

Community

Read the story on page 2

Inside This Issue

Page 4, Alert Nurses Save Lives Page 9, KSN Offering Wide Variety of Career Opportunities **RECRUITER SHOWCASE**

Registered Nurse (RN) / PRN Needed



3524 NW 56 Street Oklahoma City, OK 73112

January Orientation Dates: 1/9 AND 1/10 or 1/23 AND 1/24

Click Here to View More Information or Check out the OKNT JOB BOARD

Lindsey Lee, RN

OCU Kramer School of Nursing student hopes to work with Native American community.

story and photo by Van Mitchell, Staff Writer

Lindsey Lee, R.N. said the Native American population is underserved with health and wellness services available to them.

Lee, whose father is Muscogee-Creek, wants to help fill that gap by becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner serving the Native American community. She is pursuing her DNP FNP degree at the Kramer School of Nursing (KSN) at Oklahoma City University.

Lee, a Texas native, started her nursing career as a Registered Nurse, Surgical Trauma ICU at OU Medical Center. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma and her Masters of Science in Nursing at Trinity College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Rockford, Illinois.

Lee has been a nurse for two

years and has worked on a travel contract for Memphis at Baptist in Memphis, Tenn., and worked with Cohesive Home Healthcare which serves the rural towns in Oklahoma.

She currently works in aesthetics at Trillium Medical Spa in Oklahoma City.

"I am Native American. That's why I took the job with Cohesive to learn more about rural health," she said. "What I aspire to do when I'm done at (KSN) is to work within the Native American community. There's a lot of opportunities for me as a Native American to be able to work for them and give back to my community. Becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner seems like the best way to serve that population."

Kramer School of Nursing at Oklahoma City University offers several options for prospective Post-Masters or Post-BSN students who are interested in academic or

advanced practice doctorate work.

KSN offers Advanced Practice, BSN-DNP Programs in the following specialties:

- Family Nurse Practitioner Program (66 credit hours)
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Track (67 credit hours)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Track (68 credit hours)

Advanced Practice DNP applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- · Graduate of an accredited baccalaureate nursing program with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00
- Current active licensure as a Registered Nurse in the United States or the international equivalent
- BSN level health assessment and statistics courses
- Minimum of one year of professional nursing experience or the equivalent
- Additional requirements for the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program:
- Must be ACLS certified prior to acceptance in program
 - Two years of Adult Acute

Care work experience, preferably in an Intensive Care or Emergency Department setting

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track presents education focused on managing the healthcare needs of patients across the lifespan, within the primary care setting. Emphasis is placed on assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic diseases as well as health promotion and disease prevention activities for patients with a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and unique healthcare needs.

Lee said she originally applied at OCU and OU for her FNP degree

"I definitely wanted a program that was more in-person rather than just online," she said. "I really find that I progress as a student and professionally when I'm in class and making those kinds of connections. So, I chose OCU because of their curriculum and because of the staff. They are so accommodating and encouraging, and they really promote family."

Lee worked as a server and bartender while in college. She said that experience has helped her in

See LEE Page 3

INTERACTIVE AD - CLICK BELOW TO APPLY

Come work with outstanding students at OCU's Kramer School of Nursing

OPEN POSITIONS

Program Specialist

Clinical Coordinator

BSN Full-time, Part-time and Adjunct Faculty

Go to

CAREERS.OKCU.EDU

or call 405.208.5900 for more information and to apply today!



Oklahoma City

College of Health Professions

leartane

FIRST AID & + **TRAINING**

- Oklahoma's premier AHA training provider
- All inclusive pricing means no surprises later
- Highly trained instructors at the top of their fields
- Utilizing the most advanced equipment available
- Small, woman-owned, family-run local business
- Multi- class & loyalty discounts (BLS, ACLS, PALS, etc)
- Use promo code "ONT" for OK Nursing Times readers

We can bring training to your location...or join a class at ours with more available class choices than anywhere in the state!

CONTACT US: 405.603.6666 www.HeartlandCPR.com

11901 N MacArthur, Ste F2 Oklahoma City, OK 73162



Lindsey Lee, a Registered Nurse, is working on her Family Nurse Practitioner degree from the Kramer School of Nursing at Oklahoma City University.

LEE Continued from Page 2

her nursing career.

"I was actually a server and a bartender for eight years, and that's what put me through college," she said. "You make lifelong friendships, and you meet people along the way. It's really helped me whenever I became a nurse, to be able to talk to people, to be able to listen to people, and to really be empathetic and have a deeper understanding of people in general. I actually think it helped me have a very smooth transition into nursing as a student and professionally."

