kids with developmental disabilities, summer pleasures like these are just a dream.

That's why for almost a decade now the J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Norman has been hosting an annual summer camp, known as Camp ClapHans onsite.

And the center needs nurses to make it happen.

Camp ClapHans Director Bobbie Hunter said the center is looking for volunteer day shift nurses for each of the first four weeks of camp. Those dates are June 5-8, June 12-15, June 19-22, and June 26-29.

Those interested can call Hunter directly

See CAMP Page 2

## ANA Grateful to the Judge for Leniency for RaDonda Vaught



Former Vanderbilt University Medical Center nurse RaDonda Vaught has been sentenced to three years of probation after a jury convicted her of criminally negligent homicide and impaired adult abuse for mistakenly administering the wrong medication that resulted in the death of a patient in 2017. The following statement is attributable to both the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA):

"We are grateful to the judge for demonstrating leniency in the sentencing of Nurse Vaught. Unfortunately, medical errors can and do happen, even among skilled, well-meaning, and vigilant nurses and health care professionals.

After speaking with Vaught and her attorney, ANA sent a letter to the judge which would be submitted into evidence on Vaught's behalf. In fact, leading up to the sentencing hearing, ANA was in communication with Vaught and her attorney to discuss the best ways for ANA to provide support to Vaught in the specific context of sentencing. Per those communications, we drafted a letter for submission to the court as evidence through her counsel. The letter expresses, from a professional and nursing perspective, legal reasons why we would humbly request leniency. We were compelled to take this action because we all see ourselves in Vaught. Nurses see themselves in Vaught; our peers and colleagues and health care professionals beyond nursing see themselves in Vaught.

Nurses at all levels and across all settings provide care in demanding work environments with challenges that predate the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider this:

See VAUGHT Page 2

## CAMP

Continued from Page 1

at 405-307-2865 or visit [www.jdmc.org](http://www.jdmc.org) for an application.

"We would want somebody who is pretty outgoing, fun, and doesn't mind getting a little bit dirty while hanging out with the kids," Hunter said. "We want our nurses to be just as involved as our camp staff. We're always jumping on inflatables and playing in the water and stuff like that and the kids love it when the nurses get involved."

Nurses ensure kids get their scheduled medications and take care of any first aid necessities. But most of all they are there to make sure the kids have memories that will last a lifetime.

"Our kids love the social aspect of that because they don't get that enough in school," Hunter said. "This is a great place for your kids to gain some confidence, and socialize with other kids who are like them. There are not a lot of camps built for kids of all abilities. There are sports camps that these kids watch their siblings go to but it's a really

great opportunity for our campers to come in and everything is adapted to them.

"It's a place where they can do everything."

Evening times are spent on the front porch with campers, staff, and nurses.

Christa Boren, LPN, knows that joy all too well.

Boren worked at J.D. McCarty Center in Norman for a number of years as a nurse and nurse manager. When the family business moved her away she thought she'd never get to work at the center for children with developmental disabilities again.

She was wrong.

Boren worked the evening and night shift nurse at Camp ClapHans for several years before her summer schedule got too full.

Horseback riding, movie nights, talent shows and dance parties are just some of the events offered at camp ClapHans.

Members of the University of Oklahoma football team have paid a visit throughout the years as well as various church groups.

"That allows our kids to interact

with other kids who are age-appropriate," Boren said. "Our kids get to really play with those kids and they're not being judged. It also allows those kids from these groups to come out and interact with our kids and learn. Maybe next time they're out and they see a wheelchair they're not going to stare because they are just kids."

Camp ClapHans is a residential summer camp for kids with special needs ages eight to 18.

The camp is located on the south end of the McCarty Center's 80-acre campus in Norman.

It features two cabins, a multi-purpose building and is built next to an 11-acre lake. The camp features summer camp activities like archery, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, campfires, swimming, indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, and much more.

J.D. McCarty provides a one-to-one camper-to-staff ratio with a nurse on-site 24-hours a day.

That's where nurses like Boren come in.

"The kids are amazing. We have a group of counselors every summer

who are college students and they come out and they do this for free five weeks out of the summer and are an amazing group of kids," Boren said.

When her husband opened a physical therapy clinic in Elk City Boren quit her job at J.D. McCarty and moved with her family.

