New award honors Joseph Ensign Lovejoy

On May 12, 2008, nurses and colleagues gathered once again at Fenway Park to celebrate and honor nursing practice at BIDMC. More than 60 nurses were honored by friends, colleagues, hospital leaders, and benefactors.

Dianne Anderson, RN, senior vice president of clinical operations, used the occasion to announce an important new nursing award named in memory of a long-standing trustee and board member whose commitment to the institution spanned more than two decades. Joseph Ensign Lovejoy served as a trustee of the Deaconess Hospital from 1984 to 1996 and remained on the BIDMC board for another nine years until his death. Mr. Lovejoy’s family created the award to pay tribute to his long involvement at the institution. Their gift was made in honor of Dr. Nicholas E. Tawa, Jr. and Leah M. Abbott, LPN. The Joseph Ensign Lovejoy Exemplary Nursing Award will recognize nurses and nursing aides who exemplify the excellence and compassionate nursing care for patients and families that Mr. Lovejoy advocated for throughout his life. Awardees will receive both formal recognition and a cash award.

For the inaugural award, Mr. Lovejoy’s family wanted to honor three staff members who took care of Mr. Lovejoy during his illness. They are Leah Abbott, LPN, who saw Mr. Lovejoy during his outpatient visits to Dr. Tawa’s office, along with Jeanne Eskander, RN, and Barbara Mayer, RN, who cared for Mr. Lovejoy on 7 Feldberg. Mr. Lovejoy’s wife, Joan, and his daughter, Clare Byrne, were on hand to present this year’s awards.

“I feel privileged to come to work each day in an environment that supports me in what I do. I’m just one piece of the puzzle. And it’s an honor to be recognized for my contributions.”

Gail Benedetti, RN

The 2008 Joseph Ensign Lovejoy Exemplary Nursing Awards were presented by Dianne Anderson, RN, senior vice president of clinical operations, along with members of Mr. Lovejoy’s family. Shown from left to right are Anderson; Joan Lovejoy; Clare Byrne; and awardees Leah Abbott, LPN, Jeanne Eskander, RN, and Barbara Mayer, RN. Not shown in the photo are Joseph E. Lovejoy, Jr. and Deven B. Lovejoy.
The list of awards given to recognize and honor nursing practice at the medical center continues to grow! Awards are based on nominations from peers and colleagues and recognize nurses in various areas of practice expertise.

**Edward and Marilyn Schwarz Awards for Excellence in Nursing Practice**

One of the longest-standing and most highly regarded awards at the medical center, the Schwarz Awards are based on peer nominations and recognize nurses in six categories of excellence. Awardees shown from left to right are: Deb Streeter, RN (spirit); Anne Sullivan, RN (spirit); Lynn Vozzella, RN (practice excellence); Rebecca Salapan, RN (peer education); Virginia Ferrenberg, RN (practice excellence); Margaret O’Toole, RN (spirit); Nancy Nigro, RN (patient education); Catherine Gentile, RN (patient advocate); and Meredith Jones, RN (community involvement).

**Gitta and Saul Kurlat Award for Nursing Excellence**

Even though a number of years have passed, Gitta and Saul Kurlat still speak about the expert care Gitta Kurlat received at the hands of a BIDMC nurse. The Kurlats were on hand to present the award they established to honor a nurse who demonstrates clinical expertise and a spirit of inquiry. Jo-Anne Lally, RN (right) from obstetric nursing was the 2008 recipient.

**William D. Cochran Award for Excellence in Neonatal Nursing**

Established in honor of Beth Israel Hospital’s former pediatrician-in-charge, The William D. Cochran Award was presented to Rosanne Buck, RN. DeWayne Pursley, MD, neonatologist-in-chief, presented the award.

**Herbert B. Singer Award for Nursing Excellence**

Beverly Singer, RN (left), a graduate of the Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing, presented an award in honor of her late husband to Casey Egan, RN.
Excellence in Advanced Practice Awards

Awards designed to recognize nurses who exhibit excellence in an advanced practice role were given this year to Mary Ann Ouellette, RN (center) and Tonya Boyd, RN (second from right). Presenting the awards and congratulating the recipients were (left to right) Jayne Carvelli-Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services; DeWayne Pursley, MD, neonatologist-in-chief; and Donald Moorman, MD, associate surgeon-in-chief.