Lee said her work ethic is rooted in sports and family.

"I think the work ethic comes

from probably playing sports," she said. "My mom is somebody who works really, really hard, and I think she just taught me at a young age that you have to take care of yourself. So, I basically have just always done that."

Lee said time management is important to managing her school, work and exercise.

"One of the things that I've learned just going through nursing school and going back to school is time management," she said, "You have to set those boundaries. I've really learned to respect my boundaries."

For more information about the Oklahoma City University Kramer School of Nursing visit https://www.okcu.edu/nursing/home.

Great opportunity to work with us with excellent benefits, including great employer matching 401K, Tuition Reimbursement, Christmas bonus and the opportunity for quarterly bonuses!

COMMUNITY

INTEGRIS

_ **HPI __**

NORTHWEST SURGICAL HOSPITAL

INTEGRIS

Leadership Opportunities:

- RN Assistant DON Perioperative Services
- RN Director of Nursing

South Campus:

- RN Emergency Dept (ER/ED) Nights -
- RN OR Circulator (PRN)
- · RN Weekend Med-Surg
- · RN Med-Surg FT and PRN
- · RN Med-Surg Bariatric Program FT Nights
- RN Med-Surg Bariatric Program FT Days
- · RN Pain/GI FT and PRN

North Campus:

- RN OR Circulator FT -
- · RN Pre Admission Testing FT -
- · RN Pre OP/Phase II Recovery (PRN)
- · RN ICU Med-Surg
- · RN PRIME Days and Nights
- · RN Med-Surg FT and PRN Days and Nights

Northwest Surgical Hospital:

- RN Pre OP (PRN)
- · RN PACU (PRN)
- · RN Med-Surg (PRN)
- · RN Med-Surg FT Nights

*Signing Bonus Available! - Up to \$15,000 for select positions!

Visit our career site for a current list of openings: www.communityhospitalokc.com/careers

Community Hospital/Northwest Surgical Hospital complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Community Hospital/Northwest Surgical Hospital is a facility in which physicians have an ownership or investment interest. The list of physician owners or investors is available to you upon request.

CAREERS IN NURSING:

EMPATHY, OBSERVATION SKILLS - ALERT NURSES SAVE LIVES

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Carla McDonnell, LPN, loves seeing improvements in people's lives as the weekend nurse manager at Valir PACE (Program for All Inclusive Care of the Elderly).

"They become more like family than patients," McDonnell said. "I think that the job we do allows people to stay at home. We keep them out of nursing homes and keep them well."

Her intervention skills have even saved lives that were under threat.

Valir PACE provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and some light housework. Additionally, it provides nutrition through the expertise of a dietitian. It offers home care, social services, counseling, and assistance with housing. Primary care providers and RN care coordinators instill best practices. Licensed practical nurses offer care at the center and participants' homes. Valir PACE also collaborates with the Department of Human Services.

"It is all-inclusive care where we can provide medical care, dental care. We can get you to a specialist. Your medications come to you," McDonnell said. "Therapy helps you build your strength up so you can be more independent."

A clothing and food pantry is available. Transportation is provided by Valir PACE to any of their clients outside appointments such as dialysis or other specialty appointments. Valir PACE at Valir Health, serves individuals 55 and older who reside in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area within a 50-mile radius.

Her nursing career has included the Department of Corrections and mental health. Being empathetic helped her a lot in corrections where geriatric care was her favorite aspect. She has served at Valir PACE for nearly seven years.

A 2012 graduate of Platt College, McDonnell is on-call each Friday through Monday and handles emergencies and patient visits. She greets her patients at the door, educates them about how Valir Pace can help them with their needs, and lets them know that she is always available if they need to call her.

"That way it builds their confidence that they know they'll be taken care of," she said.

Therapists and the nursing staff have the same goal — patients are priority for everyone. Nurses are always willing to help one another, McDonnell said.

"I wanted to have a job that at the end of the day I knew I made a difference," McDonnell explained. "I think over the years I've built trust with them and see them smile. There are certain patients that I see every single weekend. They look forward to it when I go there because it gives them hope. Even if they don't need anything medical, it gives them someone to talk to. Some of our patients get lonely and they're by themselves. So, to know

you've put a smile on someone's face. It makes a difference."