Boren became a nurse at 20 and had worked in the hospital setting before settling into her role with J.D. McCarty.

"It's absolutely amazing. I loved the fast-paced stuff but at times it does get a little overwhelming. In the acute-care settings in the hospitals you have to deal with all the sad stuff - giving people cancer diagnosis and all that stuff that comes with nursing," Boren said. "Here at camp, we don't have that at all. These kids love to be here. It's so laid-back and we get to really enjoy the kids and try to make their time here as enjoyable as possible."

"These kids would normally not get to do this at a regular camp."

To join J.D. McCarty visit : <https://www.jdmc.org/careers>

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# VAUGHT

Continued from Page 1

a typical nurse's shift is fast-paced and high stakes, with constant patient turnover, inadequate staffing levels, varying patient acuity, exposure to infectious disease, and risk of work-related injury and violence. All of these factors impede the delivery of safe patient care, and nurses too often find themselves working under conditions that increase the likelihood of adverse outcomes from tragic mistakes.

Our hearts continue to go out to the loved ones of both Ms. Murphey

and Nurse Vaught, all of whom are deeply affected by this tragedy and face a long road of healing. Leaders, regulators and administrators have a responsibility to nurses and patients to put in place and sustain organizational structures that support a just culture, which includes recognizing that mistakes happen and systems fail. Structures should include full and confidential peer review processes to examine errors, deploy system improvements and establish corrective action plans. The criminalization of medical errors will not preserve safe patient care environments."

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# Situation Update: COVID-19

<b>New Cases 7 Day Average</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>New Cases Week of 5/8/22 - 5/14/22</b>	<b>1,388</b>
<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>2,621</b>
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>1,045,574</b>
<b>CDC/NCHS Provisional Deaths</b>	<b>16,050</b>
<b>Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facilities/Location**</b>	<b>Recent 3 day Ave. Hospitalizations</b>
	<b>Cases (ICU)</b>
Region 1 (NW)	3 (1)
Region 2 (NE)	3 (0)
Region 3 (SW)	5 (0)
Region 4 (EC)	0 (0)
Region 5 (SE)	2 (1)
Region 6 (Central)	10 (0)
Region 7 (Tulsa)	20 (9)
Region 8 (OKC)	36 (4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>79* (15)</b>
<b>Other Types of Facilities</b>	
Focus Facilities	0 (0)
Rehabilitation Facilities	0 (0)
Tribal Facilities	0 (0)
<b>Other Facilities Total</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>

\*Includes 25 hospitalizations in pediatric beds.

\*\*Focus, Rehabilitation and Tribal Facilities numbers are not assigned to a specific region as their patient populations reside across the state. Information provided through survey of Oklahoma hospitals as reported to HHS as of the time of this report. Response rate affects data. Facilities may update previously reported information as necessary.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health.

\*As of 2022-05-19 at 7:00 a.m.

# CAREERS IN NURSING

## A GRACEFUL CALLING: COMPANION HOSPICE TOUCHES LIVES

by James Coburn - staff writer

Amie Penrod gets goosebumps when thinking about her career as a registered nurse. She has dealt with a lot of death and dying with people of all ages.

The hospice journey she shares with patients and families uplifts her kind spirit as case manager for Companion Hospice, located in Guthrie. She helps patients have their best quality of life possible.

"I had a new patient that I admitted last week. He had been the primary caregiver for his wife since 2019 and over the past two weeks she declined. The journey is more involved because he's needing to go through those mile steps."

She entered the home to find him feeding his wife at the bedside. And I just put my hands on his shoulders, and he just kind of melted in my arms. It's such a touching, emotional journey — a spiritual journey," Penrod said.

Most people relate hospice to death,

she said. But hospice is a journey that hospice helps prepare for. The clinical side of hospice care is not hard to learn with the proper tools, she said. Transitioning the family to be ready for their loved one's passing is the hardest part, Penrod explained.

"And the best part of that is when it's over and you've helped them," she said. "I'm telling you I work for the most caring, compassionate people. Even before we start meetings we pray. It's just an amazing environment."

She is grateful to work among a hospice staff that is willing to listen and empathize with each patient's hospice experience, she said.

The experience is remarkable, she said of getting to know them. One day she was at the bedside of one of her patients who was at peace with her life.