Department of Surgery and Joseph M. Koufman Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Care of Surgical Patients and in Peri-operative Care

Donald Moorman, MD, associate surgeon-in-chief (left), presented awards in surgical and peri-operative nursing to (left to right) Janice Krohn, RN, Stephanie Vieira, RN, and Chip McIntosh, RN.

Internal Medicine Residency Excellence Award

Physicians in internal medicine present this annual award to a nurse whom they believe has been instrumental in the education and professional development of medical interns and residents in training at the medical center. Julius Yang, MD, associate director of the internal medicine residency program, presented the 2008 award to Sherry To, RN.

Colette Cantin Obstetric Excellence Award

Sandra Reed Sweezy, RN, was this year’s recipient of an award named in memory of Colette Cantin, RN, a longtime BIDMC labor and delivery nurse. Ronald Marcus, MD, director of the division of outpatient services in obstetrics and gynecology, presented the award.

Excellence in Gerontological Nursing Award

Receiving the award for excellence in gerontological nursing was Linda Coughlin DeBeasi, RN (center). Howard Nachamie, MD, medical director of the geriatric acute inpatient service, and Christine Kristeller, RN, geriatric clinical nurse specialist, presented the award.
Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing Awards
Three nurses received an award for excellence in cardiovascular nursing. The awards were presented by Frank Pompomposelli, Jr, MD, chief of cardiovascular surgery, and J. Peter Oettgen, MD, chief of preventive cardiology. Shown from left to right are Oettgen; recipient Anne Shea, RN; Pomposelli; recipient Norene McMillan, RN; and recipient Linda Denekamp, RN.

Excellence in Hematology/Oncology Nursing Awards
Susan Maclure, RN and Cindy Kavaltzis, RN, received the 2008 awards for excellence in hematology/oncology nursing. Shown from left to right are Maclure; James Levine, MD, medical director of hematologic malignancies/bone marrow transplantation; Kavaltzis; and Jayne Carveli-Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services.

Excellence in Critical Care Nursing Awards
Two awards recognize excellence in medical and surgical critical care nursing. Shown on the left, the medical award was presented to Annmarie Anderson, RN (left), and Stephanie Duddy, RN, by Peter Clardy, MD, director, medical intensive care. The surgical award was given to Suzanne Joyner, RN, by Alan Lisbon, MD, acting chair for the department of anesthesia, critical care, and pain medicine.

Excellence in Emergency Nursing Award
Linda Skinner Geib, RN, (center) received the award for excellence in emergency nursing from Jayne Carveli-Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services, and Richard Wolfe, MD, chief of emergency medicine.
Recognition by the Boston Community

Several BIDMC nurses were recognized with awards given by local organizations. Two nurses – Evonne Panias, RN, and Jennifer Thomas, RN – received Excellence in Nursing Awards from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association. And nine nurses were nominated by patients and families in the annual Salute to Nurses, sponsored by BostonWorks, a Division of the Boston Globe. Shown here with Marsha Maurer, RN, (left), vice president of patient care services and chief nurse, are (back row, left to right), Panias, Thomas, and Salute to Nurses nominees Gail Benedetti, RN and Christy Flory, RN.

Additional Salute to Nurses nominees in the front row are (left to right), Susan DeGiacomo, RN; Kimberly Rosen, RN; and Jackie Felt, RN. Additional staff, not shown, who were also nominated for the Salute to Nurses award were Robin Ball, RN; Lois Bartels, RN; Cynthia Olotka, RN; and Sarah Park, RN.

Edward and Marilyn Schwarz Award for Excellence in Ambulatory Nursing

The Schwarz awards were expanded in 2007 to recognize excellence in ambulatory nursing practice. Maureen Mamet, RN (center), was the recipient of this year’s award, which was presented by Jayne Carvelli-Sheehan, RN, senior vice president for ambulatory and emergency services, and James Heffernan, MD, associate division chief and medical director, Healthcare Associates.

Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Award

Denise Carey, RN, (right) received the 2008 Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Award from Dyanna Domilici, MD, medical director on Deaconess 4.

