

McGuire

Serving Our Nation's Heroes

Monthly



THIS ISSUE:

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National Nurses Week 2015

The theme for National Nurses Week 2015 was “Ethical Practice, Quality Care”. Richmond VAMC nurses recognize the importance of providing high-quality and ethical care to our Veterans every day. The nurses wear the “ICARE” badge which illustrates their commitment to the Veterans Health Administration’s core values. Each day, Richmond VA nurses contribute to the mission of the medical center in a thousand different ways. Through their Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence they provide the highest quality of care to our Veterans. Festivities held during National Nurses Week 2015 re-energized their passion for nursing. Events were reflective of how the “ICARE” core values in addition to the National Nurses Week theme “Ethical Practice, Quality Care” supports and promotes the future of nursing. Nurses acknowledged their peers’ dedication during verbal exchanges and laughter while; enjoying a nacho salad lunch, ice cream social, nurses pancake and waffle breakfast, and spending some time getting a manicure or massage at the wellness fair. The nurses were reminded that the “ICARE” values are innate to the culture of the organization, taking care of Veterans as well as caring for one another.

The fun filled week of festivities concluded with an exceptional awards recognition ceremony. Nursing leadership recognized



McGuire Nurses honored, left to right: Gary Barney, LPN; Hochong Gilles, NP; Jenny Redmond, RN; Louise Talley, NA

how courageously nurses serve as patient advocates, promoting patient wellness, while assisting families through difficult times with kind words and unending heartfelt smiles. Gratitude was disseminated to all McGuire nursing staff for their daily devotion to ethical practice and for providing the highest quality of care for our Veterans, their families and peers. ■

Second Clinic To Open in Fredericksburg

The Richmond VA Medical Center is pleased to announce a lease has been signed to provide for an additional Fredericksburg Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) conveniently located at 10401 Spotsylvania Avenue in Fredericksburg, five miles from the original Fredericksburg CBOC.

The addition of the new clinic will offer 10,000 square feet of clinical office space, with ample parking. It is located on the 3rd floor of a medical office building.

The addition of the new CBOC will expand primary care, mental health



services, audiology and increase several specialty clinic services for Veterans and active duty service members.

The Fredericksburg Community Based

is six to ten months. Both clinics will maintain operations in the growing Fredericksburg Veteran community.

Outpatient Clinic at Executive Center Parkway will continue operations Monday through Friday while the second clinic is being completed. The estimated time for the second clinic to be operational



The recreation therapists at the McGuire VA Medical Center work with several animal therapy agencies to bring the dogs to the hospital multiple times each month. Recreation therapist, Danielle Orr says it really pays off. "I personally enjoy watching the interactions between the patient and dog," said Orr. "I have witnessed individuals who don't generally engage in socialization open up and socialize with the volunteer."

The recreation therapists at the McGuire VA Medical Center utilize animal therapy for patients' recovery and rehabilitation. The joy the animals bring to patients is why the VA has offered the program for over 20 years. The dogs visit patients at the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) unit, Community Living Center (CLC), residents of the polytrauma transitional rehabilitation program (PTRP) and inpatient polytrauma unit.

The VA provides Veterans with the most advanced equipment, but none of that has the same effect as the dogs that participate in the program. According to the largest national pet therapy certification group, studies have shown that when dogs and cats come to visit a care facility, there is more laughter and interaction among residents than during any other "therapy" or entertainment time. Veteran Henry Holland, who is a resident in the McGuire CLC, never read those studies, but he definitely supports it. That was evidenced by the bright smile on his

face when therapy dog Angel came for a visit. Even his wife Betty, who comes to McGuire daily, said she looks forward to seeing Angel and the other therapy dogs.

Another one of the therapy dogs named Annie, owned by Joyce Stargardt, comes to the SCI unit a few times a month and has gone through a certification program to become a therapy dog. According to the American Kennel Club, a therapy dog works well around distractions, responds to quiet commands, never jumps up on patients and has overall good manners.

Annie certainly fits that description, but her training doesn't end there. Stargardt said she is up to roughly 100 tricks with the poodle, which are known for their intelligence. Veteran Garfield Medley came out of his room to greet his friend and check out her newest skills.

She did not disappoint, going through her routine with perfection from precariously holding a treat on the end of her nose while posing like a statue, to fitting

her large frame into a box much smaller than Medley's grin. Medley laughed and even got to participate by rewarding her with a treat. He says the dog's visits are welcomed. "The dogs are really nice," said Medley. "It is really nice to have someone around to keep you company."

Patient Malcolm Koonce watched Annie's repertoire from a far, before moving his wheelchair to take a closer look at the four-legged performer. He immediately got into the act by extending his arms so Annie could place rings on them.

Koonce enjoyed his time with Annie, but just like the physicians at McGuire, she had rounds to complete. So he invited Annie onto his lap for a treat and embrace. He held her head in his hands, smiled and said "good-bye".

He won't have to wait to see her again. The Veterans who are visited by Annie get an "Annie card," which has her warm picture emblazoned on a keepsake for the patient until the four-legged therapist makes her next house call. ■



Army Veteran Malcolm Koonce watches therapy dog Annie do her tricks while visiting the McGuire VA SCI unit March 13.

