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JUNE 03, 2024 |

VOL. 25 ISSUE 23



Set for success Med/Surg is a mission for RN

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EDUCATION SHOWCASE



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Set for Success Med/Surg is a Mission for RN

Earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Oklahoma Baptist University.

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Elizabeth Walker, RN, lets her patients know that their concerns are being heard. She strives to provide comfort and care in a timely manner, making surgical patients feel wanted and cared for.

As a med/surg nurse at Community Hospital North, she mainly works with patients who've had orthopedic surgeries involving hip, knee and other bone and joint problems.

Patients are sometimes disoriented, scared, or in a lot of pain when coming out of anesthesia, she said. A few patients may not always be the kindest. But the time she spent as a psych nurse taught her

de-escalation skills to help her understand the patient experience. She has a knack in understanding why her patients are feeling a certain way.

"They're not mad at me. They're in a lot of pain. There are a lot of situations going on. So, I can't take things personally. All I can do is show them kindness and show them that they can yell at me or scream at me or do whatever you need to do to get your anger out," Walker explained. "But I'm still going to be here to help you because that's my job. That's what I do and that's what I love to do."

Nurses don't generally enter the profession with a lot of burnout.

But sometimes situations they've been in for several years when they have been verbally and physically abused wears and tears on their endurance until they have nothing left to give, Walker said.

"Nurses work so much and so hard, and sometimes we're not always appreciated as we need to be," Walker said.

This may cause some nurses nationwide to give up on compassion. But Walker said there is an ongoing shift of nurses being reinvigorated with compassion.

"We're seeing nurses take time off and prioritizing themselves. It might start with this generational shift. But it's more like if I can't fill my cup up, then I can't pour it into somebody else," Walker explained.

Walker experiences joy when a patient thanks her for helping them diminish their fears.

"They will be talking to their family and say, 'Oh, she's such a great nurse. She does what she says she's going to do. She lives up to her word.'"

Building trust with her patients is an intrinsic part of nursing. Walker is a nurse because she wants to make patients feel loved and welcomed even if it is for a short time.

She has continued to learn since her nursing career began three years ago after earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Oklahoma Baptist University. Walker began working in a neurological step-down unit and a pediatric psych unit at another metro hospital. She worked with a lot of children who had experienced traumatic situations.

"There is only so much I can do as a nurse. But there is so much I can do as a nurse. I can get the right word to the right people whether that be physicians, therapists, or case managers."

Today, she can offer the same helpful navigation at Community Hospital North when patients are worried about going home and need further resources for care.

"We make sure when you go

Continued next page

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Elizabeth Walker, RN, brings an altruistic spirit to her med/surg career at Community Hospital North, located in Oklahoma City.

WALKER

Continued from Page 2

home that you have the resources that you need," Walker said. "My care doesn't end when I'm out this door. I'm going to do everything I can to fight for you and fight with you to make sure you are set for success."

Walker said she has dealt with her own physical and mental ailments in life without having the right support team.

"Whatever I can do to help somebody go through that better than I went through that - absolutely, I'm going to do everything I can 110 percent."

Health is a life-long journey. She has made the right career choices to be at the right place.

Walker heard great things about working at Community Hospital North. And she felt a sense of peace in her decision.

"I didn't feel judged. It's just been amazing. Everybody was very supportive, and they've been very kind in teaching me how to do things. They've been very welcoming," Walker said.

"All I hear from the patients all the time is how kind they are," she said of the nursing staff.

There's always another chance to learn from a challenging problem. Walker said she has never felt condemned by making a mistake.

"They're very quick to encourage me when I do something good. They're very quick to say that it was a great job."

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CAREERS IN NURSING: OKC VA PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

by Van Mitchell - staff writer



The Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System provides opportunities for advancement, as well as a strong support system for its employees and veterans. Pictured left to right are; David Ezersky, Nurse Manager over Five North, an inpatient medical surgical unit at the OKC VA Medical Center, Dustin Thomasson, Nurse Manager for Community Living Center, Kerri Craft, Associate Director of Patient Care Services, and Heather Smith, Nurse Manager of Operations, and interim Nurse Manager of the Intensive Care Unit at the OKC VA Medical Center.

