



Extra-CHLA: LIVES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

No Horsin' Around

by Candace Pearson

Diane Grade, RN, 4 East operations manager, spends a lot of her off time around, but not on, horses. As she says, "I prefer to stay on the ground." Grade serves as parent volunteer, ground crew and 1st Lieutenant in the California Rangers, a nonprofit youth equestrian organization modeled after the Cavalry of the 1800s. Its goals: to teach horsemanship to young people ages nine to 19, as well as skills in leadership, self-respect and responsibility.

Grade first got involved in 2002 when her daughter, Christine, now 17, joined. Two years ago, Grade became an officer. She knows how to hold the reins ("Don't hold onto the

saddle horn") and how to angle your heels in the stirrups. But she confines herself to informal trail rides.

California Rangers was inspired by a Junior Mounted Militia formed during World War II to patrol the state's coastline. Today, there are two posts in the San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita Valley, each with four troops. Grade and her daughter belong to Post I, Troop B, home to 17 Rangers and 2008 Troop of the Year.

Members wear gold-and-black, Cavalry-style uniforms. At weekly evening rides, they practice equitation (individual riding skills) and a troop drill, which involves several maneuvers.

That can mean 17 riders and horses in the ring at once. "Each horse weighs 1,200 to 1,500

pounds," Grade notes, "so safety is always a concern." She serves as a spotter, making sure equipment is intact and all safety rules followed.

Her involvement grew as she watched her daughter excel. "It's really brought out her leadership qualities," she says. Christine now is a platoon sergeant and cadet commander, helping to train younger riders and write drills. She also competes with the Eagles, California Rangers advanced riding team.

Grade and her husband, Glen, help at all Ranger events throughout the year. Older daughter, Erin, also volunteers. For a recent show in Santa Rosa, Grade set out before dawn on Saturday, hauling a trailer-full of six horses. The effort paid off: The Eagle Team took first place and Grand Champions.

Grade and other parents performed at the show, riding wooden "stick cows" in formation.



Diane Grade and her daughter, Christine, at the October 2009 show

The kids were very amused," she laughs. "We didn't win anything and definitely lost our dignity."

Volunteers IN ACTION

Nurses Run, Bike & Swim for Research

by Candace Pearson



L-R: Rachel Blackburn, RN, Phan Dang, RN, Kevan Craig, MD, Pattie Soltero, RN

"I'm sure I was a dolphin in a previous life or will be one someday," says **Debbie Reid, RN, MSN**, manager of PCS Staff Development.

This September, she had a chance to prove her theory when she competed in the swim portion of the 23rd Annual Nautica Malibu Triathlon, sponsored by Toyota. "Coming out of the water onto Zuma Beach, I felt fantastic," says Reid, who met her goal of completing the half-mile ocean swim in less than 20 minutes.

She was one of several dozen nurses who tested their athletic mettle in the Nautica Malibu

Triathlon, which raised more than \$1 million for the Pediatric Cancer Research Program at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

Reid's relay team partner was **Richard D. Cordova, FACHE**, hospital president and CEO, who took on Nautica's four-mile run and 18-mile bicycle ride. "She was an inspiration for me," he says of Reid, adding praise for the over 125 employee participants.

Though an experienced scuba diver, Reid was admittedly out of

shape when she signed on for the challenge. She cut fast foods from her diet, worked out with weights and attended weekly beachside training sessions.

Sue Martinez, RN, BSN, 5 East, took a less rigorous approach but still completed the entire three-part triathlon. She found inspiration from the worthy cause, the team effort — "so many of us on this floor volunteered" — and her cousin, Claudia Marolf, who came from her home in Switzerland to participate. Last year, Martinez competed in the swim, and the cousins made a pact they would tackle the full event together in 2009.

"It's a great accomplishment for our 'bucket list,'" she says, referring to a movie about fulfilling a personal wish list before you "kick the bucket."