Home-bound patients get to socialize. Many of them live alone and rarely have opportunities to see anyone. And McDonnell's observation skills benefit patient care when something is going on with them that they may not have noticed.

"I went to one patient's house where they were in the process of having a heart attack," she said. "To know you decided to show up that day and at that time, you know that you've made that difference. You get them to the hospital on time."

Another patient was having a stroke when McDonnell arrived at the house. She was able to get him to an emergency room to have the stroke medication that saves precious lives from paralysis or even death.

"You know you made a difference and how their life will be when moving

See MCDONNELL Page 5













THE MISSION IN OUR LIFE IS IMPROVING YOURS.

Make your life happy, healthy and more vibrant at Legend Senior Living®, a mission-driven senior living community operated by the experts in senior living. Here, nothing matters more than the happiness of the resident – new friends and new independence await. Live life well at Legend – it's not only a place to live. It's a place to thrive.

To find Oklahoma locations, scan code or go to **LegendSeniorLiving.com**.







SCAN ME



Patient care at Valir PACE has taught LPN Carla McDonnell many things about health, hope, and rehabilitation.

MCDONNELL Continued from Page 4

forward," she said. "That and when they smile. They know they have food to eat."

Some memories will always endure. One day, McDonnell was on the elevator crying after a patient had passed away. An elderly woman asked her why the tears.

"I said, 'Oh, I just lost somebody.' She said, 'Honey, look around. We're all old and we're all going to go.' She said, 'As long as we know that and as long as our life is good until then, we're

okay with it." McDonnell recalled. "And it gave me a better understanding that everybody passes in their own time. But if you can make them smile while they're here, and make their life better, then it makes that difference."

McDonnell has evolved more empathy for people during her career.

She said, "I strive to learn more to make more of an impact, to listen to see things that people aren't seeing. I think I've learned that a lot because people will tell you things, but they don't always tell you the full story."

For more information about Valir Pace visit https://valir.com/pace/.

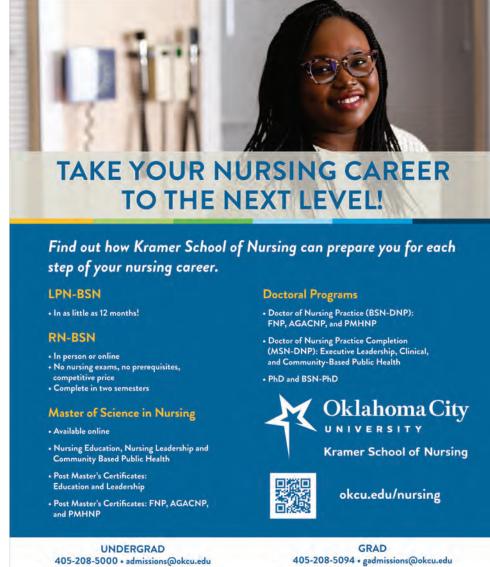
Got a Special Nursing Job? LET US FEATURE IT!

Your Job will appear in our DIGITAL DESKTOP EDITION EVERY WEEK, OUR JOB BOARD AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

For more details on Specialized jobs appearing in this issue visit our **Job Board** at www.oknursingtimes.com/jobs

To get your Special Nursing job posted call **405-631-5100** ext 6 or email

advertising@okcnursingtimes.com





Resident Solver of Marshall Constitution of Ma

What do you like to do during your leisure time?

NORTHWEST
SURGICAL
HOSPITAL

INTEGRIS Network

Northwest Surgical Hospital "I like to play computer games and do diamond art."



Angela Yaw, RN

"I like to sit by the fire to relax. I like to spend time with my family.



Sherri Spencer, RN

"I like to cycle. It gives me the opportunity to forget about the day, just clear your mind."



Charles Chiple, RN

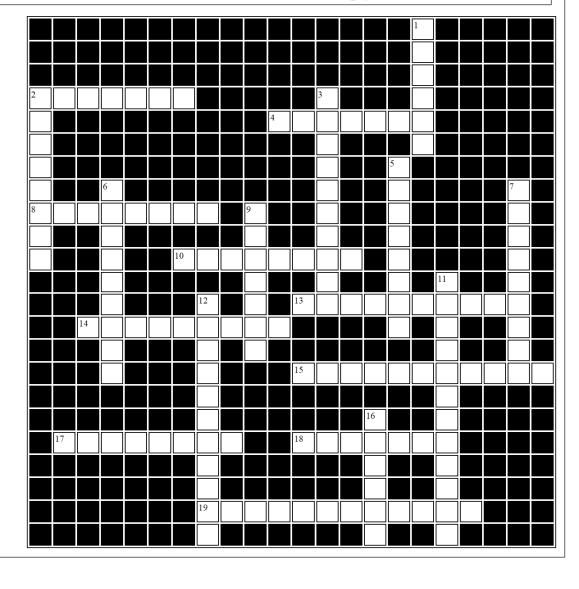
OKNT CROSSWORD: Cancer Medicine (Oncology)