Kerri Craft, RN, MSN, believes doors open for a reason when you are least expecting it, and that was her experience when applying for a job with the VA in Nashville, Tenn.

"I have been a VA nurse for 24 years, and I stumbled upon the VA by complete accident," she said. "Nursing is my second career. I was a stay-at-home mom of three children, and for anyone who's been a stay-at-home mom, that is probably the most taxing job ever, and to be a better mother. I was going into Nashville to go to Vanderbilt University to apply for a job. I walked in, I applied for a job, I was hired on the spot and they said, "Welcome to the VA."

Craft worked her way up the VA

ladder where she is now Associate Director of Patient Care Services in the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center.

"I'm a firm believer that doors open for a reason and I was meant to be here in my role as the Associate Director of Patient Care Services," she said. "It has been a leadership progression throughout my nursing career. I started as a bedside nurse. I've worked inpatient, I've worked outpatient, I've worked as a house supervisor, Nursing Officer of the Day (NOD), and I've worked as a nurse manager."

In her role as Associate Director Patient Care Services, Craft is a member of the Oklahoma City VA

executive leadership team.

"One would think that my job is to sit there, make our budget, do all the strategic planning, do all these great things," she said. "I see my role as more helping my people remove the barriers for them to be able to care for our veterans, which is what I do every day."

Craft continues to look for ways to improve services for her nursing staff and veterans.

May is National Nurses Month.

"I always think we can do things better, and so I get to help lead change," she said. "When I'm tired of sitting in an office, I can go out and

talk to the nursing staff or I can go talk to patients and the people. I love the people. I love the veteran community. I can tell stories about veterans from every facility I have worked at. I just love caring for veterans. The appreciation as a nurse that you get from a veteran when you're caring for them is just amazing. It makes you want to come to work every day."

Heather Smith, Nurse Manager of Operations, and interim Nurse Manager of the Intensive Care Unit at the VA Medical Center concurred.

"I've worked in the private sector,



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NURSE TALK



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Diane Moore, RN

"I would be LASIX, so I could drop some fluid off."



Sonya Ikegwuruka, RN

"I would be MORPHINE so I could make everyone feel good!"



Shana Strozyk, RN



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SCAN ME

OKC-VA

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family, my husband are veterans. I hold that close to my heart, and I really like to see the good things that we're doing both on the inpatient side and the outpatient side to help that community. It really does feel like a community working here, the employees and the patients that we serve."

David Ezersky, Nurse Manager over Five North, an inpatient medical surgical unit at the OKC VA Medical Center, said the VA provides opportunities to advance in the career.

"I feel like the VA, if you're willing to take challenges and accept challenges, the VA will support you in development, educational opportunities, leadership opportunities," he said. "If you're willing to pursue those, I feel like they'll support you. They'll teach you. There's lots of mentorship programs, both formal and informal. I've had a number of mentors here who have grown me and given me lots of opportunities."

Craft said nurses are at the forefront of patient care.

"A nurse is someone who that patient sees during their hospital stay or their visit. The nurse is the one who's responsible for coordinating your care," she said. "They'll often explain things to you in a way you can understand and sit down with you, so you do understand it. A nurse looks at you as a whole person. They don't just take your disease process and say, Hey, you're here for congestive heart failure. A nurse looks at you as a whole, so they'll take what's important to you, how can we achieve your health goals by what's important to you and what matters to you. It's the nursing profession that brings all that together, that helps that patient on their health journey."

Craft said the Oklahoma City VA keeps its nurse-to-patient ratios low.

"You hear a lot about nurse-to-patient ratios," she said. "Our nurse-to-patient ratios are one-to-four, one-to five is a bad day for us in staffing, and

but what I like working with the VA here is helping veterans and working with veterans all day," Smith said. "My

we help each other. Even in my role as executive leadership team, I'll go out and if someone's short staffed, I'll go take vital signs or give baths or change bed linens because that's what we do. We help each other, we support each other and do what we need to take care of veterans."

Dustin Thomasson, Nurse Manager for Community Living Center, said the Oklahoma City VA has worked to fill vacancies.

"I would say one of the things that we're most proud of down there was we had a large gap in our staffing that we've closed," he said. "We've had zero turnover in the last year with our staffing. Our last two annual surveys have been amazing."