As part of the team from 6 North, **Phan Dang, RN**, education manager, and **Pattie Soltero, RN, BSN, MAOM**, operations manager, also followed decidedly different regimens. Dang downed some vitamins just before setting out on this year's run, her first. Soltero started training before the 2008 triathlon with a group called "Moms in Motion" and regularly runs two to three times a week.

Dang, who surprised herself by finishing, says it has motivated her on a healthier path. "I'm working out more now."

"You don't need to be an ultra-athlete to participate," adds Soltero. "It's something anyone can do. And when you cross that finish line, you can say, 'I competed in a triathlon.'"

'Air traffic controllers' keep CHLA running

by Vicki Cho Estrada



Desiree Ritter

It didn't take long for **Denise Henry, RN, MSN**, to realize it was going to be a tough day. Early in her shift, she learned there were 18 patients scheduled for surgery, all of whom would later be moved to 6 East and 6 North, and six patients designated for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). But there were no available hospital beds on the two floors or unit.

In the meantime, there were a high number of patient admissions, leading to the predicament of having too many patients and too few beds in the hospital.

But after several phone calls to the chief of surgery, ICU physicians and charge nurse, and working with hospital staff to re-schedule surgeries, obtain discharge and transfer orders for non-critical patients, and moving some patients to recovery and emergency transition rooms, the bed-shortage dilemma was solved.

One of 10 house supervisors at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Henry admits some days are

more hectic than others, but "solving problems is what we do every day. We need to think on our feet quickly and really know where our resources are."

House supervisors are responsible for overseeing administrative aspects of the hospital, ranging from patient placement, staffing, and codes and traumas to working with physicians and all healthcare providers throughout the hospital, according to **Nancy Blake, RN, MN, CCRN, NEA-BC**, director, Patient Care Services, Critical Care Services. "They are involved with the inner workings of the organization. Essentially, we couldn't run the hospital without them."

"They are the air traffic controllers of the hospital...if you want to know the pulse of the hospital at any given moment, you call the house supervisors," adds **Mary Dee Hacker, RN, MBA**, vice president, Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. "They know minute by minute what's happening here."

There is a house supervisor at CHLA 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During each shift, the incoming house supervisor gets a status report from the outgoing one and receives an update about activities on each floor through twice-a-day "bed huddles."

Bed huddles — brief meetings usually lasting 15 minutes — are held every day at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Patient Placement Center in the McAllister building. They are led by a house supervisor and include key staff members from throughout the hospital, including charge nurses and representatives from each floor as well as ancillary departments, such as x-ray, pharmacy and radiology.

Ranging in size from six to 20 individuals, "we go through each floor and look at how our day is going to work," says **Ruth Paul, RN, MSN**, who is also manager of the inpatient float pool. "We look at flow throughout the hospital and the best way to get patients in and out. We don't always resolve problems at the bed huddle, but they come to light during this time."

House supervisors visit every floor, handle bed placement for admissions and transfers, coordinate staffing, respond to all emergencies, assist charge nurses in dealing with issues related to their unit, work collaboratively with Emergency Department and ICU charge nurses and physicians in making decisions regarding admission priorities, coordinate with infectious control and charge nurses to safely isolate patients, and work with staff to meet patient care needs and troubleshoot problems. Many also handle other responsibilities in addition to their house supervisor duties.

"Making sure we have the right number of beds for patients is an ongoing challenge," says **Desiree Ritter, RN, BSN**, a part-time house supervisor who also manages contracts for travel nurses at CHLA. "There are times when we don't have enough beds and we need to make the decision whether to keep a patient in recovery, the emergency department or emergency transition unit or transfer lower-acute patients to a general hospital with a pediatric floor.

"Many of the decisions we make are not popular," Ritter adds, noting staff may be asked to work at another location if a floor or unit is short-staffed or surgeries may be postponed if there are not enough beds, "but we take a global view and make decisions based on what's best for the overall hospital."

Henry, who is also manager of the IV Team and Patient Placement Center, adds, "we may have a basic plan for the day, but it's always changing...we can plan ahead for discharges, but we don't know about the number of admissions, which range from 30 to 50 a day. It's a basic plan you have to continually work on."