Across

- 2. Replication of cells
- 4. Evaluating the degree of maturity of tumor cells
- 8. Having the ability to enter and destroy surrounding tissue
- 10. Containing dead tissue
- 13. Spread of a malignant tumor to a secondary site
- 14. Cancerous tumor made up of cells of epithelial origin
- 15. Agents that cause cancer; chemicals, drugs, radiation, and viruses
- 17. Detailed plan for treatment of an illness
- 18. Return of symptoms of disease
- 19. Treatment with drugs

Down

- 1. Noncancerous tumor
- 2. Change in the genetic material (DNA) of a cell
- 3. Relieving but not curing symptoms
- 5. New growth; benign or malignant tumors
- 6. Invasive tumor
- 7. Partial or complete disappearance of symptoms of disease
- 9. Cancerous tumor derived from connective or flesh tissue
- 11. Treatment of tumors using radiation
- 12. Chemical substances that inhibit the growth of cells
- 16. Disease caused by abnormal and excessive growth of cells in the body



Oklahoma's Nursing Times January 8, 2024 Page 7

McCurdy Legacy and Local Artistry Grace Purcell Clinic

Norman Regional's Purcell Clinic is home to two unique pieces of art that pay tribute to the people and places in "The Heart of Oklahoma." We delve into the rich history of the McCurdy family and the captivating artwork created by local celebrity Robin Marsh.

Doctors McCurdy: A Century of Healing

For over a century, the McCurdy family has been a pillar of healthcare in and around the Purcell community. Through generations, the name "Dr. McCurdy" has been synonymous with dedication to the well-being of the people. Today, we shine a spotlight on two remarkable physicians who are part of this legacy: cousins Rick McCurdy, MD, and Bill McCurdy, MD.

Dr. Rick McCurdy, a Purcell native and thoracic surgeon, follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Dr. WC McCurdy Sr. He fondly remembers his grandfather as a role model during his medical school years. Dr. Rick McCurdy pursued his education at the University of Oklahoma, even gracing the football field in the iconic Sooners jersey. With more than 30 years of service to the regional community, he embodies the spirit of commitment and care that has defined the McCurdy family's healthcare tradition.

Heart of Oklahoma by Robin Marsh: A Symbolic Tribute

The heart of Purcell, often referred to as "The Heart of Oklahoma," finds artistic expression in a stunning work of art by local celebrity and news anchor Robin Marsh. Her creation, aptly named "Heart of Oklahoma," is prominently displayed at Norman Regional's Purcell Clinic.

This captivating piece of art not only embodies the heartfelt connection Purcell shares with its community but also incorporates Norman Regional's signature color of purple into its design.



The heart represents the enduring sentiment passed down through generations, acknowledging Purcell as the heart of this great state.

Meet Robin Marsh: A Woman of Distinction

Robin Marsh, an Emmy award-winning journalist, is a household name in Oklahoma. Her 27-year career at News 9 has seen her play an integral role in covering major news events, from the Oklahoma City Bombing to destructive tornadoes and numerous breaking news stories. Her dedication to journalism has earned her the honor of being recognized as a "Woman of Distinction" by the Girl Scouts of America.

In addition to her journalistic achievements, Marsh is a motivational speaker and the author of two books aimed at inspiring and empowering teen girls. One of her personal highlights was addressing over 7,000 Oklahoma students at the Falls Creek Church Camp in the summer of 1997.

Beyond her professional life, Robin Marsh is an accomplished equestrian with over 12 years of rodeo experience in both Oklahoma and Texas. She and her husband, Keith, call Edmond home and are proud parents to their son, Cade.

Norman Regional's Purcell Clinic is not just a place for healthcare; it's a space where history, art, and community converge. The McCurdy legacy and Robin Marsh's "Heart of Oklahoma" artwork serve as a testament to the deep connections that bind this clinic to the heart of its community. Visit our Purcell Clinic to experience this unique blend of tradition and artistry firsthand.

Have Questions? New to Medicare? Start With Us

WE CAN HELP!