"Even though she knew that she had terminal cancer and that it was imminent that she was going to pass, she had no pain, and she would just

lift you up every time you walked in the room," Penrod said.

She always wanted a career that provided more security while also helping others. Her earlier years as a florist led to becoming an ER nurse in Texas for 18 years. In 2019, she earned her Master of Science degree in Nursing focusing on clinical nurse leadership at Texas Christian University. The ER laid the foundation for her hospice work when she joined Companion in December, she said.

The emergency room was quick thinking in a high intensity environment. But she calmly walked ER patients through steps involving everything from heart attacks, broken bones and snake bites. She worked during the COVID pandemic in the emergency room.

"I think it takes a special person to be in hospice. You've got to be very compassionate. It takes a lot of faith," she said. "Even with traumatic situations with deaths, there were also

cases where we provided palliative care. I even ran a palliative care program in Texas (while doing in-patient acute care)."

Hospice is all about palliative care, and there is a benefit in the circle of care with social workers, chaplains, nurses and certified aides, therapists, as well as volunteers who are there to assist families and patients through their entire journey.

"A musical therapist is at the bedside right now with a patient close (to passing)," Penrod said. "Sometimes it's just the companionship of visiting with patients or their loved ones. I have a patient that's 97 and the daughter is in Spain. So, I'll call her while I'm with the patient so she can talk to the daddy on the phone. You make a difference. It's a different kind of difference that is very soothing."

She had a patient that passed not long ago. The son was devastated when learning that his mother would

See PENROD Page 5



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# PENROD

Continued from Page 4

not make it. He hoped her health would revive.

Each step of the way Penrod explained to him the reasons why his mother's body was declining as she worked to relieve pain. He eventually realized he did everything he could to honor his mom.

"I used Companion Hospice for my grandfather when he passed away in 2020. So, my musical therapist, she came to our house and sang and played music for my grandfather who was just about unresponsive, and he perked up and started singing with her," Penrod said.

She said she has watched patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease relate to music and relax and forget about their shortness of breath.

"They just relax. It decreases anxiety," she said. "And even my patients that have dementia, they may not remember that I'm in the room with them, but they'll start singing and remembering songs. And they just enjoy it — they smile — it's just so rewarding."

For more information about Companion Hospice visit: [www.companionhealthcare.net](http://www.companionhealthcare.net) .



Amie Penrod, RN, case manager for Companion Hospice, has been on both sides of nursing in the ER saving lives and by helping people in their transition from this life.

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# NURSE TALK



*What did you enjoy most about grade school?*



Valir Pace

*"I would get to help out in lower grade classrooms, the nurse's office, being able to see the other."*



Gabrielle Ferioli, social worker

*"It was simple. You showed up to school, you got after school care and before school care. Like a social, educational experience."*



Jessica Swiller, CNA

*"I did like drawing a lot. I was very much an artist at the time, and didn't think I would be shifting over to medical."*



Ama'ri Major, CNA

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**Ellie**  
Liver Recipient

Our daughter, Ellie, was born in November 2008. When she was 3 months old, we found out she had a liver problem. We went to Children's Hospital in OKC, but were soon sent to a transplant center in Nebraska for evaluation. On March 18th, Ellie was put on the list for transplant. We came back home to wait. Ellie was treated at Children's twice a week, until she began to lose weight in May. We went back to Nebraska the day after Mother's Day, and she was admitted to the hospital. While there, I was evaluated as a living donor for Ellie, and we soon learned I could give her part of my liver. Ellie's transplant was on May 22, 2009. It was the hardest thing that I've ever done, but the

easiest decision of my life. We came home Father's Day weekend.

Organ, eye and tissue donation saves lives. Please make your decision to donate life and tell your family. Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor on your Oklahoma driver's license or state ID card or register online at [www.LifeShareRegistry.org](http://www.LifeShareRegistry.org). If you don't have a license or state ID card and do not have internet access, call **800-826-LIFE (5433)** and ask for a donor registration card.



# OK Wesleyan molding healthcare leaders

Healthcare is changing and nurses are at the forefront.

That's why Oklahoma Wesleyan University is proud to offer a doctoral program designed to help create tomorrow's nursing leaders today.

Rosa Ketchum, DNP, RN is an associate professor and director of the school of nursing's new DNP program.