During the day, house supervisors can consult with other managers to resolve complicated issues, but at night, "you are pretty much it for the whole hospital," says **Valerie Bock Pinero, RN**, who works nights and is also



An Advocate for Families Facing Autism

by Candace Pearson



L-R: Valerie Bock Pinero and Ruth Paul

responsible for reporting CHLA's clinical productivity and staffing to the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, which benchmarks CHLA's staffing hours against other facilities.

"If there is an issue, it is yours. You do have on-call administrators, but when it is 2 a.m., you try to troubleshoot to the best of your ability and utilize any in-house resources you have before you call someone and wake them up in the middle of the night. There is a need to be able to make

"solving problems is what we do every day. We need to think on our feet quickly and really know where our resources are."

Denise Henry

decisions pretty rapidly and everyone realizes we all need to work together to accomplish our goals and we only have each other to rely on," she adds.

Other house supervisors include **Janine Briner**, RN, BSN; **Nancy O'Gorman**, RN, BSN; **Deann Dover**, RN, BSN, ASN, who also works on projects for donor referrals; **Ria Yeh**, RN, BSN, who also handles disaster preparedness; **Jenese Rubottom**, RN, MN, who is responsible for quality audits, including medication administration audits, and **Kathy Stevenson**, RN, BSN, who is also pediatric disaster resource center manager.

They all agree the job can be demanding, but they love the challenge. "When all the pieces fall into place, it is amazingly rewarding. I liken the job to a big jig saw puzzle, and when it is complete and it all works, it is a thing of beauty," Pinero says.



Denise Henry (middle)



Kathryn Smith

The mother calling the Autism Warm Line in the Boone Fetter Clinic at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles was audibly worried. Her 12-year-old daughter, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), was acting out and having trouble sleeping. Nurse Care Manager **Kathryn Smith**, RN, MN, listened carefully, asked questions and, ultimately, directed the family to additional care for their daughter.

In another call, a father shared concerns about his five-year-old son's delayed speech and social development. Smith referred him to the Boone Fetter Clinic for a team evaluation. Part of the CHLA-USC Institute for the Developing Mind, the Boone Fetter Clinic provides comprehensive diagnosis and treatment for a full range of neurodevelopmental disorders, including ASD.

Smith brings more than three decades of experience to helping the families of children with special health care needs gain access to services. She's especially interested in identifying and filling gaps in the health care system. "I know from a policy perspective what the system should be able to provide," she says.

Helping to close some of those gaps is the Autism Warm Line, which is supported by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The free call-in service is unique.

"No other place takes all callers and answers all questions about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders in general," says Smith, an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. She also teaches in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she is completing her doctorate.

Much of her job at the Boone Fetter Clinic — where her office shelves hold puzzles, games and a family of rubber ducks — involves what she calls "orientation," introducing families to resources and the insider lingo of public agencies.

Although an expert advocate, she coaches each family in finding its own voice to navigate the services of the California Regional Centers and special education. "You can be very competent in your own field — a great CPA, for example, and still not understand the health care system," says Smith, who also is associate director for administration in the USC University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, housed at Childrens Hospital.

With each phone call and each potential treatment, she has one hope: that families "will come to understand their child's condition, see the strengths in their child and learn the things that can help him or her develop and grow."

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Achieves Beacon Award

CHLA's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) is one of four pediatric intensive care units in the country to be recognized with the prestigious Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence® given by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). This award recognizes excellence in professional practice, patient care and outcomes.

Jen Huson, RN and **Colleene L. Young**, RN (PICU) were instrumental in gathering and compiling the extensive data required by the AACN. "I'm so proud of our PICU nurses," says **Mary Dee Hacker**, RN, MBA, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. "This award is about our nurses' dedication, compassion and absolute focus to provide the best care possible for our most fragile young patients."

The Perfect Tag-Team

by Elena Epstein

They strategize, research, gather data and put reports with hundreds of pages together. As Childrens Hospital Los Angeles' new Magnet Program co-managers, **Margaux Chan, RN, BSN** and **Susan Crandall, RN, BSN** are breaking new ground as bedside nurses who are also job-sharing a management position.