Craft said strategic planning retreats are held to help the Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System move in the same direction as a service.

"As of March 2024, we have 954 nursing staff, and that's APRs, RNs, LPNs, and Nursing Assistants," she said. "And that

doesn't include the other administration staff or sterile processing staff that are underneath nursing services as well. The retreats guide us in how we can improve our care, and if we're all going in the same direction, that makes things a lot easier. We're looking at things like shared decision making, how do we improve our shared decision making?"

Craft said the retreats are also about building relationships.

"We all have things going on in our life," she said. "I think it's important to learn those personal things about people because it does tell you who you're working with and how we can work together. The VA is about camaraderie. It is about teamwork. It is about family. It's about the whole person. It's providing care to the whole person, not just the piece of the person, and I think that's what sets us apart from others (in the private sector)."

For more information about the Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System visit <https://www.oklahoma.va.gov>.

FUTURE NURSES TAKE TOP AWARDS AT CV TECH

Jermie Hunt left military life behind after 16 years to pursue a possible second career in the information technology sector.

Hunt, 37, of Yukon, was based at Tinker Air Force Base for 13 years. He was a crew chief for aircraft maintenance retired as an E6 Tech Sergeant.

He said he enrolled in Canadian Valley Technology Center's Computer Information Systems program because computers are a part of all industries. Hunt served as president of his morning class at CV Tech and as parliamentarian in the afternoon class. Adults have the option of attending all day, and most complete coursework in 10 months.

For his exemplary achievements and character, Hunt is the CV Tech Foundation Outstanding Scholar. The Foundation honors both an adult and high school student at each of CV Tech's campuses with a \$1,000 cash award. A staff committee selects winners based on interviews.

The announcement and brief biography of Hunt's accomplishments drew a standing ovation from nearly 3,000 people attending CV Tech's recent completion ceremony at Yukon Fine Arts Auditorium.

"This is a great program, and I made a great school choice," he said. "My mom and dad drove up

from Texarkana. When they saw the standing ovation I received, they were taken aback by it."

OTHER RECIPIENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This year's high school scholar recipient at the El Reno Campus is Anjalina Thomas, of Yukon. She served as a CV Tech Ambassador (similar to student council), was president of her afternoon Pre-Engineering class. Thomas is a National Merit Finalist and Academic All State honoree.

The high school recipient at the Cowan Campus is Caitlyn DeTar, of Piedmont. DeTar completed Health Careers. She among the first to take advantage of new pre-nursing coursework designed to help students complete the post-secondary Practical Nursing program faster. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing and to become a nurse anesthetist.

The Cowan Campus post-secondary scholar recipient is Tyler Moxley, of Yukon. He enrolled at CV Tech in 2009 and has since been working in healthcare. He enrolled in Practical Nursing with hopes to prepare for to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing in college. Moxley, who works two jobs and attends classes, wants to upgrade his skills and career to provide for his wife and three children.



Additional award winners include John Rider, of Mustang, who received a \$1,000 award named in memory of National Technical Honor Society founder Jon Poteat. Two students received \$250 from the CV Tech Foundation as recipients of the Superintendent's Meritorious Award. They are Lauren Toska, of Mustang, and LillyAnne Seewald, a home school student graduate from El Reno.

Three awards are presented in memory of beloved former

instructors. The Faith, Hope and Love awards are given in memory of Darlene Koos, who taught both Practical Nursing (PN) and Health Careers. Those recipients of \$200 are Kami Scates, of Yukon and MacKenna Johnson, of Piedmont. Luke Hendershot, of El Reno, received the \$250 Howard Griffin Memorial HVAC award, and Lily Mosisa, of Yukon, is the recipient of the \$100 Marvin Novak Memorial award. Novak was the school's first board president in the late 1960s. He helped plan for the school's opening in 1970.

(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2024 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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The University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing is doing it all and much more to help students reach their nursing dreams.

Dean of Nursing Julie Hoff, Ph.D., MPH, RN, said the college has hired more faculty and staff and provided more student success programming in the areas of peer tutoring, mentoring, and scholarships as larger nursing classes are accepted.

"There's been a big investment in simulation," Hoff said. "One of the ways we accommodated these numbers is we decreased the number of clinical hours in exchange for increasing time in simulation. Simulation enables faculty to ensure certain competencies are achieved by all students regardless of learning site."

Hoff said the added simulation time helps augment student learning when the opportunities don't present themselves during their scheduled clinical rotations.

The last several years have also seen a more diversified faculty with advanced practice nurses coming on to strengthen the educational experiences.

"In many ways, the students love it because they can be in class one day and then be in clinical and see their faculty engaging with teams, as an advanced practice nurse, in the management of patients," Hoff said.

Increasing quality opportunities for students throughout the state has been the hallmark of Hoff's tenure at OU.

Hoff has made a point to have conversations with nursing leaders around the state to emphasize the importance of working together.

"We are so thankful for the clinical partners who are supporting our enrollment in Duncan, Lawton, Norman, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City. In Oklahoma City, we have strengthened our partnerships with Integris Health, Mercy Hospital, SSM Health, and VA Medical Center.



University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing students are bringing a well-rounded education into the workforce. Photos provided.

OU Health continues to be a committed clinical partner who plays a crucial role in our success. Additionally, our partnerships with Duncan Regional Hospital, Comanche County Memorial Hospital, and Norman Regional Hospital have played a crucial role in supporting our undergraduate program growth. Our clinical partnerships with Hillcrest Medical Center, Ascension St. John Medical Center, and St. Francis Health System have sustained our ability to train the future nursing workforce in the Tulsa metropolitan area. Additionally, we rely on countless community-based clinical partners that include Indian Health, tribal partners, home health and hospice agencies, behavioral health facilities, community health agencies, and K-12 schools that have allowed us to expand where students are learning."

As more and more care inevitably moves away from the hospital into the community in the future, the challenge for nursing education will be to change along with it.

"I just think there is a real disruption in healthcare delivery," Hoff said. "It's still fragmented, and access is still an issue."

Along with that will be an emphasis on flexibility for a healthcare system that isn't known for quick change.

"We don't have to worry about our students being flexible because they are raised in generations of constant change," Hoff said. "We are seeing systems test new models that support the flexibility, well-being, professional growth, and positive organizational culture nurses seek. This can be challenging for healthcare systems as they are big, complex organizations that are challenged to balance financial sustainability while maintaining quality care and improving access."

That means a wealth of opportunities for today's nursing students to become tomorrow's leaders.

Hoff said OU is seeing undergraduate and graduate enrollment levels increase.

In recent years, the College of Nursing has increased its effort to reach more students by guaranteeing acceptance to qualified applicants and partnerships with other entities.

Last year, OU announced partnerships with Murray State and the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma to offer a guaranteed admission opportunity to six qualified undergraduate students majoring in nursing to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the OU College of Nursing's educational sites at Cameron University in Lawton and Duncan Regional Hospital.

Since coming to OU in January 2020, Hoff said she has felt a tremendous surge of support in impacting nursing education.

"I think the commitment of the University on down to the faculty and staff in the College is very notable including the legislature's commitment and recognition," Hoff said. "The College's commitment to seamless academic commitment is meeting people where they are to get them to where they want to be as a nurse. The mission of the OU College of Nursing is to lead the state in nursing workforce at all levels and advance the health of Oklahomans through education, by education, scientific discovery, translating evidence into practice, and driving innovation." As Dean, I believe it is my responsibility to realize the power of nurses and promise of nursing for Oklahoma and beyond.

For more information about the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing visit <https://nursing.ouhsc.edu>.



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First Liver Transplant for Aggressive Cancer Achieved at OU Health

OU Health Becomes Only Center in Oklahoma to Offer Liver Transplants for Bile Duct Cancer

Experts at OU Health completed the state's first liver transplant for a particularly challenging and oftentimes deadly form of a bile duct cancer known as cholangiocarcinoma. This achievement not only places OU Health among the few elite programs in the country that treat bile duct cancers with transplantation but also brings immense relief to Oklahomans who no longer must leave the state to receive this life-saving treatment.

Before this first transplant at OU Health, patients traveled to centers several hundred miles away for a transplant to address hilar cholangiocarcinoma.

Hilar cholangiocarcinoma - bile duct cancer that occurs where the ducts exit the liver - is one of the most lethal cancers and among the hardest to treat. The overall five-year survival for those diagnosed with this disease is less than 10%. Historically, the only chance at a cure is to surgically remove part of the organ.

Only 20 to 30% of patients are eligible for a surgical option due to how aggressive and advanced the cancer can be at the time of diagnosis. For the few patients who are candidates for surgery, the complex operation requires removing up to 70% of the liver, resulting in a high risk of morbidity and mortality. The procedure is only performed at a few high-volume centers with expertise and resources for complex hepatobiliary surgery, which now includes OU Health.

The patient at OU Health was first treated with a complex regimen of preoperative chemotherapy and radiation, said OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center surgical oncologist Dr. Ajay Jain M.D., FACS, core medical director for Stephenson Cancer Center and professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery at The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. Dr. Jain also serves as Oklahoma State Chair for the American College of Surgeons Commission



on Cancer.

However, Dr. Jain recognized that a liver transplant would offer the highest chance of success and thanks to OU Health's ability to perform a liver transplant for this complicated disease, the patient now has a higher chance of long-

term survival.

The Most Challenging of All Cancers

Cholangiocarcinoma is a type of cancer affecting the bile ducts carrying the digestive fluid bile from

See LIVER Page 13



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Children's Health Foundation Celebrates Gift From OCCF for Preschool Autism Program



Children's Health Foundation announces a \$40,000 grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for the Early Foundations preschool program for children with autism. The grant will support the Early Foundations programs in Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Canadian counties. CHF celebrates OCCF's partnership to sustain this essential program of the Oklahoma Autism Center.

Children ages six months to four years with autism attend Early Foundations to learn essential skills needed to enter pre-k with their peers. Children with autism often struggle to communicate and interact with others. Teachers work with kids using evidence-based treatments to gain the skills needed for school. The program also includes a Mother's Morning Out two to three days a week during which children with autism play with their same-aged peers.

Children's Health Foundation Executive Director Kathy McCracken said, "We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Early Foundations provides essential services for children that are often hard to find in Oklahoma. We have a shortage of autism specialists, and this program improves access to care for children and families in our state."

To support Children's Health Foundation, please call 405-384-4446, or visit <https://www.chfkids.com>.