"One thing that is exciting is just the role of the DNP," Ketchum said. "It's becoming more evident in view of the pandemic that nurses have a very important voice in health care and they are a huge piece of the puzzle and their experience and value and perspective on health care is needed to help address practice and policy development."

Designed for working adults, this program offers two doctoral learning pathways: a Post Master's DNP and the BSN to DNP.

The Post Master's Pathway enables Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurse Informaticists, Nurse Educators, Nurse Administrators, and other master's prepared specialty nurses to obtain a DNP in Executive Leadership. Additionally, BSN-prepared nurses with a master's degree in a related field may also enter this pathway.

Similarly, the BSN to DNP Pathway allows bachelor's prepared nurses to earn their doctorate of nursing practice.

Within this pathway, students choose a focus in either Nursing

Administration or Nursing Education. OKWU has designed this curriculum for experienced nurses seeking terminal degrees in practice-focused areas. Moreover, OKWU prepares nurses to function as an advocate and leader, improving healthcare and patient outcomes through innovation and involvement in practice and policy.

Most importantly, both pathways provide graduates with advanced practice skills to serve as providers and organizers of the healthcare delivery process, or as faculty members in a nursing education program.

Translating that bedside knowledge and pairing it with evidence-based practice is the focus of the DNP program.

Ketchum completed her DNP in 2019.

"I wanted a degree that focused on patient outcomes. That's where my nursing heart is, helping the patient whether it's one patient or a population, I wanted to impact patient outcomes," Ketchum said.

"That is part of the focus of the DNP and I wanted a piece of that. I wanted to be better able to do that whether it be through teaching students or through direct patient care."

OKWU's Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership program is designed to equip nurses to serve at the highest level of nursing practice. The DNP program develops



nurse leaders who improve patient outcomes and health systems by translating research into practice, all from a Christian worldview.

Enrollment for the program began last fall. A new group of students begins each semester, three times a year.

The initial 15 students came from a variety of backgrounds. While most programs only accept advanced practice nurses, Oklahoma Wesleyan accepts any kind of master's prepared nurse.

"Their ideas and perspectives may be a little broader because we have nurses that are coming from an administration background, or education background or advanced practice background so we're getting to see them all together," she said. "The perspective is broader than some programs but they all want to impact health care and they all want to make

our health care system a little bit better."

Delivery of the program is 100-percent online with no required visits to campus. Classes are delivered one at a time, eight weeks in length.

"Our program is designed for the working adult and that's better facilitated because they are only taking one class at a time. For eight weeks they can focus on one class at a time and I think that helps them be able to balance life, work, family, school better than if they were in a more traditional semester setting," Ketchum said.

The BSN to DNP program is 54 credit hours with anticipation of three years to graduate. The post-master's DNP is 36 hours allowing for completion in roughly two years.

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# American Nurses Association Announces 2022 National Award Winners

## Recipients Honored for Exceptional Leadership in Health Care

The American Nurses Association (ANA) today announced the recipients of its 2022 National Awards, which recognize outstanding nurses and champions for their vital contributions to the nursing profession and health care.

ANA will hold a ceremony on June 9 in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of these nurses, who are exemplary leaders and advocates, and whose contributions have advanced nursing and demonstrated ANA's impact on improving health care for all.

### Hall of Fame Award

ANA established the nursing Hall of Fame Award to recognize nurses for their commitment to the nursing field and their impact on the health and social history of the United States.

ANA is honored to induct two nurses into the Hall of Fame in 2022:

- **Anne P. Manton, PhD, RN,**

**FAEN, FAAN, ANA Massachusetts**

• **Barbara Nichols, DL(h), DSc(h), PedD(h), MSN, RN, FAAN, Wisconsin Nurses Association**

Numerous accolades, achievements and personal tributes speak to Dr. Anne Manton's lifelong dedication and outstanding contributions that provide enduring value to nursing. During her 60-year storied career as a practicing nurse, educator, leader, editor, and mentor, her love for nursing and desire to make the profession better than when she entered it was always clear to those who know her.

Barbara Nichols is known for her visionary leadership and political acumen as well as her altruism. Her career spans four decades in leadership and policymaking in professional associations and related health organizations. As an African American, Nichols' career in nursing includes many "firsts;" among them,

serving as the first African American president of ANA. She has received numerous honors and awards, published more than 200 manuscripts on nursing and health care and has been an outspoken advocate for diversity in nursing.