"This is a unique situation, allowing two nurses who are still very involved with patient care to use their insight to enhance the hospital's commitment to maintain Magnet status," explains **Mary Dee Hacker, RN, MBA**, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer.

Both nurses were involved in the hospital's three-year effort to receive the prestigious Magnet designation, which was granted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in February 2008. The duo took this position in February of 2009 when **Susan Cline, RN, MSN, MBA**, operations manager in the Emergency Department, vacated her position as Magnet Program director. Crandall, who has been at the hospital for 20 years, works in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit two days a week and spends three days a week in the Magnet office. Chan, who has been at the hospital for nine years, spends her clinical time in the PACU.

When this position became available, both nurses were interested, but neither wanted to give up patient care. "I knew



L-R: Margaux Chan and Susan Crandall

when I first walked into the lobby of this hospital that this is where I wanted to work," recalls Crandall. "The kids and the families bring such joy into my life and I can't imagine giving that up."

Job-sharing was the perfect solution. The duo has a special synergy that makes them a dynamic team. Chan is creative, technology savvy and always looking at the big picture. Crandall is the proofreading master, who is organized and focused on the details. They share an adventurous spirit and a strong commitment to excellent patient care. "We balance each other really well," says Chan. "We are constantly bouncing ideas off each other and learning as we go."

The co-managers are responsible for providing the ANCC with very specific documentations required to maintain Magnet

status. They must gather the data and publish an Annual Nursing Report, which highlights certifications, awards, degrees, faculty positions, community service activities and many other accomplishments of nurses. They must also submit several other reports tracking such information as the hospital's demographics, nurse recruitment, patient satisfaction data and quality improvement. They're also responsible for educating the hospital about the Magnet requirements and preparing the staff for reaccreditation in February 2012. They also attend the annual international Magnet Conference, where they network and share information with other Magnet hospitals.

"It's definitely challenging switching gears," says Crandall. "I feel like I'm juggling 10 balls in the air at once, but it's been a very rewarding experience."

A Fond Farewell



Nurse Leaders at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles had a special goodbye tribute to **Ken Wildes**, vice president of Communications at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, at the home of **Mary Dee Hacker, RN, MBA**, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. Wildes, who worked at Childrens Hospital for nine years, left in September 2009.

"Ken has always been a dear friend and a passionate advocate of CHLA nurses," says Hacker. "He was instrumental in the development of *FloSheet*, our journey to Magnet recognition and for creating a greater awareness and recognition for nurses within the hospital, as well as, in the community. We will truly miss him."



Mary Dee Hacker, RN, MBA
Vice President, Patient Care Services &
Chief Nursing Officer

One of the strongest qualities of leadership is to facilitate the confidence people have to achieve goals they didn't think was possible. Leadership is about opening passages. It's not about controlling people, it's about inspiring people and it's about having a vision. Nursing at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles thrives on the vision of many leaders in a variety of positions. This issue of *FloSheet* truly highlights some of our finest nurse leaders.

In our hospital, nursing is so much broader than just a clinical role, exemplified by our Magnet co-managers, who while still at the bedside are leading the hospital in our quest to maintain our Magnet status. I congratulate their managers for being a partner and a supporter of their drive to grow as nurses and to develop their management skills. One of the main components of being a successful nurse includes being a strong leader. It's up to us to explore different opportunities to discover what leadership roles best match our talents and interests. However, it's important to remember that being a leader is not just about a title.

A staff nurse who leads a family to a point of wellness and knowledge or one of our House Supervisors who is leading the hospital on a daily basis, are both examples of visionaries. Kathryn Smith, featured in our Bedside's Best column, is an inspiration by using her talent and education as a nurse to lead whole communities of families with autistic children through a complicated and, often times, confusing health care system. The nurses who participated in the Nautica Malibu Triathlon are leading by volunteering their time and energy to raise awareness and much needed funds for medical research. Diane Grade, featured in our Extra-CHLA column, is an example of a nurse who is also a community leader, helping children learn new skills and gain a greater confidence.

