

# This Week at MCL

A Memorandum to the Employees of the Medical Center of Louisiana, New Orleans  
Charity Campus ■ University Campus

April 26-May 2, 2004



## Applause! Applause!

Six MCL nurses are among the "2004 Great 100 Nurses" who will be honored April 28 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. They are: **Lenetra L.**

**Jefferson**, In-house Pool; **Dorothy O. Maggione**, Quality Management; **Eileen Mederos**, Trauma Services; **Caroline L. Noya**, 3 West, Post Partum; **Elizabeth Simms**, SICA; and **Lisa M. Stanley**, 6 East. The annual award is sponsored by American Nursing Services Foundation.

## Come One! Come All!

**Contests! Door Prizes! Tastings! A Cafe Naming Contest!** Plan to attend the reopening of the totally remodeled University Campus Cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 29.

## May 9-15: We Celebrate You!

You will soon receive a coupon redeemable for your treats during National Hospital & Healthcare Week, May 9-15. Please do not lose it as we cannot replace it, and you must have it to receive the following treats:

- **Ice Cream.** Monday, May 10. Served in the cafeteria on each campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (Nursing supervisors will distribute ice cream to those on the evening shift.)
- **Popcorn.** Wednesday, May 12. Served in the cafeteria on each campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. A muffin will be delivered that day to those on the night shift.
- **Hot Dog & Drink.** Friday, May 14. Served during Employee Appreciation Week Bash, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the open area near the LM Building.

Among the many activities being planned for the Bash is a cake-decorating contest. After the judging the cakes will be sold whole or by slice to benefit the Employee Emergency Relief Fund. If you wish to enter the contest, please plan to bring your cake to the courtyard by 11 a.m. on the 14th. Call 2-8268 if you have questions.

## To Your Health!

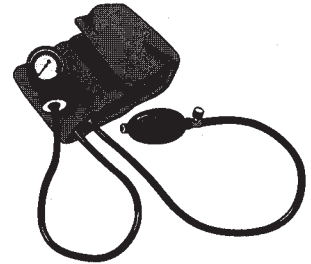
*Jazzfest. Picnics.*

*Fishing. Fairs.*

*Beaches.* It's that time of the year when we begin planning for many activities that bring us outdoors and oftentimes in the sun.

The ultraviolet (UV)

radiation of the sun can damage the skin and eyes – even on cloudy or overcast days. Enjoy outdoor activities safely by following these precautions:



- **Cover up.** Use shirts and pants to protect as much skin as possible.
- **Use sunscreen.** Use sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. SPF 15 blocks 93 percent of UV rays.
- **Wear a hat.** Use a hat that shades the face, neck and ears.
- **Wear sunglasses.** Look for glasses with a label that says "Meets ANSI UV Requirements."
- **Limit sun exposure.** Stay out of the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when UV rays are strongest.

For further information on prevention and early detection of skin and other cancers, go to the American Cancer Society's web site: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

*"To Your Health" comes to you courtesy of Employee Health Services. For more information please call EHS at 2-1043.*

## Tai Chi Class on Hiatus.

The Tai Chi class, formerly offered on Thursdays, is currently on hiatus. Please direct any questions to **Roy Humphries** at 2-3121.



**CCOPS Team Members, all RNs, are: seated left to right, Jody Zanca, Stroke Program Coordinator; Teresa Romano, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Neuroscience; Marie Childs Sandi, Assistant Section Manager, PACU - University Campus; and Carolyn Robinson-Thomas, Instructor Coordinator, Education & Staff Development; standing, left to right, Monica Ward-Scheel, Assistant Section Manager, Emergency Department; Robin Hensarling, Clinical Coordinator, SICU/MICU, University Campus; Patricia Dougherty, Clinical Coordinator, MICU, Charity Campus; Marilyn Stoltz, Assistant Section Manager, SICA; Victoria Cochran, Clinical Coordinator, Neuroscience; Todd Tartavouille, Assistant Section Manager, MICU, Charity Campus; Toni Rougeou, Clinical Coordinator, SICU, Charity Campus; Donna Earles, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pain Management; and Deb Travis, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Emergency Department.\***

# CCOPS: What's in a Name?

*by Teresa Romano, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Neuroscience*

In January 2003, a group of dedicated nurses representing the medical and surgical intensive care units, post anesthesia care, surgical intermediate care area, neuro, education, emergency and trauma services formed an alliance for the primary purpose of redesigning the way newly hired critical care nurses

begin their education at MCL.

Early on, the name CCOPS (Critical Care Orientation Planning Systems) was chosen for this group for ease of reference. However, the redesign of critical care orientation has become only one part of what this group has accomplished and continues to represent.

The critical care orientation program already in place was an excellent base to build upon. So this group's focus was on enhancement and further application of essential theory to bedside practice and to bring together the needs of both campuses. Using the orientation period effectively with an eye toward

retention of critical care nurses was intrinsic to program development.

With so much to learn in the classroom, it was decided that the classes should be spaced to integrate clinical experiences and didactic components. In this way the new nurse can apply theory to practice and have an opportunity to come back to the classroom for further information or enhancement.

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***This group has been tirelessly examining and updating information as well as developing new protocols for patient care.***

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In order to maximize the clinical benefit and cost efficiency of the program the CCOPS group developed it as a continuing education (CE) approved, year-round program within the Department of Education and Staff Development. Key to the achievement of CE status is the fact that Education and Staff Development at MCL maintains Continuing Education Provider status through the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

As course development evolved, what had been created was no longer simply an orientation for newly hired nurses but a complete program for foundational critical care. Thus, critical care orientation has become "The ABC's of Critical Care." This program's target audience includes all critical care nurses who want to refresh or enhance their knowledge base as well as nurses who work in medical-surgical areas, clinics, etc. Allied health personnel will also find certain topics of benefit and respiratory therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists are encouraged to attend.

As the title of this article suggests, there is much more to CCOPS than a name. The alliance referred to earlier is truly that. These

nurse leaders have pulled together and formed a strong commitment to nursing excellence throughout critical care at MCL. In addition to developing The ABC's of Critical Care, the CCOPS group was asked to develop a Preceptor Workshop for those who train and mentor new nurses in their clinical component of orientation. This was completed with amazing speed and efficiency and included Medical-Surgical nurses as well. Teamwork was at its finest as the CCOPS group and representatives from the Medical-Surgical areas – **Renetta Allen, Bernice Bonds and Sharon Weiser** – worked together to achieve this goal.

In addition to teaching and continually updating The ABC's of Critical Care, the CCOPS group has been hard at work in assisting with the continued improvement of nursing documentation. This group has developed several new forms to assist the bedside nurse in appropriate and timely documentation. A documentation assessment tool was also implemented for the purpose of continual assessment of documentation practices.

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***Teamwork was at its finest as the CCOPS group and representatives from the Medical-Surgical areas worked together to achieve this goal.***

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Perhaps the most consuming task that the CCOPS group has undertaken is the review and revision of all critical care policies, protocols and guidelines. This group has been tirelessly examining and updating information as well as developing new protocols for patient care. Consistency between each critical care area has been assured and fragmentation between units has been eliminated. This will promote continuity of care and provide consistency to the nurse who works in multiple critical care areas.

CCOPS recognizes the support given from the **management**

***of Critical Care, Education and Staff Development, Emergency Services, Nursing Administration and Trauma Services.*** Their commitment to promoting nurse leadership and creativity allows much to be accomplished. We also recognize **Betty Carter, RN**, Education and Staff Development, for her assistance in obtaining CE credit for The ABC's of Critical Care – over 50 contact hours total! Also important is the clerical support provided by **Deanna Alexander, Deborah Rodgers and Troy Wells**. Their skills were essential to the success of this endeavor.

What's in a name? With CCOPS, as much as possible! Anyone who might be interested in becoming a part of the excitement and hard work of promoting excellence in nursing is invited to join in. An added benefit of coming together as a group has been the collegial discussions and networking that these nurses participate in. Ideas are shared, stress-relief is accomplished, and the support given to each team member renews our commitment to nursing and the care we give our patients.

For a class schedule please contact the Education Department at 2-2854. For information about CCOPS please contact Teresa Romano at [troman@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:troman@lsuhsc.edu) or 2-2347.

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\*Unavailable for the picture on the previous page were CCOPS members, all RNs: **Keith Agnelly**, Clinical Coordinator, Emergency Department; **Kirsten Berberovich**, Clinical Coordinator, SICA; **Dominique Bergeron**, Trauma Case Coordinator, Trauma Services; **Alicia Dean**, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Emergency Department; **Dorothy Naquin-Plaisance**, Clinical Coordinator, Emergency Department; and **Holly Toca**, Assistant Section Manager, Neuroscience.

## From the Mailbox.

(Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Morgan, Jr. sent the following letter to State Senator Francis C. Heitmeier and State Representative James Tucker.) We are very



concerned about the funding of Charity Hospital. In 2001, my mother was brought there for an emergency heart problem. She received exemplary care. She had been hospitalized many times in the previous two years at two other local hospitals. She received the best treatment at Charity, and because of the excellent care given to her there it was her last hospital stay before her death a year later. Charity is truly a Louisiana treasure and needs to be fully funded to best serve the people of Louisiana.

—Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Morgan, Jr.

## Happenings & Deadlines.

- **Annual Benefits Enrollment.** Deadline: Friday, April 30. Come to room 205 in the Butterworth Building to change or drop your health insurance providers, you or your dependent(s) health insurance, and your vision and/or dental coverage; enroll in the dental and vision plans; or sign up for the cafeteria plan which allows the premiums for health, dental, vision and life insurances to be deducted on a tax sheltered basis.
- **LSU/Tulane Multidisciplinary Tumor Board Meeting.** Each Friday, noon-1 p.m., 1542 Tulane Avenue, room 710. Physicians who wish to have a case presented should call *Nicole Chatelain*, 568-4765.
- **Cancer Committee Meeting.** April 28. Medical Staff Conference Room, 4 west, Charity Campus, noon. For more information call *Miriam Roberts* at 2-5295.
- **Tulane University Health Sciences Center Medicine Grand Rounds.** April 28, noon-1 p.m., 1st floor auditorium, 1430 Tulane Avenue. “Clinical Problem Solving” with *Dr. Lawrence M. Tierney, Jr.*, Professor of Medicine, UCSF School of Medicine.
- **LSU Health Sciences Center Medicine Grand Rounds.** April 29, 8-9 a.m., 1542 Tulane Avenue, 1st floor auditorium. “The U.S. Government Global AIDS Program,” with *Dr. Joseph F. O’Neill*, Deputy Coordinator & Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Washington, DC.

- **World Asthma Day.** May 4, Charity auditorium, 2nd floor, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Exhibits, demonstrations, door prizes. At noon *Dr. Nereida Parada*, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Pulmonary Disease at Tulane University Health Sciences Center, will talk about “Controlling Asthma.” The event is free and open to all.
- **Interview & Selection Class.** May 5, 9-11 a.m. Offered by Staff Development to help improve a supervisor’s interviewing techniques. To register or for dates of future classes call 2-2854.
- **Hazardous Material Team Training.** May 10, University auditorium, and May 12, Charity auditorium. The two-day session covers skills and knowledge required to be a HazMat Team member. 16.8 contact hours/CEUs for RNs, radiology techs, and respiratory therapists. Register in person, Staff Development, 9 center, Charity Campus. For further details call *Tim Butcher* at 2-2687.
- **ACLS for Non-Critical Care.** May 19 & 20 in Education & Staff Development, C-900, Charity Campus. \$10. Call 2-2854 to register. Class is for those renewing CPR certification; first-time CPR students should contact *Nona Becnel* at 2-2343.
- **Exercise Class.** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m, Education, 9 center, Charity Campus. For further details contact *Paul Hildreth* via e-mail.
- **Employee Assistance Programs.** LSU Lions Clinic, 2020 Gravier Street, 5th floor. *Co-dependency Anonymous*, Mondays, noon, free; *AA*, Tuesdays, noon, free; *a psycho-educational group* for those who may be chemically dependent or have family members who are, Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., \$10 per week for 10 weeks. Call 568-3931 for further details.

## Welcome to MCL!

*Registered Nurses Gwendoria Buckles* and *Kevin Woods*, Mental Health Services, *Dana Harrison*, ICU, University Campus, and *Carolyn I. Okeke*, Labor & Delivery; and *Registered Nurse Applicants Melissa Butler*, ICU, University Campus, and *Dawn C. Francisco*, SICA.

*This Week at MCL* is published through the MCL Human Resources Department, Ron Broadus, Assistant Administrator, Lynn Lorando, Editor, 1541 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans 70112. The deadline for the May 3, 2004 issue is 5 p.m. Monday, April 26. Please send information or photos (digital or hard copies) to mloran@lsuhsc.edu. All information must first be approved by the appropriate department supervisor. Thank you.