### National Awards

The National Awards recognize highly accomplished registered nurses for their outstanding service to the profession in categories including advocacy, the advancement of nursing, diversity and public health.

Recipients of the Nursing Champions Awards

**Denise Driscoll, MSN, RN-BC, CARN, PMHCNS-BC, NPP**

### ANA-New York

*The Advocacy Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who embraces the role of advocate as part of his/her professional identity.*

**Sally Morgan, MS, RN, AGPCNP-BC, ACNS-BC**

### Ohio Nurses Association

*The Advocacy Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who embraces the role of advocate as part of his/her professional identity.*

**Jessica Peck, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, CNE, CNL, FAANP, FAAN**

### Texas Nurses Association

*The Advocacy Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who embraces the role of advocate as part of his/her professional identity.*

Recipients of the Distinguished Practice in Nursing Awards

**Casey Green, BSN, RN, CCRN, CTRN, CFRN, CEN, TCRN, CPEN**

### Maryland Nurses Association

*The Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who provides exemplary patient care and contributes to the advancement of nursing practice.*

**Duke Harvey Lagtapon, BSN, RN, CCRN-CMC-CSC, CHFNP**

**New Jersey State Nurses Association**

*The Distinguished Direct Patient Care Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who provides exemplary patient care and contributes to the advancement of nursing practice.*

**Naomi Hanoch, BSN, RN**

**New Jersey State Nurses Association**

*The Early Career Nurse Leader Award recognizes an emerging member of the nursing profession for significant accomplishments and contributions.*

**Denise McNulty, DNP, MSN, MS-HAS, BSN, NPD-BC, NE-BC**

### Texas Nurses Association

*The Foundations of Nursing Practice Award recognizes an individual registered nurse for outstanding accomplishments in nursing research, nursing education, or nursing practice.*

*Recipient of the Nurse Exemplars Award*

**Vivien McDaniel, DNP, MSN, RN**

### Virginia Nurses Association

*The Leadership in Ethics Award recognizes an individual registered nurse who has authentically demonstrated the highest standards of ethics and leadership in his/her daily nursing practice.*

### Luther Christman Award

**Kevin Emmons, DrNP, RN, APN, AGPCNP-BC, CWCN, CFCN**

**New Jersey State Nurses Association**

*The Luther Christman Award recognizes substantial contributions made by an individual man in nursing to the profession in the areas of practice, research, education, public policy, and/or community service.*

### Mary Mahoney Award

**Jonnie Hamilton, DNP, PhD, MS, BSN, RN**

### ANA Michigan

*The Mary Mahoney Award recognizes significant contributions, made by an individual registered nurse or a group of registered nurses, to integration within the nursing profession.*