McGuire VA Clinical Perfusionists

Perfusionists are part of the Cardiac Surgery team and their primary responsibility is to operate the heart-lung machine during open-heart surgery. When the surgeon operates on the heart, the function of the patient's heart and lungs are

taken over by the heart-lung machine. The perfusionist controls the cardiac output, oxygenation of the blood, temperature of the patient, and management of the circulation of the heart and whole body during the time the patient is on

the heart-lung machine. During cardiac surgery perfusionists also operate other ancillary equipment. They are responsible for keeping the patient's blood within normal physiologic parameters by operating the blood gas machines and devices

to monitor the patient's level of heparin. They also operate the cell saver, which is an autotransfusion device which collects the patient's blood lost during open-heart and other surgeries, washes the blood and then returns it to the patient.

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Perfusionists, continued..

Thus, the patient receives his own blood back rather than receiving bank blood in most instances. Perfusionists use the cell saver on total hip replacements, back surgeries, and any surgery where there may be major loss of blood. They also operate the Intra-aortic balloon pump, which is a device used in patients with failing hearts to assist the heart so it doesn't have to work as hard.

McGuire, has the only IN HOUSE transplant program in the VA system. Therefore 2 out of the 3 perfusionists must be on call 24/7, 365 days of the year. McGuire is also a major Left Ventricular Assist Device

(LVAD) center for the VA system. This gives patients options that they might not have at other VA medical centers as well as private hospitals. The three perfusionists each have over 30 years experience. Most of them have either bachelor or master's degrees and have trained at Texas Heart Institute and Wake Forest



Perfusionists from left Jim King CCP; Irma Simons; Mary Don Shumake CCP with the heart-lung equipment that is employed to oxygenate the patients blood during open-heart surgery.

Baptist Medical Center. Most perfusionists are certified by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion. They are proud to be a part of

the surgical team headed by Dr. Gundars Katlaps and proud to serve Veterans at the McGuire Medical Center ■

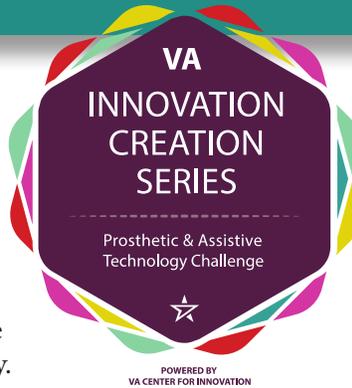
JULY 2015

VA Innovation Creation Series

The VA Innovation Creation Series aims to facilitate collaboration and development of personalized services and technologies to improve care and quality of life for Veterans and Servicemembers with disabilities. This Innovation Creation Series launched at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center on May 15. A curated list of challenge areas facing Veterans and Servicemembers with disabilities will be posted on Innocentive and GrabCad, which are both online open innovation challenge sites, from May to July.

Designers, engineers and all other solvers can contribute initial design solutions based on expressed needs

and challenges. Feedback will be provided, and the designs will be improved upon over the course of the innovation series. During July-28-29, the Innovation Creation Series will culminate in a 2-day "make-a-thon" event at the Richmond VA Medical Center. Here the online designs will be built and tested to showcase how they meet the needs of Veterans and Servicemembers.



Goals of the Innovation Creation:

Improve patient care and quality of life:

Bring together government employees and the public to improve the patient experience and quality of life for Veterans and Servicemembers faced with disabilities by creating personalized, tailored services and technologies

Create an open ecosystem of designs of prosthetics and assistive technologies:

Connect a community of stakeholders in the assistive technology and prosthetic space to a repository of designs to share and build upon to accelerate the speed of development, save time and money and lower the barrier for providing these capabilities to Veterans and Servicemembers

Demonstrate value:

Demonstrate the value of rapid prototyping and co-creation to develop personalized technologies and infuse this practice into everyday healthcare practices

Spread awareness:

Promote the prosthetics and assistive technologies capabilities at VA internally, to share and co-create with Veterans and Servicemembers, and externally, so that partners may contribute and support these efforts



Film crew from the VA Center for Innovation speaks with a Veteran whose challenge is being addressed during the Innovation Creation event.

For more information about the VA Innovation Creation Series and to follow its progress, please visit the following social media sites:



www.facebook.com/VAInnovation



[#VAChallenge](https://twitter.com/vainnovation)



www.innovation.va.gov/challenge



David Dahlstrand
30 Years of Service



Dale Jennings
30 Years of Service

Recently at McGuire

APRIL LEADERSHIP FORUM

SERVICE AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Thelma Roach-Serry
Toastmasters - Advanced Comm. Gold



James Moser
2015 VAMC Toastmaster of the Year



Meredyth Nelson
Toastmasters - Advanced Comm. Gold



James Moser
Toastmasters - Competent Leader



Beverly Ross
Toastmasters - Competent Leader

MAY LEADERSHIP FORUM SERVICE AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Alan Lombardo, Acting Associate Director speaks at the Tribute to Fallen VA Police Officers on May 15



William "Shorty" Shearouse, Volunteer of the Year



Evelyn Cabrera-Heatwole
35 Years of Service



Jill Hutchison
35 Years of Service



Richmond VAMC Police Force



Beverly Cooley
30 Years of Service



Bailee Bannan, Kathryn Pierce, Laura Pincus
Graduate Health Administrative Residents

LOOKING FORWARD

May 28. Veteran Services Information Fair

June 1 - 19. Application period for Youth Volunteer Summer Program

June 13. Trap Shoot Challenge Benefit for Fisher House

July 28 - 29. Innovation Creation Make-A-Thon

5TH ANNUAL VA2K 2015 WALK + ROLL



Walkers at the VA2K Event on May 20, promoting health and decreasing Veteran homelessness

**270 +
PARTICIPATED!**