BostonWorks Salute to Nurses Awardee

The Salute to Nurses program received more than 150 nominations from across the state from patients and families who wanted to honor a particular nurse. Gail Benedetti, RN, was one of three recipients chosen from among this pool for a Salute to Nurses award. A resource nurse on Farr 9, Benedetti said she was humbled when she read the nomination letter that was sent by a former patient. She noted, “The letter she took the time to write has meant the most to me. I feel privileged to come to work each day in an environment that supports me in what I do. I’m just one piece of the puzzle. And it’s an honor to be recognized for my contributions.” A warm tribute to Benedetti can be found on the Salute to Nurses website at www.boston.com/jobs/salute/2008.
Nursing scholarship awards

Again this year, BIDMC nurses, as well as other BIDMC staff aspiring to nursing careers, were the recipients of more than $100,000 in nursing scholarships, thanks to the generosity of numerous benefactors. Notes Marsha Maurer, RN, vice president of patient care services and chief nurse, “We are so pleased to be able to offer this level of support to our staff who are advancing their education in nursing.”

Mary E. Armstrong Trust Scholarship
Thomas Page, an admissions coordinator on Deaconess 4, received this scholarship in support of his studies in the associate’s degree nursing program at Nashua Community College. Denise Corbett-Carbonneau, RN, nurse manager at BIDMC and co-chair of the Nursing Research and Education Council’s Nursing Scholarship Review Committee, presented the award.

New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Scholarship
Laura Ritter-Cox, RN, president-elect of the New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, presented that organization’s scholarship to Gerard Morris, RN, a clinical nurse on Farr 3 who is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in nursing at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Aron and Celia Steinberg Endowed Scholarships
These awards are given in memory of two longtime medical center volunteers. Recipients were Christopher Kraulik, RN (center), and Katherine Rice-Latham. Gerald Popkin, a trustee of the endowment, presented the awards. Both recipients are pursuing bachelor’s degrees in nursing – Kraulik at Framingham State College and and Rice-Latham at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Alexander and Brenda Tanger Nursing Scholarship, in honor of Mary M. Fermental, RN
This year’s recipient, Petya Kosow, RN, (right) is shown with BIDMC President Paul Levy and Mary M. (Maggie) Fermental, RN. Kosow is studying for a master’s degree at the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

“We are so pleased to be able to offer this level of support to our staff who are advancing their education in nursing.”

Marsha Maurer, RN
A variety of generous endowments help support additional nursing scholarships at the medical center. Recipients in 2008, being congratulated by Denise Corbett-Carbonneau, RN, (left), were (left to right): Erin McLaughlin, RN; Jennifer Lane Black, RN; Penny Greenberg, RN; Sefali Patel; and Kristin Hauvuy, RN. Also receiving BIDMC Scholarship Awards were: Nicole Diorio, RN; Jolivette Ritzer, RN; Mahmoud Kaddoura, RN; and Richard Pfeiffer, RN.

Red Sox Nursing Scholarship
The Nursing Awards Ceremony venue at Fenway Park was an apt location for the announcement of three Red Sox Nursing Scholarships, funded by proceeds from the Red Sox ticket raffles held for BIDMC employees. Shown here from left to right are Susan Goodenow, vice president of public affairs at the Boston Red Sox; Lorraine Waldron, a surgical technician who is enrolled in the associate degree nursing program at Massachusetts Bay Community College; and Vinessa Tjoa, a telemetry technician on Farr 3 who is studying nursing at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. Dauda Sesay (not shown), a mental health associate on Deaconess 4 also received a Red Sox Scholarship.
Crisis in the sky

By Irina Portnoy, RN

In this unique narrative, critical care nurse Irina Portnoy, RN, describes a harrowing experience she encountered on an airplane over the Atlantic Ocean. She describes how her experience as a critical care nurse not only helped her care for a passenger in trouble, but also gave her the confidence she needed to make a difficult decision. (In the narrative, Portnoy mentions her husband [Alex Poliansky, RN], who is a clinical nurse in the TSICU at BIDMC.)

We were about half-way into a flight home across the Atlantic when I saw a man collapse after coming out of the lavatory. My husband and I got up and quickly approached the man and his wife, who had come to his aid. We explained to them and to the flight attendant that we were nurses and we were willing to help. The woman said her husband’s name was Ray.

Ray was breathing and had a pulse, but was very pale. We called his name but got no response. I wanted to grab an oximeter probe, monitor leads, a glucometer. But I had to bring myself back to reality – we were on a plane. There was no emergency medical service or intensive care unit nearby and we had to figure out what to do. We asked the attendant to bring us all the first aid equipment that was available. We heard the captain asking if there were any physicians on board.