### Public Health Service Award

**Lisa Patch, MSN, BS, RN, NCSN**

**New Mexico Nurses Association**

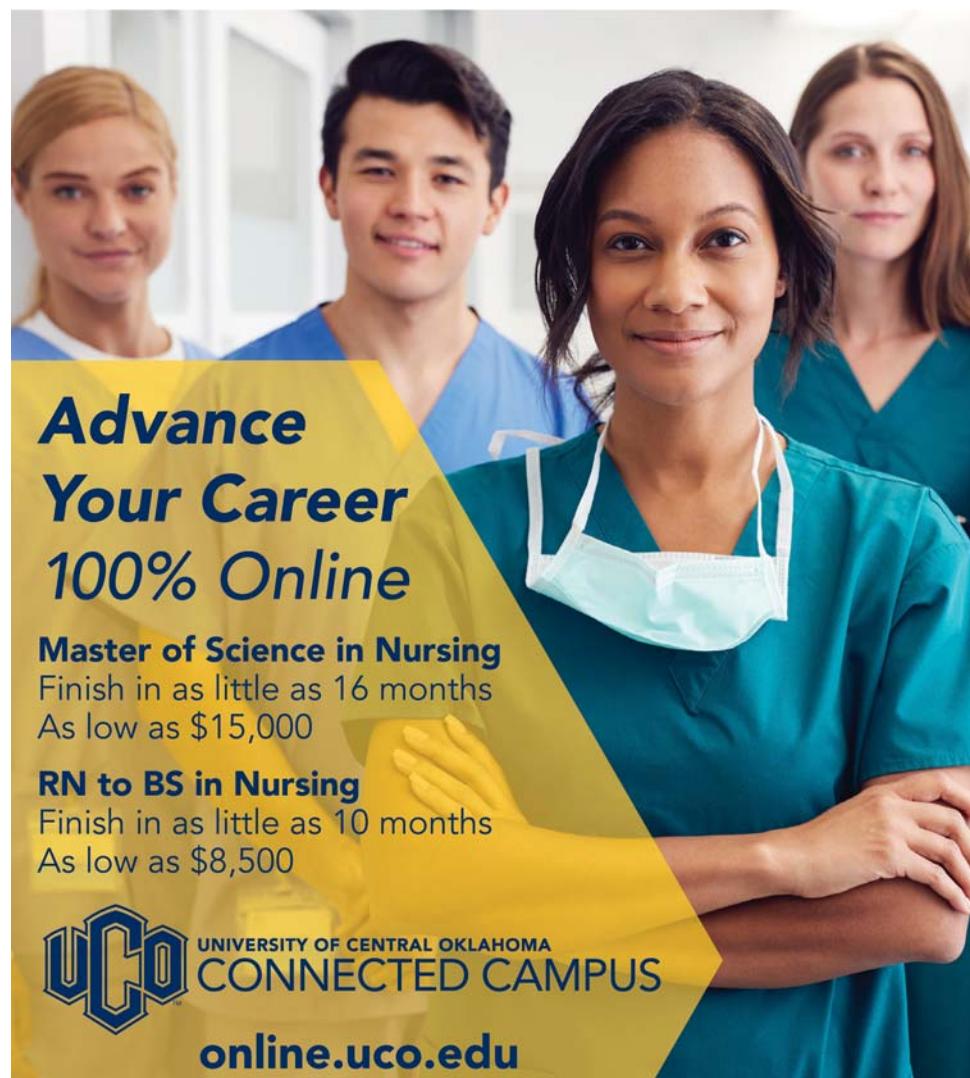
*The Public Health Service Award recognizes the outstanding contribution by an individual to public health.*

### Public Health Service Award

**Anamol Thomas, DNP, FNP-C, CCRN**

### Texas Nurses Association

*The Public Health Service Award recognizes the outstanding contribution by an individual to public health.*



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# OMRF receives top award from Oklahoma Venture Forum



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

The Oklahoma Venture Forum honored the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation with its top honor during OVF's annual awards luncheon this week.

OMRF received the organization's 2022 Economic Impact Award. "Everybody knows about OMRF and the phenomenal things they've been doing for a long time," said OVF past president Danny Slusarchuk, who presented the award. "Their discoveries have yielded hundreds of patents and three life-changing drugs now available in hospitals around the world."

Chartered in 1946, scientists at OMRF research diseases of aging, autoimmune illnesses, cancer and cardiovascular disease. Discoveries at OMRF created Captopril and Soliris, a pair of therapies for rare blood disorders. Work by OMRF scientists also gave birth to Adakveo, the first drug approved to treat the pain crises in sickle cell disease, which affects an estimated 100,000 Americans.

"OMRF's identity has hinged

not just on doing groundbreaking research, but on translating that work into tangible advances that improve the lives of patients," said OMRF President Andrew S. Weyrich, Ph.D., who accepted the award. "That emphasis has always set us apart from our peers."

Weyrich also reminded the audience of OMRF's impact on the state's economy. "From our budget of approximately \$100 million, most of it goes back into the community in salaries, induced labor income, or state and local taxes," he said, adding that 100% of donations to OMRF go directly to research.

At the event, OVF also honored a host of start-up businesses and presented state Sen. Jessica Garvin, R-Duncan, with its Entrepreneurial Champion Award.

Since 1987, OVF has championed small businesses and economic development by connecting and recognizing venture talent. Entities receiving its awards must be independently owned and operated and headquartered in Oklahoma.



Left: OMRF President Andrew S. Weyrich, Ph.D. Right: Danny Slusarchuk, immediate past president of Oklahoma Venture Forum. Slusarchuk presented the organization's 2022 Economic Impact Award to OMRF on May 18, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center.

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