Through our professional ladder and through the culture of mentoring and coaching that we have created at CHLA, we want to provide each of our nurses the opportunity to discover their innate leadership abilities. We have a collective vision at this hospital - creating a healthier future for all children. Let's not sit still. Let's empower one another, support each other, teach and learn from our colleagues. Together we will make our vision a reality.

Flo Sheet Chronicles

PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

Norma Corona, RN (Neurosurgery) was the organizer and moderator for the Nursing Section of the 37th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN) held in Pasadena in October 2009. Corona planned the conference, organized the schedule, coordinated with the international nurses and was a great nursing advocate for CHLA as an international leader in pediatrics. With her assistance, the ISPN committee is working on a permanent Nursing Section for the annual meeting held around the world.

Nancy Blake, RN (Patient Care Services) and **Kathleen Stevenson**, RN (House Supervisor) published "Pediatric Disaster Preparedness in the Medical Setting: Integrating Mental Health" in the May-June 2009 issue of the *American Journal of Disaster Medicine*. They also published "Reunification: Keeping Families Together in Crisis," in the August 2009 issue of the *Journal of Trauma*.

Congratulations to the staff of 5 East for winning the hospital's Humanism Award and the Favorite Resident Doctors' Unit Award.

The 10-year anniversary of the Versant RN Residency in Pediatrics Program was featured in the July 13th issue of *Working Nurse Magazine*.

Rita Secola, RN (Hematology/Oncology/BMT) received the Intermediate Nurse Researcher Grant from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, awarded for her dissertation study, "Central Venous Catheter (CVC)-Related Bloodstream Infections in Pediatric Cancer," to be completed at CHLA.

Mary Baron Nelson, RN (Imaging Services/Anesthesia) was awarded the National Research Service Award pre-doctoral fellowship grant from the NIH for her dissertation study, "Diffusion Tensor Imaging to Define CNS Injury in Children with Brain Tumors." She was also awarded a grant from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for her dissertation.

Congratulations to the following DAISY Award recipients:

Beth Nakamura, RN (PACU) – July
Nancy Bridges, RN (Pre Operative Services) – August
Faye Ong, RN (PACU) – September
Elizabeth Martinez, RN (Radiology) – October
LaToya Wells, RN (Gastroenterology) – November

Meghan Middleton, RN and **Debbie Jury**, RN (Magik Pain Service) presented update classes on "Neuraxial Therapies and Nursing Management" for PCS nursing staff in September and October 2009.

Sue Martinez, RN, **Jeri Fonacier**, RN and **Sherry Nolan**, RN (5 East) presented a poster, "Improving the Culture of Patient Safety and Satisfaction on an Inpatient Pediatric Unit," at the Atlanta SPN conference in April 2009. Nolan also presented "Ethical Management of End of Life Issues," at the Burbank Career Fair in October 2009.

Mary Dee Hacker, RN (vice president, Patient Care Services, chief nursing officer) presented "Communicators and Collaborators: Keeping a Long-term Development on Track" at the Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo in Chicago in October 2009.

Shirley Hammers, RN and **Anne Gleeson**, RN (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) presented "All For One and One For All" at the Cerner Healthcare Conference in Kansas City in October 2009. The presentation was about the transition from CareVue to iView in the three ICUs at CHLA.

Victoria Winter, RN (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) had 2 different chapters published. She wrote the chapter on acute gastroenteritis in "Pediatric Primary Care Case Studies," published in September 2009. She also wrote "Preserving Identity in a Residential Care Setting for the Elderly" in "Glaserian Grounded Theory in Nursing Research: Trusting Emergence," published in August 2009.

Barbara Britt, RN (Hematology/Oncology) was an invited speaker at the Fall Workshop for School Nurses for the LA County Board of Education. Her topic was "Childhood Cancer in 2009: The Partnership of Family, School and Medical Team." The LA County Board represents between 65-70 different school districts.