Christina Sibley, EMT/RMA
Medicare Product Specialist
BS Health Studies – Gerontology
405-655-6098 call or text

Steven Sibley, US Army RET/DAV
Medicare Product Specialist – Veterans
MBA – Healthcare Administration
405-850-1569 call or text

Together we'll find the right products for your needs

Contact us for information on our upcoming educational only events (or to request an event) covering general Medicare education, Medicare premium help programs, Medicare with other insurance (employer insurance, Tricare 4 Life, veteran's healthcare). Food provided. For accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings call (405) 655-6098, TTY 800-522-8506.

- Licensed Independent Brokers
- Medicare Education
- Medicare Insurance Products
- In-home or in-office appointments
- No charge to meet with us, no pressure, just help.

Your Trusted Medicare Resource

Disabled Veteran | Native American | Woman Owned



Visit us at www.sibleyinsures.com



f



TAKE YOUR NURSING CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

Find out how Kramer School of Nursing can prepare you for each step of your nursing career.

LPN-BSN

• In as little as 12 months!

RN-BSN

- In person or online
- No nursing exams, no prerequisites, competitive price
- Complete in two semesters

Master of Science in Nursing

- Available online
- Nursing Education, Nursing Leadership and Community Based Public Health
- Post Master's Certificates: Education and Leadership
- Post Master's Certificates: FNP, AGACNP, and PMHNP

Doctoral Programs

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-DNP):
 FNP, AGACNP, and PMHNP
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Completion (MSN-DNP): Executive Leadership, Clinical, and Community-Based Public Health
- PhD and BSN-PhD





okcu.edu/nursing

UNDERGRAD 405-208-5000 • admissions@okcu.edu GRAD 405-208-5094 • gadmissions@okcu.edu (AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Kramer School of Nursing

Offering Wide Variety of Career Opportunities



Kramer School of Nursing and Interim Dean of College of Health Professions, Elain Richardson, Regional Chief Nursing Officer for SSM Health St. Anthony and Kramer School of Nursing student and Saints and Stars scholarship recipient, Joy Warlick.

Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing continues to implement opportunities that enhance the future of its students, staff and faculty.

One such venture is the Saints and to a good start. Stars Partnership.

Saints and Stars is a five-year agreement between SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital and Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing. The partnership allows OCU students to work part-time with SSM Health while they complete their nursing degree, while also receiving a \$3,500 annual scholarship from SSM Health and a \$5,000 annual discount from OCU.

In addition to employment and financial benefits, the partnership will allow OCU nursing students the opportunity to take part in clinical rotations at SSM Health; to engage in paid leadership clinical hours; to participate in a summer nurse extern program; to complete service-learning hours at SSM Health; and to be assigned a nurse mentor.

In addition, up to two SSM Health employees may enroll in OCU's Master of Science in Nursing Education program. OCU will reciprocate by emphasizing the hiring of the program's SSM Health graduates to serve as clinical adjuncts to supervise Stars and Saints students completing their rotations at SSM Health.

"As one of the nation's leading nursing education programs, we are invested in helping address the nursing shortage," OCU President Kenneth Evans said.

Casey Cassidy, PhD, RN, CMSRN, CHSE, Associate Dean & Associate Professor School of Nursing said the Saints and Stars program has gotten off

"So far, really well, our students are just very appreciative of the financial assistance, but also the opportunity to, you know, gain more experience while they're in," Cassidy said.

The Kramer School of Nursing also focuses on Community Based Public Health which positions KSN to meet the future health care delivery needs of individuals within the context of population focused

Nurses interested in a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a Community Based Public Health (CBPH) focus are typically employed in non-acute care settings such as public health departments, school health settings, faith-based health programs, occupational health clinics, volunteer health organizations, community health centers, and outpatient care clinics.

These degrees are designed to provide advanced nursing education through the synthesis of nursing and public health theory applied to promoting and preserving the health of populations.

"We have a well-established Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program and a Doctor of Nursing Practice program," said Toni Frioux, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC, CNE.

Associate Professor School of Nursing.