The attendant brought a small first aid box containing a blood pressure cuff and some IV supplies. There was no monitor or defibrillator. I thought, “Oh my God, is this all we have?” Suddenly, Ray started to move. His blood pressure was 85/60 and his pulse was 54.

I thought the most likely reason Ray had fainted was a vasovagal episode. To help Ray’s blood pressure improve, we held up his legs, increasing circulation to his head and vital organs. Ray’s vital signs and neurological status began to improve. He was now able to answer questions, and said he had no chest pain or pressure, but still felt dizzy.

Soon, the captain approached. He said, “I have to know if we need to perform an emergency landing. You must tell us your opinion, our decision to land will depend on it!”

“Our opinion?” we asked, surprised. “Yes,” he answered. “You are the only medical personnel here and we are asking for your advice. We are 15 minutes from Nova Scotia and 2 ½ hours from Logan. Advise us, please!”

I felt like Mount Everest just dropped on my shoulders. Yet I think my experience as a medical ICU nurse – collaborating with team members to contribute to patient care decisions – gave me the confidence I needed to do what was being asked.

I was against the idea of the emergency landing. Ray and his wife had no family in Nova Scotia and they would need support. Although Ray was still weak, he had no neurological deficits or chest pain, and his vital signs were now stable.

As I was considering these factors, Ray’s wife said, “I trust you guys, it looks like you know what you are doing.” At that moment I felt a familiar sense of accomplishment and pride about being a nurse. I said to the flight attendant, “We think it is safe to continue to Boston!” He hurried to tell the pilot.

Although Ray’s condition continued to...
Gina Murphy, RN, appointed 12 Reisman nurse manager

Congratulations to Gina Murphy, RN, who was named nurse manager of 12 Reisman on April 1, 2008. Murphy has been on the 12 Reisman staff for 14 years, serving the last two as its unit educator. Commenting on her appointment, Murphy noted, “I am honored to have this opportunity to lead such a talented, dedicated, and exceptional group of nurses, patient care technicians, and unit coordinators. I am looking forward to working with the 12 Reisman team on patient safety initiatives, teamwork, and professional development.”
Spotlights

Professional activities of nursing staff (listed in bold).

Presentations


Awards and honors

Marie Benoit received a Clara Barton Service to Humanity Student Award from Emmanuel College.

Mary Coughlan Lavieri received an award for Excellence as a Preceptor from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Kelly Pfeiffer received the Pauline Wheble Tripp Award from Simmons College.

Academic degrees

Marie Benoit, bachelor of science in nursing, Emmanuel College

Eleanor Hoover, bachelor of science in nursing, Excelsior College

Bridgid Joseph, master of science, University of Massachusetts Boston

Sarah Kozaczka, master of science in nursing, Simmons College

Karen Lewandowski, master of science, Regis College

Ann Mitchell, master of science, Boston College

Shirley Parker, master of science, Boston College

Kelly Pfeiffer, master of science in nursing, Simmons College

Certifications

Karen Lewandowski was certified as a family nurse practitioner.

Diane McKinnon was certified in progressive care.

Aileen Robison was certified in oncology nursing.

Michael Tomsho was certified in geriatric nursing.

Lisa Williams was certified as a nurse practitioner.

Professional leadership and consultation

Barbara G. Rosato, was elected vice president, Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. • She was also appointed as a clinical instructor in the School of Nursing at Northeastern University.

Elaine Sweeney is serving on the Planning Committee for the 2007-2008 AORN Congress.

Community leadership and outreach

Sandra Reed Sweezy participated as a nurse in a medical mission to Cervicos, Dominican Republic.

Clinical advancements

To CN III

Jaclyn Dunn, RN
Erica Gemellaro, RN
Kim Hebert, RN
Mahmoud Kaddoura, RN
Ann Kikoiski, RN
Thuy Nguyen, RN
Erin O’Malley, RN
Karen O’Sullivan, RN
Katelyn Petralia, RN
Patricia Woodford, RN

To CN IV

Judy Bertone, RN
Lynn Bubley, RN
Judith Catalano, RN
Mary Costello, RN
Cindy Ferrucci, RN
Elise Fisher, RN
Christine Conroy Flynn, RN
Patricia (Jan) Gutweiler, RN
Luci Lima, RN
Susan Mantia, RN
Kathy Petersen, RN
Mary Phelan, RN
Irina Portnoy, RN
Claire Reilly, RN
Sharon Renzi, RN
Jolivette Ritzer, RN
Tracy Salters, RN
Debra Savage, RN
April Shapiro, RN
Nancy Torigian, RN
Ellen Webster, RN
Lisa Williams, RN
Have you caught the SPIRIT?