Nurses from Hematology/Oncology and BMT had 11 poster presentations during the 33rd Annual Conference for the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses, held in Florida in September 2009. CHLA had the highest number of posters from one institution. The posters were: "Developing a Nursing Educational Tool for Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collections," by **Laura Vasquez**, RN, **Courtney Rogers**, RN. "An End of Life Program Project: Implementing a Pediatric Oncology Hospice Cart," by **Laura Vasquez**, RN, **Monica Grover**, RN. "The Psychosocial Impact of Childhood Cancer on Healthy Siblings," by **Kristin Malice**, RN, **Jennifer Blaney**, RN, **Hazel Kolpak**, RN, **Jasmin Uy**, RN, **Donna Quiroz**, RN. "HHV 6: The Gateway Virus. A Retrospective Study," by **Jennifer Blaney**, RN, **Donna Quiroz**, RN, **Hazel Kolpak**, RN, **Jasmin Uy**, RN, **Donna Quiroz**, RN. "Facilitating 'Hand Off' in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Transfer of Care," by **Karen Sidi**, RN, **Susanna Morelli**,

RN, Kerry Vancura, RN. "Methods Utilized to Promote Educational Opportunities for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses," by **Maria Velasco**, RN, **Afshid Roozrokhi**, RN. "A team approach in Supporting Parents of Children with Cancer," by **Maria Velasco**, RN, **Afshid Roozrokhi**, RN, **Kerry Vancura**, RN. "Hands off Communication: A Performance Improvement Project," by **Renee Flores**, RN, **Ted Chow**, RN, **Johanna Navia**, RN and **Kellie Loera**, RN. "Developing a Nursing Chemotherapy Biotherapy Course for Pediatric Non-cancer Patients," by **Peggy Townsend**, RN, **Debbie Reid**, RN, **Kellie Loera**, RN, **Rita Secola**, RN. The poster that won 3rd place ribbon was, "Mock Code: On-The-Job Training for Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses," by **Sonya Williams**, RN, **Irene Aberin**, RN, **Sacha Reis**, RN and **Gina Santangelo**, RN.

The Southern California Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses (SCAPHON) won the national APHON Local Chapter Excellence Award. **Kelley Haley**, RN, president of SCAPHON accepted the award. She also presented "Strategies for Local Chapter Success" at the APHON Annual Conference.

Bonnie Brennan, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) won 1st Place in the Annual Versant RN Residency Essay Contest. The theme this year was: "How Has Versant Helped Sustain Excellence in Your Organization?" The winning essay was read at the Annual Versant Conference in San Francisco in August 2009.

Suzanne Taylor, RN (Clinical Education and Professional Development) presented "When Playing Around is Serious Business: Instructional Games and Interactive Exercises for Staff Development" at the National Nursing Staff Development Organization (NNSDO) conference in Philadelphia in July 2009.

Anthony (Tony) Hernandez, FNP has joined the Surgery Admitting Nurse Practitioner group.

Sandra Watcher, RN (Rheumatology) was appointed the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals (ARHP) Clinical Focus Course Chair and the ARHP Program Subcommittee member for 2009-2010.

The Versant RN Residency Program graduated 35 residents in August 2009 and 47 new residents began the program in September 2009.

Congratulations to the following promotions and certifications:

Brenda Barnum (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN IV
Jennifer Huson (Pediatric Intensive Care) – RN IV
Amy Anthony (Operating Room) – RN III
Elsa Yedinak (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN III
Diane Altounji (4 West) – RN III
Elizabeth Daley (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) – RN III
Elaine Law (6 West) – RN II
Nubia Newsome (6 West) – RN II
Tracy Ono (6 West) – RN II
Edwin Tadeo, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) – CCRN
Shinny Thomas, RN (Ambulatory Surgery) – CRNA
Melissa Bailey, RN (Ambulatory Surgery) – CRNA
Sarah Polkinghorn, RN (Ambulatory Surgery) – CRNA
Heather Mehl, RN (Hematology/Oncology) – CPON
Margaret Frankel, RN (5 West) – CPN
Francis Mombay, RN (5 West) – CPN
Judith Tighe, RN (5 West) – CPN
Angela Madrid, RN (5 East) – CPN
Elsa Yedinak, RN (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – CPNP-PC
Lisa Oda, RN (5 West) – CPNP
Bianca Salvetti, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) – PNP

The first National Certification for Neonatal-Pediatric Transport was awarded to **Martha Martinez**, RN and **Susan Cesinger**, RN (Emergency Transport).

Jen Baldwin, RN (6 West) was promoted to Unit Shift Lead in August 2009.

Elizabeth Christianson, RN (6 West) became an American Heart Association CPR Instructor in April 2009.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Afshid Roozrokhi, RN (Hematology/Oncology) – MSN
Debbie Reid, RN (Patient Care Services) – MSN
Stacey Adler, RN (6 West) – MSN
Agnes Son, RN (5 West) – BSN
Ani Yeremian, RN (Allergy/Immunology) – BSN

Johanna Navia, RN (Hematology/Oncology) received the Terry Varetta Memorial Scholarship Award to use towards her master's degree.

Debbie Harris, RN, **Kynna Wright**, RN and **Trish Peterson**, RN (Hematology/Oncology) taught a class to CHLA nurses on "Diamond Blackfan Anemia – the 'Not So Pure' Red Cell Aplasia" in October 2009. Harris and Peterson taught a class to CHLA nurses on "The Beauty and Burden of Blood for the Patient with Sickle Cell Disease" in September 2009. Harris was a guest speaker at the SCAPHON conference on "The Sickle Cell Life: Choosing the Best Path to Ensure Healthy Outcomes," held in Dana Point in May 2009. Harris, Peterson, **Paola Pederzoli**, RN, **Christina Smith**, RN (Hematology/Oncology) had a poster presentation, "Transfusions, Transfusions, Are They All the Same? Knowledge and

Understanding of Transfusions are Vital to Provide Expert Care of the Patient with Sickle Cell Disease," at the APHON Conference in Florida in September 2009.

Sue Carson, RN and **Anne Nord**, RN (Hematology/Oncology) had a poster presentation and workshop at the New York Academy of Science 9th Cooleys Anemia Symposium in October 2009. The topic was "Treatment of two Thalassemia Patients with Long-term Rituximab Therapy for Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia: a Novel Approach."

Vertquene Carr, RN, **Norma Dansak**, RN and **Overly Hernandez**, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) had their poster, "The Berlin Heart," presented at the Versant Client Conference in August 2009.

Melanie Guerrero, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) was elected Secretary for Sigma Theta Tau International Nu Mu Chapter in May 2009. **Marlene Cox**, RN (5 West) was elected onto the board of directors of Sigma Theta Tau, Nu Mu chapter in April 2009.

Cathy Kissinger, RN (6 East) has been re-elected as treasurer of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of Pediatric Nurses.

Carmen Reyes, RN (Pulmonology) was selected from 40 nominees, as recipient of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation LA's Finest Award. This award recognizes achievements and community involvement and is given to only a select few, who exemplify leadership qualities in their professional and personal lives and who serve as active volunteers in their community. She was recognized in October 2009.

Three nurses from Japan and their interpreter visited the Childrens Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases as guests of **Kathy Ruccione**, RN and **Maki Okada**, RN in September 2009. They were in the U.S. to attend the Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses meeting and requested the opportunity to spend a day of learning at CHLA.

CHLA once again hosted 66 high school students this summer as part of its annual week-long Camp CHLA, which gives the students a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about health care careers.

Tommy Covington, RN (Hematology/Oncology) was featured in *Minority Nurse Magazine* Spring 2009 issue in an article titled, "Kids Come in All Colors."