Nurses with a CBPH focus are ideally positioned to help achieve prevention-oriented care by addressing: • The social determinants of health • Increasing access to care across the care continuum Engaging systems facilitators and identifying barriers
 Bridge delivery of health care needs in the community • Strengthen diversity among the nursing workforce

Frioux said the advanced CBPH leader will be provided the tools to improve the populations health to prevent problems from happening or recurring, limit health disparities, promote healthcare equity, quality, and accessibility by exploring the application of public health actions through

"There's increasing awareness that we need to do something about the extensive amount of dollars that are spent in acute care, disease treatment at the end of life and, so we really need to change that paradigm where we are doing more health promotion and disease prevention services so that we are helping people maintain their health longer and keeping them out of those expensive hospital-based services

to capitalize on saving dollars," she said.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice, community based public health track is designed for advanced nurses with careers in non-acute care settings who already hold a master's degree in nursing, master's in public health, or similar master's degree. The program is 32-credit

Frioux said the Master of Science in Nursing degree with a CBPH focus is a good fit for nurses with a minimum of a bachelor's degree who are interested in applying and integrating public health science into their nursing skill set to improve the health of the community and the population through out-patient practice settings.

Kramer School of Nursing's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (DNP-AGACNP) students collaborated with Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students to care for a client in the acutecare setting while focusing on patient safety, teamwork, and communication.

In January 2023, the Kramer School of Nursing joined the Physician Assistant Program and Physical Therapy Program in viewing the OCU's theater department performance.

After the performance, breakout sessions with students from all three departments were led in an interprofessional discussion.

"We had a great response, and we had over 100 students that participated," Frioux said. "We had the theater students. In addition to that, who actually read the play. It just gave us an opportunity to introduce in a very different way some of the concepts that we have to deal with in healthcare."

> For more information visit: https://www.okcu.edu/nursing

EXPLORE LUXURY SENIOR LIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Whether it's exceptional dining in our signature eateries, special events, or personalized care you're seeking, our luxury senior living community allows you to thrive.

This is HarborChase. Come celebrate with us.

SCAN TO EXPERIENCE HARBORCHASE





South Oklahoma City (405) 378-9768

NEO Pins First Graduates of Northeast Tech Partnership Program



Photo (left to right): LPN-to-RN Fast-Track program graduates Scott Williams, Caitlyn Allen Hines, and Kaitlin Benge. These students are the first class of nurses to graduate from the new program.

The fast-track program allows Licensed Practical Nurses and Paramedic students to complete the program in 12 months. Students must have all prerequisites completed before being admitted to the program.

"I am very proud of this class," said NEO nursing instructor and program coordinator Vickie Garner. "They have worked hard and are bright stars. They have set high standards for future students."

NEO faculty teach the fast-track classes at the NT campus. Clinicals are on Thursdays, and classes meet on Fridays. The convenient schedule allows those already in the workforce to complete the program and advance in their careers.

"After completing the LPN program at NT in Kansas, it was a smooth and simple transition into the new NEO Fast-Track program," said program graduate Kaitlin Benge. "Campus is close to home and saved me the drive to Miami while still being able to obtain my nursing degree. The program is a great opportunity."

In Oklahoma, 60% of all nurses are associate degree registered nurses, and represent 40% of the RN workforce nationwide. NEO Nursing graduates have contributed to these averages since 1975, providing high-quality healthcare within their communities.

The LPN-to-RN Fast-Track program application opens in September 2024.

https://neo.edu/nursing.

For more information, please contact Vickie Garner at Vickie.garner@neo.edu or 918-540-6331

OMRF receives \$5.8 million for autoimmune

disease research

The National Institutes of Health has awarded the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation \$5.8 million to work toward easier diagnosis and better treatment options for Sjögren's disease, an autoimmune condition.

In Sjögren's, immune cells attack moisture-producing glands, causing painful dry eyes and mouth. It can result in irreversible tissue damage, neurological problems, lung disease and cancer. There is no known cure, and current treatments address only the symptoms.

OMRF scientists Joel Guthridge, Ph.D., Darise Farris, Ph.D., and Christopher Lessard, Ph.D., received a four-year grant through the Accelerating Medicines Partnership in Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases Program (AMP AIM). The team's goal is to develop less invasive clinical tools to diagnose patients more effectively and identify new targets for future treatments.

"This disease is notoriously difficult to diagnose," said Lessard, who's been studying Sjögren's at OMRF since 2007. "It shares features with many autoimmune diseases and lacks effective diagnostic markers, which makes studying it challenging. This grant provides us with technology to analyze the salivary glands of people with Sjögren's in a way that wasn't possible previously."

The researchers will use blood and biopsy tissue samples donated to OMRF by people with Sjögren's to better understand different patient sub-groups' genetic and molecular characteristics.

