

Jodi Chubbs, RN, Soldiers' Memorial

Jodi is an ICU nurse at OSMH and I have worked with her since I began my career in Orillia. Throughout that time, she has worked as a leader in the ICU, and thoroughly deserves recognition for her exceptional work.

Jodi is an excellent nurse. She knows her patients very well and is usually advancing her knowledge by reading about her patients' ailments in order to take better care of them. This commitment to learning serves as an example to senior and junior staff. In 2012, Jodi spent a lot of time as a mentor to a new graduate nurse (now one of our ICU nurses). The role of a mentor has proven very important in the ICU at OSMH, as new graduates often have little exposure to critical care. Providing good training to future nursing staff is a tremendously important role.

Jodi's outstanding nursing skills were not just evident to me. In fact, her name was suggested to me by several of her colleagues in the ICU, who felt that Jodi's willingness to help, motivation and teamwork ethic, not to mention her prominent role as a mentor, made her an exceptional colleague who deserved recognition.

One particular case stands out. In late December 2012, a patient was admitted to ICU with septic shock. We had not identified a source. Jodi was on the night shift and called me out of

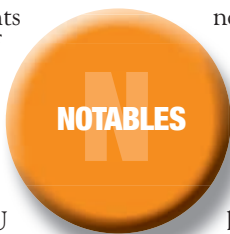
concern – she had noted a rash on the patient's ankle that had spread rapidly over two hours. I had seen no such rash earlier. I was worried about necrotizing fasciitis, so I asked her to get a stat gram stain done – this came back negative. When Jodi called me to report this, she insisted that I come in to see this rash, as she did not believe the gram stain.

I did come in that evening and was not completely convinced that this was necrotizing fasciitis. We got another gram stain, which was positive. At this point, if it were necrotizing fasciitis, surgery was urgently indicated. The patient would likely not survive if we waited until the morning. Jodi advocated strongly on behalf of the patient and I called the surgeon to come in – by now it was after midnight. The surgeon was not fully convinced either, but agreed to take the patient for exploratory surgery given the risks of waiting.

In the end, Jodi was right. It was necrotizing fasciitis. The patient survived several surgeries before being discharged home. I am convinced that without Jodi speaking for her patient and dragging two reluctant doctors along with her, that the patient would have died.

I truly hope you will grant this award to Jodi. Her commitment to learning, leadership, advocacy skills and work ethic make her a fantastic nurse. ■

Nominated by Dr. Mark Bailey



Cindy Doucette, Trillium Health Partners

Cindy is a nurse practitioner and is a hero to patients, families and colleagues. Cindy has worked at Trillium Health Partners, Mississauga Hospital for over 20 years in a variety of clinical and leadership roles. For the last six years, Cindy has worked in Seniors' Health as an advanced practice nurse in the Seniors Health Clinic and the Regional Geriatric Outreach Team (home visiting) serving frail older adults and their families. In this role, Cindy has demonstrated exemplary care for patients, families and colleagues. She has given of herself, far beyond what is expected and she has changed many patients' lives. Cindy is our hero.

Cindy is a hero to her patients. Cindy is empathetic and cares deeply for each and every patient. She is thorough in her assessment and care of patients leaving no stone unturned and no clinical issue left untouched. Cindy is also dedicated to see the clinical issues addressed as far as she has the ability to influence. There are countless patients that have received this care. Here is a brief story about one:

Mr. G is an 89 year old widower living alone who was referred to the geriatric medical outreach program for functional and cognitive decline. Mr. G has multiple medical issues including cognitive impairment that resulted in distorted thinking/suspicion related to care providers assisting him at home. He was resistant to care and consistently refused care being provided to him and was at risk of losing supports in place. He also had suspicions toward his children and resulted in them being estranged from one another. Cindy completed a comprehensive geriatric assessment with Mr. G in his home. Through her innate ability to actively listen she gathered the pa-

tient's history and was able to distill the source and trigger points of the suspicions. With this information she liaised with the geriatrician, the family physician and community partners to develop a care plan with Mr. G's goal at the centre. Changes were made to medication and increased community seniors program involvement was implemented. Mr. G continues to live at home with daily care provided through community partners.

One of Cindy's greatest qualities is her ability to listen. Through active listening Cindy has been able to build rapport with patients to enable patient to accomplish their goal of continuing to live at home/ age in place.

Cindy is a hero to families. She is approachable in her manner and time. She checks messages on her own time and has completed many follow up calls after hours. She is patient with families, making multiple visits to listen to them and educate them on their loved one's needs. Cindy carefully explains the issues to families and gives them strategies on how they can assist.

Finally, Cindy is a hero to her colleagues. She is caring towards each team member. She is interested in what our lives involve. However, more significantly, she is hilarious and keeps the lunch room laughing with stories of her encounters. Cindy recalls details that bring lift to every story and she engages us in her journeys. Cindy is a delightful team member whom every team would benefit from having.

Cindy is an exemplary nurse. At team meetings, we are continually amazed at the details that she uncovers and the care she offers her patients. The world is a better place for having nurse Cindy in it! ■

Nominated by the Seniors Health team



Happy Nursing Week from RPNAO

The team at RPNAO would like to extend our most sincere thanks and warmest wishes to all of our nursing and health care colleagues across the country.

Nursing Week is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate nurses and the incredibly important work they do. There are more than 32,000 RPNs working in Ontario today. And more than ever, these nurses are being asked to play key roles in diverse health care teams alongside their Registered Nurse colleagues and a wide range of allied health professionals. And each year, an increasing number of RPNs are finding access to more challenging career opportunities as well as the chance to utilize their full scopes of practice in their roles.

RPNAO's theme for Nursing Week this year is: "Professional care. Inspired by you and the ones you love. Ontario's RPNs." We believe this theme celebrates the skill, expertise and dedication of RPNs, who, in collaboration with their peers in health care, are able to make such positive differences in the lives of their patients, residents, clients and their family members every day.

During this special week, it's our honour to recognize and thank all nurses and other health care practitioners for the important work they do.

We invite all of you to connect with us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RPNAO or on Twitter at @RPNAO.

Sincerely,

The staff and board of directors of the
Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (RPNAO)