The following nurses had poster presentations at the 2009 Versant RN Residency Client Conference in San Francisco in August 2009: **Melanie Arquero**, RN and **Jessica Klaristenfeld**, RN: "Transformational Leaders from the Start: Professional Nurses Take it to the Next Level." **Klaristenfeld** and **Sherri D. Eskew**, RN, **Kate Hanlon**, RN, **Natalie Jacobs**, RN, **Mona Marinell**, RN, **Edahrline Salas**, RN: "Poster Presentation Projects: A Practical Tool for Dynamically Bridging an RN Resident's Journey from Student to Professional Nurse." **Cindy Rowlett**, RN had a concurrent podium presentation titled, "Preceptor Liaison: Building a Bridge of Communication Between Preceptors." **Suzanne Taylor**, RN had a concurrent podium presentation titled, "When Playing Around is Serious Business: Instructional Games and Interactive Exercises for Staff Education." **Melanie Arquero**, RN, **Edahrline Salas**, RN had a main podium presentation titled, "Bridging the Teaching Preparation Gap: How to Support Versant RN Residency SME's in their Role."

LIFE CELEBRATIONS

Elizabeth Martinez, RN and **Sophia Lim**, RN (Radiology) volunteered for Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah in November 2009.

Andrea Parker, RN (Pediatric Surgery) went on a medical mission to Kenya in August 2009. She went to four orphanages and saw more than 200 children.

Melanie Guerrero, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) – married
Sahar Vafakhah, RN (5 East) – married
Maninder Jasdhaul, RN (5 East) – married in India and accompanied by three of her 5 East family, **Brenda Cortez**, RN, **Emily Clark**, RN and **Susie Ross**, RN
Jodi Franzen, RN (5 East) – married
Flora Yuen, RN (6 East) – married
Sandra Kwan, RN (5 West) – married
Christine Limann, RN – married
Diana Russell, RN (BMT) – married
Phan Dang, RN (6 North) – engaged
Karrent Dalinoc, RN (5 East) – engaged

Babies:

Fatima Padron, RN (5 West) – girl
Renalyn San Jose, RN (5 West) – girl
Marlene Cox, RN (5 West) – girl
Erin Balek, RN (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – girl
Michelle Petersen, RN (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – girl
Yael (Ellie) Rosenthal, RN (Hematology/Oncology) – boy
Tin Ty, RN (BMT) – girl
Kimberley Bacus, RN (4 West) – boy
Melissa Aguirre Stewart, RN (4 West) – identical twin girls
Maria "Isabel" Phillips, LVN (adolescent Medicine) – granddaughter



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Mary Dee Hacker Receives Lifetime Achievement Award From *NurseWeek* Magazine

Mary Dee Hacker, RN, MBA, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer, was awarded the “Diane F. Cooper Lifetime Achievement Award” at the Annual *NurseWeek* Magazine “Nursing Excellence Awards” ceremony held at the Garden Grove Hyatt Hotel on Sept. 25, 2009.

The Diane F. Cooper Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to nurses who reflect commitment, enthusiasm and advocacy for the nursing profession. “I love this profession, and I always say that I am most proud when I can tell someone that I am a registered nurse at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles,” says Hacker, who was also honored this year with the St. Catherine University Alumnae Award at her 35-year college reunion.

Hacker, who is among the best-known leaders in nursing in California, earned her RN degree from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and her MBA from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She also graduated from the Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives.

Kathy Ruccione, RN, MPH, CPON, FAAN, director of Center Communication and co-director of the HOPE Program was a finalist in the category of “Advancing and Leading the Profession.” Ruccione, a professor of clinical pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, received the APON Casey Hooke Distinguished Service Award in 2008.



NurseWeek Excellence Award Ceremony, (L-R): David Kruger (Center for Cancer and Blood Disease); Nancy Blake (Critical Care Services); Charles Krozek (Versant); Scarlett Czarnecki (Hematology/Oncology); Maki Okada (Hematology/Oncology); Mary Dee Hacker (VP, Patient Care Services & CNO); Barbara Britt (Hematology/Oncology); Kathy Ruccione (Hematology/Oncology); Susan Carson (Hematology/Oncology); Ann Nord (Hematology/Oncology); Suzie Reinsvold (Versant); Dee Imai (Hematology/Oncology).