"This knowledge should help clinicians diagnose the disease more easily and determine who may benefit from different potential therapies," Guthridge said.

Most studies of Sjögren's have focused on patients who test positive for certain autoantibodies in the blood. However, a significant percentage of people with the disease test negative for those autoantibodies. In those cases, diagnosis requires an invasive biopsy of the salivary glands.

"Of the more than 600 people seen in our research clinic who met the criteria for Sjögren's, about 40% tested negative for these autoantibodies," said Farris, the Alvin Chang Chair of Biomedical Research at the OMRF. "This positions us to study the molecular issues unique to that particular Sjögren's patient group."

AMP AIM is a nationwide public-private partnership aimed at developing more effective treatments for autoimmune diseases. The partnership involves the NIH, Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, nonprofit disease foundations, biopharmaceutical and life-science companies, and 52 research institutions. OMRF Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer Judith James, M.D., Ph.D., is chair of the more than \$60 million program.

The AMP AIM Sjögren's research is funded by grant No. 3UC2 AR081032-02S1 from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, part of the NIH. Farris and Guthridge received support from the Oklahoma City-based Presbyterian Health Foundation for experiments preceding the NIH grant. Additional support came to Farris from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science & Technology and to Guthridge from the Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research.

For more information about ongoing Sjögren's research at OMRF, visit www.omrf.org/sjogrens.

Want Us To Feature A Nurse? email news@okcnursingtimes.com



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Joel Guthridge, Ph.D.



OKNT CROSSWORD ANSWERS: Cancer Medicine (Oncology) 2 I T O S I S I

INTEGRIS HEALTH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 2023 PRESS GANEY EXCELLENCE AWARDS®

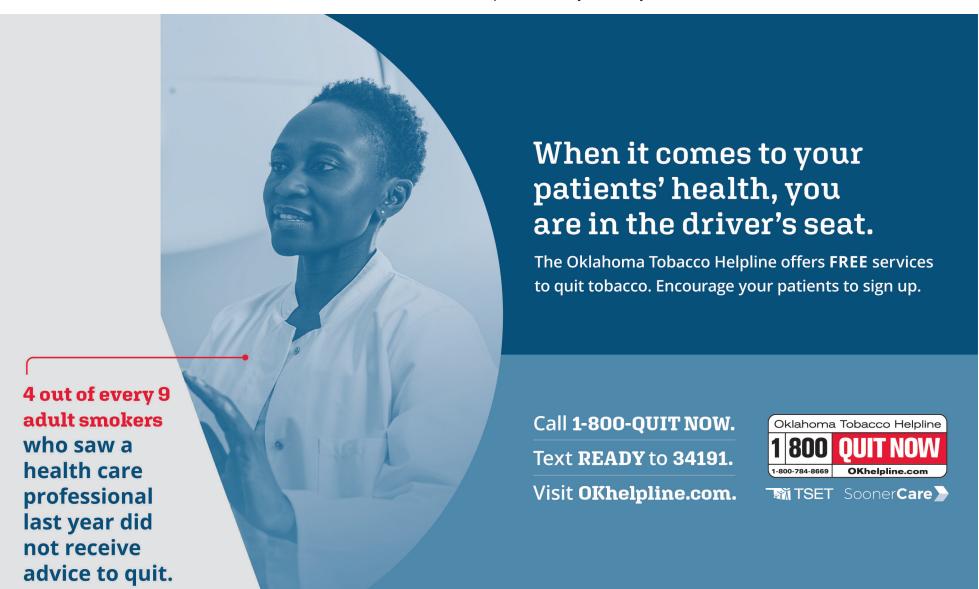


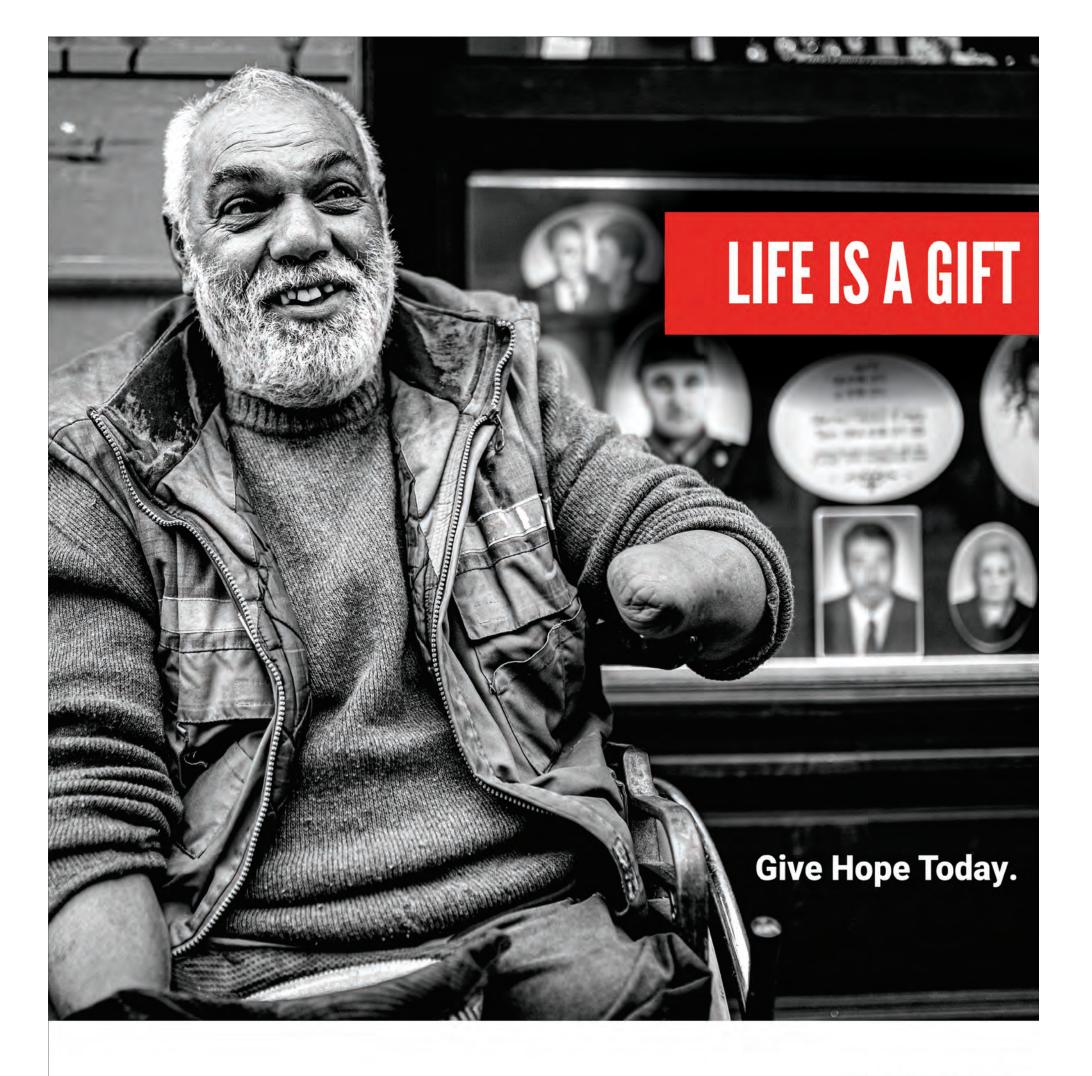
INTEGRIS Health announced today that three of its entities received Excellence Awards from Press Ganey, the national leader in health care consumer and workforce engagement.

INTEGRIS Health Medical Group Baptist received the Pinnacle of Excellence Award for Patient Experience for maintaining consistently high levels of excellence over consecutive years at metro clinics.

Both INTEGRIS Health Lakeside Women's Hospital and Mitchell West, M.D., earned the Guardian of Excellence Award for Patient Experience for reaching the 95th percentile for each reporting period for the award year.

Receiving a Press Ganey Excellence Award® is a preeminent, competitive achievement for leading health care organizations. Presented annually, the award applauds hospitals and health systems that consistently sustained performance year-over-year.





No act of kindness is too small. Through your gift to United Way, you have the opportunity to ensure that our neighbors around us have happier, healthier lives. **Please contribute to our 2022 Give Campaign**, and provide help and hope to thousands of children, adults and families in need in our community.



UnitedWayOKC.org

NEUROPATHY PAIN AND NUMBNESS CAN BE TREATED

Welcome To A New Medical Therapy Covered By Medicare



• Diabetic Neuropathy • Chemo-Induced Neuropathy • General Peripheral Neuropathy

This FDA Cleared Treatment Solution Relieves Pain & Restores Feeling without medications or surgery. This new treatment is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, the VA and most private Insurances. Call Today.



Over 80% of patients report a significant reduction in pain. So don't feel trapped by pain. Get back to moving and exercising with your family and friends.

View our testimonials. nerverenewalnow.com