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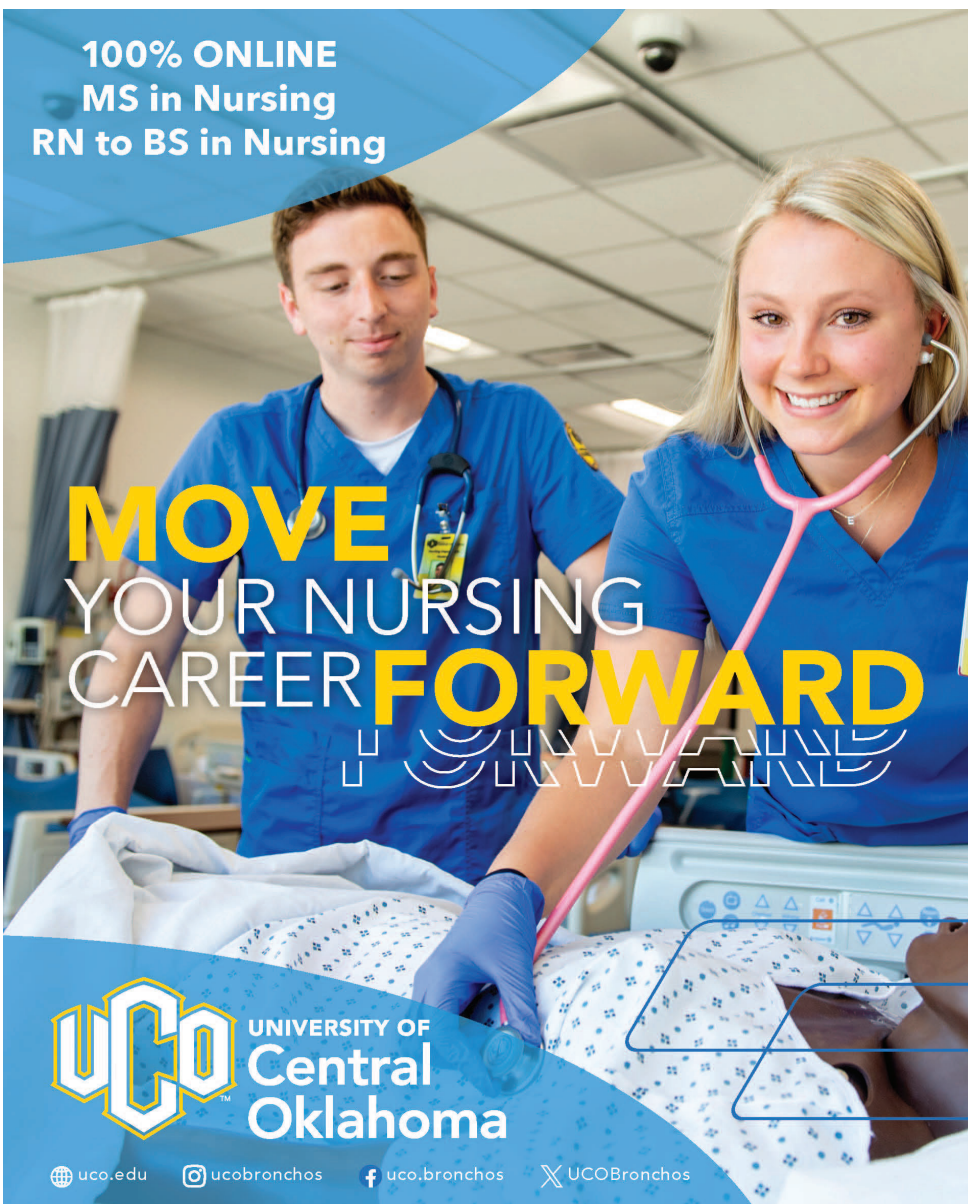
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HSC College of Nursing Announces Innovative Awards to Increase Affordability for Inaugural 2024 Class

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth's College of Nursing is offering nursing scholarships and awards that may cover up to 100% of out-of-pocket tuition costs for its first nursing students, continuing the UNT System's commitment to affordable education.

Applications for the inaugural classes of nursing students close July 1.

"Research has shown that those supported and provided with mentorship are more likely to stay in the nursing profession," said Cindy Weston, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE, FAANP, FAAN, founding dean of the college. "Launching these programs with special financing opportunities will enable more nursing professionals to pursue rigorous education to advance their careers."



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The new Nursing Innovation Fellow Program is a unique opportunity to provide affordable nursing education for HSC students earning the online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Nursing Practice Innovation.

Nurse Innovation Fellows will receive up to \$5,000 in financial support each semester (fall, spring and summer) for their first year of the program. This will cover up to \$13,500 in total tuition costs for full-time students and a prorated amount for part-time students. The funding will support approximately 30 fellows during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Embedded into the MSN curriculum, students will serve as peer nurse mentors to inspire innovation in the profession and strengthen incoming nurses by coaching them toward a career as nurse innovators. The program will establish a pipeline of mentors who can continue to foster and grow in their

profession.

The MSN in Nursing Practice Innovation is for nursing professionals with a BSN who want to continue and expand their education. It will incorporate five, 16-week semesters and condensed 12-week summer semesters. A part-time option is also available, extending the program into seven semesters. In addition, students will have the flexibility to choose one of nine specialized elective tracks.

RN to BSN Awards & Scholarships

All nursing students in HSC's Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program will receive a \$2,000 admission award, and applicants may have the opportunity to receive one or more of the following awards and scholarships:

- **Academic Excellence Award:** \$2,000 one-time award for selected applicants with a 3.5 GPA or higher
- **Career Advancement Award:** \$3,000 one-time award for

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LIVER

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the liver to the gallbladder and small intestine. It typically occurs in individuals over the age of 50, though it can occur at any age.

Because of its aggressive nature, cholangiocarcinoma is often diagnosed when the cancer is advanced, making successful treatment difficult to achieve.

"Only 20 to 30% of patients with this cancer will be able to receive surgical treatment options because the disease is silent, and when it gets diagnosed, most patients will be at an advanced state where surgical resections or transplants are not possible," said OU Health Transplant Institute surgeon Dr. Narendra Reddy Battula, MBBS, MRCS, M.D., FRCS, assistant professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery in the Department of Surgery at OU College of Medicine.

"The transplant technique for bile duct cancers differs from liver

transplant done for liver failure or liver cell-based cancer. When we do routine liver transplants, we disconnect the bile ducts. But when we treat bile duct cancer, we need to do an extensive removal of the bile duct, which joins the liver to the bowels near the pancreas. We must make sure no cancer has spread beyond the liver."

In the late 1990s, Mayo Clinic began the first clinical trials to assess the use of liver transplantation as a treatment for hilar cholangiocarcinoma. Over several years and multiple clinical trials, data has shown that patients who undergo successful transplants have five-year survival rates of 65 to 68%, and 10-year survival rates reaching up to 60%. This marks a significant improvement compared to the usual 10% five-year survival rate associated with the diagnosis.

Despite the improved survival rates, only roughly 20 programs in the country offer transplantation for cholangiocarcinoma. This limitation stems from the demanding nature of

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Applying for accreditation does not guarantee that accreditation will be granted.

Future Degree Programs

The HSC College of Nursing also is expected to offer two additional degrees starting in fall 2025. These are a traditional BSN and an MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, which was recently approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The two degree programs are pending approval from the Texas Board of Nursing and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

To apply or learn more about HSC's College of Nursing and its new scholarships and awards, please visit

<https://www.unthsc.edu/nursing>.

the procedure which requires specialized, multidisciplinary expertise from various fields, including interventional radiology, advanced gastrointestinal, medical oncology, radiation oncology, hepatobiliary surgery, transplant surgery, and transplant medicine, to name a few.

OU Health Makes History in Oklahoma

"OU Health now performs more than 50 traditional liver transplants a year, and because of the expertise at Stephenson Cancer Center and our outstanding transplant program at OU Health already doing some of the most complicated transplants in the country, we felt we could start doing liver transplants for cholangiocarcinoma," said Dr. Jain. "This transplant was the first one of its kind done in the state."

Dr. Battula and his colleague, transplant surgeon Dr. Maheswaran Pitchaimuthu, MBBS, MRCS (Edin.), FRCS (Eng.), assistant professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery in the Department of Surgery at OU College of Medicine, worked alongside a team of medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and transplant hepatologists to implement diagnostic, chemotherapy and radiation protocols needed for this innovative treatment.

Other key medical professions included Stephenson Cancer Center oncologists Dr. Hassan Hatoum, M.D., Dr. Ryan Nipp, M.D., MPH, and Dr. Susanna Ulahannan, M.D., MMed, as well as radiation oncologists Dr. Andrea Johnston, M.D., and Dr. Christopher Bozarth, M.D.; advanced endoscopy specialist Dr. Amir Rumman, M.D., and transplant hepatologists Dr. Abdul M. Oseini, M.D., MSc and Dr. Sidra Ahsan, M.D.

"All these patients were being referred to other centers out of state to be considered for transplant, and we had to question ourselves as to why we weren't offering this," Dr. Battula said. "We have an amazing cancer center and an amazing transplant center here. It's a huge emotional burden for the patient and their families to be far away in an unfamiliar environment. We have all the components, and now we are the only center in the state who can offer this type of liver transplant."

Learn more about hepatobiliary, pancreas and gastrointestinal cancer treatment and surgery options at OU Health here:

<https://www.ouhealth.com/>

AWARDS

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professional nurses to advance their education

• **RN to BSN Premier Award:** \$6,000 split between two semesters

• **Dean's Award:** Covers tuition and fees for the duration of a full-time student's enrollment

The RN to BSN is for registered nurses with an associate degree whose next step is to earn a BSN. Students can earn their degree in two, three or four semesters after completing 30 credit hours. Coursework will be delivered primarily online with some clinical experiences provided at HSC's on-campus Regional Simulation Center.


Both the RN to BSN and MSN in Nurse Practice Innovation degrees at HSC are pursuing initial accreditation by the

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