By now, most of you have had exposure to BIDMC SPIRIT – an initiative launched in March, designed to identify barriers to smooth patient care, seek out their root causes, and implement solutions. The ultimate goal is to improve the work environment for staff and the process of care for patients.

At this writing, 760 “call-outs” have been logged into the system! This is a triumph and a testament to the dedication staff feel toward their work. The scrolling list of call-outs that have already resulted in improvements in care is now a feature of our internal portal. Please check it out if you haven’t already done so.

Our current efforts to improve access to IV pumps resulted from a SPIRIT call-out logged by Julie Kelly, RN, from the west campus PACU. An investigation quickly confirmed that IV pump availability was a longstanding hospital-wide problem, despite the tremendous effort of staff from distribution services and many other departments. An intensive, multi-departmental effort is now underway to make pump procurement more streamlined and efficient.

Our BIDMC SPIRIT program is also gaining attention outside of BIDMC. On June 22nd, a story about the program was featured on “Sunday with Liz Walker” on WBZ-TV, Channel 4.

I am so pleased and proud to be part of this effort, and I hope each of you feels the same. This is your program! I urge you to use this new tool to help solve problems you encounter in your work. Attach your name to your entry so that we can follow up on your concern. And spread the word about the power of BIDMC SPIRIT!

Kudos

Farr 3 nurses educate women about heart disease risk

Stephanie Ricci, RN, a clinical nurse on Farr 3, and colleagues Allison Cummings, RN; Jennifer Rouvina, RN; Ann Warner, RN; and Allison Woods, RN, found a creative way to celebrate American Heart Month this past February.

Motivated by their work on Farr 3, where they often saw women who did not realize they were at risk for heart disease, the group worked to raise awareness that heart disease is the number one killer of women. Using tools from the American Heart Association’s “Go Red for Women” campaign, the group distributed fact sheets about cardiac risk factors and index cards prompting women to ask their providers about blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, and blood sugar. They spoke to teachers, secretaries, nursing students, book-club friends, and staff and visitors in the Farr Café. Information was posted on a bulletin board on Farr 3 for patients, visitors, and staff.

“The response was amazing” said Ricci. “Most women were enthusiastic about sharing this information with their mothers, sisters, aunts, and girlfriends. This experience reaffirms that as nurses, one of our most powerful interventions for helping our patients is education.”

—Submitted by Marie Bosak, RN

Posing for a recent photo on Farr 3 are some of the nurses involved in the project to educate women about heart disease. Shown from left to right are project participants Stephanie Ricci, RN; Jennifer Rouvina, RN; and Ann Warner, RN; along with Farr 3 nursing colleague Renee Ward, RN.
As chief nurse, I have the privilege of welcoming new nurses to the organization on the first Wednesday of the month during nursing orientation. I always begin by going around the room and having each new nurse describe their path to Beth Israel Deaconess. In some cases, nurses have traveled the traditional path from high school to college, and then on to BIDMC as their first nursing job. Other nurses have come to us from other local hospitals or other parts of the country. And an increasing number of new hires are nurses for whom nursing is a second degree. In fact, in the last half year nearly one-third of our hires were nurses coming to us with “first” degrees in areas such as biochemistry, computer science, engineering, and economics.

As many of you know, a 2003 study by Linda Aiken published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that a better educated nursing staff was associated with reductions in patient mortality. At BIDMC, we have a tradition of commitment to outstanding academic preparation and continual learning for our nurses. We have long had, and continue to have, well over 90% of our nursing staff prepared at the bachelor’s level. This year, we awarded 17 scholarships for our own staff to either enter the nursing profession or advance their academic preparation. Our current Nursing Pipeline Program, which supports BIDMC staff in obtaining an associate’s degree in nursing, will soon be coupled with a pipeline supporting transition to the bachelor’s degree. Throughout the year we provide financial support for nurses to attend conferences and workshops to keep current on practice within their specialty.

Clinical excellence is a hallmark of nursing at BIDMC, and educational preparation and continual learning are the bedrock of excellence. I am committed to creating ever-expanding opportunities for nursing advancement through education and scholarship.

Reference: