

# Straight Talk

A weekly update from management on the issues that matter most



May 13, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This is *National Hospital Week*, and with an abundance of wonderful awards and accomplishments, NCH has much to be proud of and thankful for. Most important, this is the week to celebrate all our extraordinary colleagues, responsible for our success.

In that context, Medical Staff immediate Past President Dr. **Jeff McCartney** and current President Dr. **Paul Dernbach** last week recognized our entire Nursing and Clinical Staff at the 2010 Awards Ceremony, for their compassion in serving the 3,400 in-patients and 107,000 outpatients we treat each year.

- RN **Thelma Hodges** has sponsored our *Nurse Mentor of the Year* awards for the past three years, with this year's deserving winners being RNs **Julie Sanderson** and **Robert Yoshida**. Mrs. Hodges is still a very active *NCH White Elephant Volunteer*, who began at NCH in 1955 as the first Director of the Operating Room, Emergency Room and Central Supply.
- *Rising Star Nurses* are new to the profession, nominated by colleagues and unit directors for their strong potential. North Naples **Krislyn Callis** and Downtown's **Christina Carranza** were selected from among 11 highly-qualified colleagues, each of whom is a great credit and addition to the profession.
- *Nursing Support Superstar* nominees numbered 58. It's a given that our care technicians, unit secretaries, techs, and receptionists make a huge contribution to quality care and our overall culture. Clinical technicians **Raquel Rodriquez** and **Richemond Celiferme** were singled out for recognition as particularly "*outstanding*" representatives of a most outstanding team.
- 66 deserving nurses were nominated for the prestigious *Nurse of the Year* award. North Naples Nurse of the Year **Melissa Michel** organized a night of remembrance for families who have lost an infant. RN **Diana (Dee) Martell** was cited for compassionately caring for oncology patients at our Downtown campus.

Edison State College is among the largest programs in the nation in terms of nursing graduates each year. On our Collier County campus, 26 graduates shared the stage of the Telford Auditorium. **Iouri Goultsov** won the academic excellence award, **Ann Christy** was recognized for clinical abilities, and **Tonge Lawson** was cited as best overall student. Most of the graduates already are NCH colleagues, whose careers will continue as RNs. Nothing gives us more satisfaction than "*growing our own.*"

And additional congratulations this week to Pharmacy Director **Kim Thorp**, **Brad Regnaert**, **Russ Pardi**, **Laurence Bosse**, and the rest of the pharmacy team for making our hospital environment safer. Our innovative NCH pharmacy team has developed the medication order catalog with safety guardrails for the Medfusion Syringe Pumps used in our Neonatal ICU and Pediatric care areas. We are the only healthcare system in southwest Florida currently to utilize this high level of pump technology. The information built into the pump allows for administration rate, dose, volume minimums and maximums based on the size of the infant or child. Smart pump technology will decrease potential for medication administration errors. This type of smart pump technology will be extended to our adult patient population in the upcoming months.

Finally, Hospital Week also means enjoying our families. And this year's Summer Splashes at Livingston Water Park brought together 2,200 NCH family and friends to cap the festivities in this, the healthiest county in Florida.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allen".

Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO

P.S. Feel free to share *Straight Talk* and ask anyone to email me at [allen.weiss@nchmd.org](mailto:allen.weiss@nchmd.org) to be added.