

ELEVATING

NURSING EXCELLENCE

NURSING ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
~~Cancer~~ Center

Making Cancer History®

Nursing Annual Report FY 2024

Carol Porter, D.N.P., RN, FAAN
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nursing Officer

Managing Editor
KirstiAnn Clifford
Program Manager
Internal Communications

Graphic Designer
Shalise Daniels
Strategic Communications

Photographers
Adolfo Chavez III
Thomas Campbell
Mark Mulligan



Our Nursing team is recognized as an integral piece of MD Anderson's community and is celebrated in the institutional FY2024 Annual Report, In Focus, as well as in this companion report.

CONTENTS

Nursing by the numbers 5

Our 5,053 nurses fulfill a variety of roles throughout MD Anderson

Supporting and developing nurses throughout their careers 6

MD Anderson announces the Meyers Institute for Oncology Nursing

Elevating nursing professional practice 8

Nurses at all levels bring new knowledge, innovation and improvements to enhance patient care

Excellence in leadership and emergency care 13

Nicole Vaughan-Adams and Rebecca Lu receive DAISY Nurse Leader Award.

Acute Cancer Care Center honored with Lantern Award

Awards and appointments 14

Highlighting internal and external achievements and new leadership role

Elevating Nursing Excellence

A message from the Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer

This past year has been defined by remarkable dedication and progress as we continue to shape the future of oncology nursing. The strides we've made together reflect the strength and commitment of our more than 5,000 nurses and teams who embody what is possible at the nation's top cancer center.

In FY24, we expanded upon our Nursing Transformation initiative, driving improvements in nursing practice, career growth opportunities, well-being, as well as nurse recruitment and retention. As part of that, we celebrated a full year of our virtual nursing program, which has grown in staffing and scope to include 10 virtual nurses covering nearly 375 beds across inpatient units. This new model has created stronger team dynamics, enhanced bedside support, increased safety and led to more meaningful patient interactions—ultimately enhancing both the patient and nursing experience.

One of the year's most exciting accomplishments was the launch of the Meyers Institute for Oncology Nursing in November 2023. With generous contributions from donor Howard Meyers and other philanthropic supporters, MD Anderson has invested \$50 million toward this pioneering institute. The Meyers Institute builds on the foundation established by our Nursing Transformation, advancing research, education and clinical practice to directly impact patient care. This institute is poised to transform the future of oncology nursing and serves as a testament to our ongoing commitment to fostering growth, excellence and aspirations within our nursing team, while influencing oncology care globally.

We are also making significant progress toward achieving a sixth Magnet Recognition Program designation. This distinction, achieved by only 2% of Magnet hospitals, highlights our commitment to the highest standards of



nursing excellence and the exceptional outcomes achieved by our teams every day. To support this effort, hundreds of nurses and collaborators are contributing to our Magnet application, while over 240 Magnet ambassadors across MD Anderson are engaging teams to promote learning and enculturation of Magnet standards. It's truly a collective effort.

In the following pages, you will discover the remarkable achievements and ongoing initiatives that reflect our vision for the future. Together, we are ensuring that our nursing community is well-prepared to lead in the ever-evolving field of oncology care.

As we look ahead, I am confident that our shared vision will continue to create meaningful change and uphold our mission to eliminate cancer.

Carol Porter, D.N.P., R.N., FAAN
Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer

5,053

Nursing by the numbers

total number of nurses

This number includes inpatient nurses, research nurses, advanced practice nurses, and nurses in ambulatory and leadership roles.

**Data based on Magnet reporting definitions. Approximate values for FY24.*



Our workforce includes nurses in a variety of roles, including:

3,610

clinical nurses

736

advanced practice
registered nurses

119

certified registered
nurse anesthetists

270

research nurses

107

case managers

50

nurse educators



64%

have a specialty
certification



87%

have a bachelor's
degree or higher



40%

of nurses in leadership
positions have a
doctoral degree

Supporting and developing nurses throughout their careers

Through the generous support of donor Howard Meyers and additional philanthropic gifts, MD Anderson has committed \$50 million to establish the Meyers Institute for Oncology Nursing.

Announced in November 2023, this pioneering institute builds upon MD Anderson's ongoing Nursing Transformation efforts. The institute is dedicated to building strong educational, professional, scientific, innovative and wellness-based programs that will advance oncology nursing and support nurses in achieving their personal and professional goals.

"The Meyers Institute for Oncology Nursing positions MD Anderson as a game-changer in this landscape by focusing on nursing professionalism, elevating our training and work environments and emphasizing individual career paths for nurses," says Peter WT Pisters, M.D., MD Anderson president.

A signature priority for the institution and Executive Leadership Team, the institute is guided by an advisory committee that oversees the pace and progress of its programs. Chief Operating Officer Rosanna Morris serves as the executive sponsor and, in partnership with Carol Porter, D.N.P., and other leaders, provides strategic guidance and expert insights to help shape the institute's direction and initiatives.

"We hope to inspire the next generation of top talent to join cancer care nursing careers," says Porter. "We want our nurses to be the best at what they do and realize their personal and professional aspirations. Simply put, we want nurses who begin their careers at MD Anderson to retire from MD Anderson."

Meyers Institute: Four core programs

The Meyers Institute aims to attract, nurture and develop top nursing talent, serving as a model for other institutions—ultimately helping MD Anderson reach more patients and increase access to its world-leading prevention, diagnostic and treatment services, a key objective of MD Anderson's Strategy. Its four dynamic programs include:

- **Growth and Well-being:** Empowering nurses to pursue professional, personal and community-focused development. Nurses can select from a variety of options that align with their individual goals, providing them with meaningful and enriching experiences. The program formally launched in September 2024 and will engage about 100 nurses during the first year, with plans to expand in future years.



(From left) Rosanna Morris, chief operating officer; Peter WT Pisters, M.D., MD Anderson president; Howard Meyers, donor and member of the MD Anderson Board of Visitors; Carol Porter, D.N.P., and Darrow Zeidenstein, Ph.D., senior vice president and chief development officer.

- **Nursing Innovation:** Establishing a nursing innovation culture and strategy that results in enhanced quality nursing care, care delivery and patient outcomes.
- **Nurse Leadership Academy:** Offering world-class leadership education to oncology nurses, preparing them to become top leaders in the field through education and experiences tailored to the oncology nursing profession and environment. The academy builds upon Leadership Institute and Nursing Transformation work to support the leadership of all MD Anderson nurses.
- **Nursing Scholarship:** Developing a world-class nursing science research agenda that positions MD Anderson as a national leader in oncology nursing research and results in a spirit of discovery and inquiry for all MD Anderson nurses.

Each program is led by dedicated professionals from Nursing, Human Resources, Innovation, Leadership Institute and others who are committed to the vision of the Meyers Institute.

Frontline Nurses Council expands to broaden impact

Ensuring frontline nurses are at the forefront of decisions guiding the Meyers Institute and other transformational initiatives is a top priority for Frontline Nurses Council (FNC) members. The advisory group expanded to 30 members in 2024, with plans to broaden their impact and continue driving positive change.

“We have the tremendous opportunity to pressure test new ideas and connect with peers in a way that we’ve never done before to share information and elicit feedback,” says FNC member Irma Aguilar, a clinical nurse in the Main OR. “This is an exciting time for nursing at MD Anderson and I’m especially looking forward to upcoming initiatives that focus on well-being and discovering our individual passions while also advancing our mission.”

The FNC has provided valuable feedback on several initiatives, including virtual nursing, a new nursing professional advancement model and an attendance program that balances individual professionalism with accountability.

Virtual nursing: A year of impact

Since its launch in April 2023 as a key component of our Nursing Transformation, the Virtual Nursing Program has expanded significantly. The program now includes 10 virtual registered nurses (VRNS) covering nearly 375 beds across 12 inpatient units.

Between April 2023 and September 2024, VRNs completed admission paperwork for 5,209 patients and discharge teaching for 5,707 patients. This translates to 1,396 hours of admission time and 1,344 hours of discharge time returned to the bedside nurse, enabling more hands-on patient care activities.

Not only has this model created a new team dynamic resulting in more support, but it also improves safety, enables more meaningful interactions with patients and elevates both the patient and the nursing experience. In February 2024, 84% of nurses who responded to a survey reported they agreed the VRN program allowed them to focus on patient care.

“We’re so proud of how teams are embracing the virtual nursing model,” Lavonia Thomas, D.N.P., nursing informatics officer, says. “In a short period of time, virtual nurses have become an integral part of the admission and discharge process and help with our overall throughput efforts. We’re excited about future progress and how this can continue to improve nursing satisfaction as well as patient satisfaction.”



Learn how the Meyers Institute will support employees like leukemia Clinical Nurse Mikela Pettigrew in the FY24 Institutional Annual Report.

Nursing Transformation Fair

In March 2024, more than 1,300 nursing team members and interdisciplinary colleagues gathered to exchange ideas and create plans for the future of nursing at MD Anderson.

The Nursing Transformation Fair featured 18 booths representing various transformational workstreams, the Meyers Institute, Magnet and more. The great turnout and collaboration inspired many attendees, including Tiambe Kuykendall, nurse manager. She appreciated the opportunity to weigh in on efforts that will enhance the nursing team experience and was reminded of the reason she went into nursing – to help others.

“The last two days, I saw passion and excitement mixed with pride and motivation on the faces of so many nurses,” says Kuykendall. “The questions asked and the desire to do more was evident – the Nursing Transformation Fair definitely reminded nurses of their ‘why!’”



Joseph Brown, clinical developmental specialist, Main OR Nursing, showcased the XI robotic platform at the Nursing Transformation Fair, demonstrating advancements in technology and OR nursing.

Elevating nursing professional practice

At MD Anderson, excellence in nursing is more than a goal—it's a continuous journey. With five consecutive Magnet designations since 2001, our nurses uphold the highest standards of patient care through evidence-based, innovative, nurse-led initiatives.

In 2024, nurses at all levels applied the five Magnet Model Components—Transformational Leadership, Structural Empowerment, Exemplary Professional Practice, New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements, and Empirical Outcomes—to drive meaningful change.

Magnet key:

- Transformational Leadership
- Exemplary Professional Practice
- Structural Empowerment
- New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements
- Empirical Outcomes

New programs offer career growth opportunities for nurses, PCTs

Clinical nurses and patient care technicians (PCTs) now have more opportunities for career advancement and recognition for their commitment to nursing excellence as part of MD Anderson's Nursing Transformation. The Nursing Professional Advancement Model (NPAM) and PCT Career Growth Program (PCT-CGP) began accepting applications in March 2024. Both programs provide a framework for eligible participants to advance their careers through validation of professional development, leadership and education.

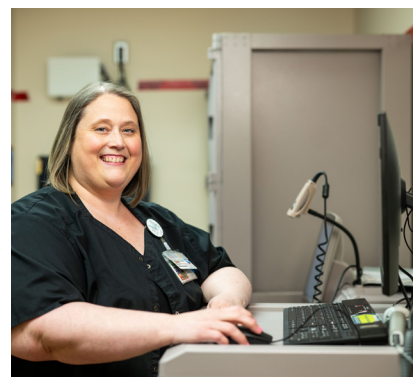
"Continuous learning and a growth mindset are part of our culture, so it's exciting to launch these structured programs that support transformational nursing practice and meet the needs of our nurses in the clinical environment now and into the future," says Christi Bowe, director, RN and APRN Education and Professional Development. "We expect to see many positive benefits—from enhanced quality of care for patients to increased job satisfaction and career fulfillment for staff."

The NPAM program features four levels of advancement based on nursing professional development. Participants earn credits through various activities that encourage career growth across multiple pathways, with a payout for levels 3 and 4 upon approval. Similarly, the PCT-CGP offers a structured approach to skill-building and professional development. With three levels of advancement, participants enhance their clinical expertise, explore career paths within MD Anderson, and gain valuable experience—with those approved at levels 2 and 3 receiving a payout.

Nurses and PCTs have two opportunities each year to apply for advancement. More than 1,300 nurses and 136 PCTs were accepted during the first application period (86% acceptance rate) and received payouts in June 2024 and January 2025.

Striding toward a sixth Magnet designation

On Oct. 1, 2024, MD Anderson submitted its final application for a sixth Magnet designation, marking four years of dedication from nurses across the institution. This comprehensive document features 91 examples showcasing how nurses lead and innovate in patient care. The effort, led by the Magnet Core Review team, involved hundreds of nurses and collaborating colleagues who contributed through submitting, writing, editing and validating sources of evidence.



Melisa Calmo has become known by her unit as the "Heart of Magnet."

"Achieving and sustaining Magnet status goes beyond Nursing – it's a collaborative effort and a source of pride for the entire institution," says Melissa Calmo, nurse manager on the Gynecology and Radiation Unit (G10E). She is one of more than 240 Magnet ambassadors who help educate and engage staff on evidence-based practice and Magnet principles. "Each time we apply, the standards are raised, pushing us to be even better," she adds.

The Magnet program now emphasizes data-driven outcomes, to a greater extent, requiring hospitals to demonstrate superior performance against national quality benchmarks. On Calmo's unit, a commitment to continuous improvement led to remarkable achievements, including MD Anderson's Excellence in Safety Award for maintaining zero catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), central-line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), hospital-acquired pressure injuries (HAPI), and patient falls with injury for an entire year.

With a site visit anticipated in spring 2025, Calmo is confident MD Anderson will join the elite 2% of Magnet hospitals worldwide with six designations.

"When appraisers arrive, it's our time to shine," she says. "This is our opportunity to showcase the world-class cancer care we provide every day."

Bringing inpatient dialysis services in-house

In January 2024, the inpatient dialysis unit on P6A transitioned from outsourcing dialysis services to providing a comprehensive in-house program — a significant milestone in delivering specialized renal care for cancer patients. A dozen dialysis nurses, as well as a certified hemodialysis technician and dialysis biomed technician joined MD Anderson as full-time employees to help lead the effort, ensuring seamless, high-quality treatment tailored to this unique patient population.

“Having an in-house comprehensive dialysis program removes many barriers that we experienced in the past,” says Aelyn Abardo, nurse manager, Dialysis department. “With our own oversight and leadership over services for our renal patients, we’re able to improve the health of our patients with a focus on quality and outcomes. In addition, we are able to raise the bar and add additional metrics to our Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement program.”

New equipment, including Crit-Line monitors, enables teams to assess fluid



President Peter WT Pisters, M.D., meets Aelyn Abardo and the nursing team on the Dialysis Unit as he rounds with Carol Porter, D.N.P.

removal rates in real time and implement proactive interventions, optimizing dialysis treatment for approximately 300 hospital patients each month. Additionally, expanded services now support sustained low-efficiency dialysis for ICU patients who cannot tolerate conventional dialysis, along with extended access to pediatric patients needing renal replacement therapy.

Alongside these advancements, MD Anderson achieved accreditation by the National Dialysis Accreditation Commission in August 2024.

Discharge checklist improves hospital throughput

Getting patients ready to be discharged from the hospital is a complex process that involves careful coordination. Missing one step can cause a chain reaction with significant delays. To improve efficiency, an interdisciplinary team on the Hematology inpatients units (G17 and G18) created a discharge checklist as part of institutional Hospital Throughput efforts. The results have been promising, with earlier discharge times and enhanced patient experience.

The checklist engages the entire care team – nurses, physicians, advanced practice providers (APPs), case manager navigators and others – outlining

tasks to be completed up to two days before discharge. A key goal is placing discharge orders before 9 a.m. to send patients home before noon. To achieve this, APPs are empowered to assess readiness and place discharge orders in advance of physician rounds.

“Our role in the discharge process has expanded,” says Nicole Brunelle, APP supervisor. “We’re able to anticipate patient needs, address barriers early and ensure everything is in place for a smooth transition home.”

Historically, less than 10% of patients on the Stem Cell units were discharged by noon. Within a month of implementing the checklist, discharge times improved significantly. For partic-

ipating, eligible patients, 91% of discharge orders were placed before 9 a.m. and 87% of patients were discharged home before noon. Some were even discharged a day earlier than expected.

The Stem Cell team is now working on integrating the checklist into Epic and expanding pilots to other inpatient areas.

Addressing patients' urgent needs

Ambulatory nurses had a key role in opening the Urgent Symptom Clinic (USC) in April 2024, bringing a new level of care to medically stable outpatients experiencing treatment-related symptoms. Their leadership in planning, training and workflow integration helped launch the clinic and expand to all outpatient referrals, providing timely care that keeps patients out of the emergency room and reduces hospital readmissions.

“The Urgent Symptom Clinic provides patients with prompt, targeted treatment in a dedicated space designed specifically for their needs,” says Natosha Jenkins, Ph.D., clinical administrative director for the USC. “This clinic enhances access to timely care, ensuring that patients receive the right level of support in a comfortable and efficient environment.”

The USC treats symptoms such as dehydration, dizziness, fever and nausea. The team includes eight nurses and five medical assistants who partner with Emergency Medicine providers. To ensure seamless care, staff underwent cross-training in the ACCC and other clinics, allowing them to integrate best practices into their workflows. The clinic is located in the Main Building's Ambulatory Treatment Center and has 10 beds.

After an initial pilot, the USC expanded to all ambulatory clinics on July 1, 2024. In just three months, the clinic received 555 referrals, safely managing over 90% of cases within the clinic and discharging 80% of patients without requiring higher-level care. The USC is part of the institution's Hospital Throughput clinical focus area.



Katherine Mishaw and Joylyn Estrella (left) with the 46 nurses and pharmacy staff who attended the pre-conference workshop in Zambia.

Expanding global cancer care

As part of MD Anderson's Global Oncology program, nurse leaders Joylyn Estrella, associate director of Nursing Programs, and Katherine Mishaw, director of Cancer Network Education and Training, traveled to Zambia in July 2024 to educate local health care professionals in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Their efforts are part of a larger mission to expand access to quality cancer care in underserved regions.

During the second annual Joint Oncology Symposium – a collaboration with the Zambia Ministry of Health and Cancer Diseases Hospital – Estrella and Mishaw led a two-day pre-conference workshop for 40 nurses and 6 pharmacy staff. Training topics included:

- Carcinogenesis, cancer genetics, and cancer and the immune system
- Surgical, radiation and systemic therapies
- Safe chemotherapy administration and PPE protocols
- Management of acute complications and infection prevention

“Education is the foundation of better patient care,” says Estrella. “By sharing our expertise, we’re not just teaching skills—we’re building confidence, strengthening global partnerships and ultimately saving lives. Our mission to end cancer has no borders.”

During the symposium, MD Anderson formalized a five-year collaboration with The Ministry of Health of Zambia, reinforcing its commitment to global oncology initiatives. This partnership supports MD Anderson's strategic pillar, Reach, which includes strengthening international relationships to expand access to cancer care worldwide.



Nursing participants demonstrate the proper sequence of donning personal protective equipment when handling and administering chemotherapy.

Championing nurse leader well-being

Nurse leader burnout is a significant challenge in health care nationwide, impacting team engagement, morale and retention. Recognizing this issue, Nursing's Associate Directors (AD) Wellness Team, led by Yvette Ong, AD of clinical nursing, took action to enhance well-being and support among their peers at MD Anderson.

They partnered with Human Resources and the BeWell team to conduct a wellness assessment, identifying key concerns related to stress, sleep and physical well-being. In response, the AD Wellness Team designed a comprehensive initiative and invited internal and external experts to address topics including sleep, musculo-skeletal health, stress management strategies and financial wellness. ADs shared their own best practices and challenges throughout the sessions.

These efforts led to significant improvements. Within a year, the percentage of ADs who felt supported in wellness programs increased from



Nursing Associate Directors including (from left) Elsy Puthempurampil, Nicole Vaughan-Adams and Tara Tatum start every AD meeting with a "wellness moment," such as stretching and chair yoga.

57.2% to 92% and those who believed their team promoted a culture of well-being rose from 57.2% to 83%.

"By prioritizing and modeling personal well-being, nurse leaders have created healthy environments for their teams, ultimately benefiting patients and families," says Ong.

In recognition of these contributions, the AD Wellness Team received the 2024 Nursing Quality Caring Award for Wellness. Their commitment continues, with well-being discussions integrated into AD meetings, team walks and social events fostering a culture of support and resilience.

Sticking to the facts

Frontline nurses caring for patients on clinical trials navigate complex research studies while ensuring patient safety through strict adherence to protocol guidelines. Research Protocol Fact Sheets, introduced in 2018, provide quick access to key guidelines, including medication contraindications and procedures. Usage has increased 400%, yet some nurses remain unaware of their availability in Epic. To bridge that gap, Nathan Comeaux and Mariana Gallardo, research nurse supervisors, and Annie Phillip, quality informatics nurse specialist, developed a Computer-Based Training (CBT) module to enhance nurse education on these essential resources.

"This team took a very scientific approach to developing the new education," says Doyle Bosque, director, Nursing Research Programs. "They conducted literature research to determine the prevalence and value of implementing CBT for education on research protocols and they assisted in establishing goals for increasing the use of Fact Sheets by nurses throughout our organization."

With over 3,000 fact sheets now available, the team developed a CBT module as part of new nurse orientation. The training focuses on:

- Frontline nurses' role in clinical research
- Purpose and components of Research Protocol Fact Sheets

- How Research Protocol Fact Sheets should be used at MD Anderson
- Navigating to Research Protocol Fact Sheets in Epic

For their work in advancing nurse education and patient safety, Comeaux, Gallardo and Philip received MD Anderson's Excellence in Safety Award for December 2023.

Navigating care from hospital to home

Staying in the hospital is a common part of treatment and can be a stressful experience, especially when patients are far from home and feeling unwell. Thanks to the launch of our inpatient navigation program, case manager navigators are part of all units to provide patients with additional support, partner with other members of their care team and enhance their overall experience.

“Our relationship doesn’t end at discharge,” says Mabel Ortiz, case manager navigator on G22. “Instead of being episodic and focused on the moment, we take a holistic, proactive approach that fully engages patients and families in their care.”

All case manager navigators at MD Anderson, including Ortiz, are also registered nurses. She began providing navigation in September 2023, after completing an evidence-based comprehensive Oncology Patient Navigator training. In her role, she provides



Mabel Ortiz provides proactive clinical support and care coordination throughout a patient’s hospital stay.

proactive clinical support and care coordination throughout a patient’s hospital stay, from admission to post-discharge.

This new model of care is already having an impact, as patient experience scores have improved significantly on

her unit since the model launched in 2024. Hospital-wide patient satisfaction has increased, too, specifically in the areas of care transitions and understanding discharge instructions.



Nursing Professional Practice Model

MD Anderson’s Nursing Professional Practice Model (PPM) represents how key elements of professional nursing practice at MD Anderson connect to each other. The PPM is based on the Quality Caring Model by Joanne Duffy, Ph.D. All PPM components operate within the context of MD Anderson’s core values of Caring, Integrity, Safety, Discovery and Stewardship. MD Anderson frontline nurses developed the PPM graphic, featuring open hand imagery—a universal symbol of caring—and colors that represent the breadth of caregivers and patients at MD Anderson.

Nicole Vaughan-Adams, Rebecca Lu receive DAISY Nurse Leader Award



DAISY Nurse Leader Award winners and finalists (left to right): Yvette Ong, Myra Granada, Rebecca Lu, Nicole Vaughan-Adams, Roxanne Canicula and Staci Eguia.

Nicole Vaughan-Adams, associate director for Nursing G21 (Hospital Medicine/ICT), and Rebecca Lu, advanced practice provider supervisor in Lymphoma-Myeloma, received MD Anderson's first DAISY Nurse Leader Awards during a ceremony in April 2024. Special guests Mark and Bonnie Barnes, co-founders of the DAISY Foundation, joined Nursing leadership to announce the awards.

MD Anderson has worked with the DAISY Foundation since 2012 to honor more than 150 frontline nurses. The DAISY Nurse Leader Award will be an annual award, recognizing one inpatient and one ambulatory/procedural nurse leader who excel in supporting their teams and fostering compassionate care environments.

Four finalists also were recognized:

- Myra Granada, nurse manager, G18
- Yvette Ong, associate director, G10W/P4/WOC
- Roxanne Canicula, nurse manager, Vascular Access and Procedures
- Staci Eguia, nurse manager, PACU-West Houston

Creating a culture of compassion

Vaughan-Adams was nominated for her dedication to staff and patient well-being. Her empathetic approach and genuine concern have made her a trusted leader. Team members highlighted her support during challenging times and her efforts to recognize staff contributions, which have boosted morale and led to multiple team members earning DAISY Awards.

Optimizing operations for excellence

Lu was recognized for her tremendous efforts to optimize and strengthen processes for the benefit of her team and clinical trial patients. Her leadership contributed to zero citations during FDA audits and improved clinical trial operations. Team members praised her for fostering professional growth and driving continuous improvement in patient care and research standards.

Acute Cancer Care Center honored with Lantern Award



Members of the Acute Cancer Care Center receive the Lantern Award at the Emergency Nurses Association's annual conference in Las Vegas, NV.

MD Anderson's Acute Cancer Care Center (ACCC) has been awarded the Emergency Nurses Association's (ENA) Lantern Award, becoming the first National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center to receive this honor.

The Lantern Award recognizes exceptional leadership, practice, education, advocacy and research in emergency nursing. This year, only 94 hospitals nationwide received this award. The ACCC earned recognition for its dedication to providing outstanding emergency care to cancer patients facing complex and life-threatening conditions.

"This award reflects the dedication, skill, and compassion of our nurses and the entire ACCC team," said Petra Grami, ACCC's director of nursing. "Our team consistently rises to the challenges of cancer care emergencies with innovative solutions and an unwavering commitment to our patients."

The 10-month application process involved a team of 12 ACCC nurses and leaders, who refined systems and shared stories showcasing their commitment to patient care and staff well-being. The award is valid for three years, after which recipients can reapply.

Awards and appointments

Aelyn Abardo

Salute to Nurses – Top 200 nurse winner
Awarded by: Houston Chronicle, May 2024

Nimmy Abraham

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, February 2024

Irma Aguilar

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Jeffrey Alcasabas

Nursing Quality Caring Award – Team Player
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Karen Alsbrook, Ph.D.

Sigma Small Grant recipient
Awarded by: Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing, July 2024

Rebecca Amuzu

APRN awards: Mentor of the Year
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Sarah Ascanio

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Ufuoma Avbovbo, D.N.P.

2024 Alice Judkins Award
Awarded by: Division of Surgery, MD Anderson, March 2024

Leigh Avery

Salute to Nurses – Top 200 nurse winner
Awarded by: Houston Chronicle, May 2024

Eloisa Bautista

Salute to Nurses – Top 200 nurse winner
Awarded by: Houston Chronicle, May 2024

Christofer Bibal

Salute to Nurses – Top 15 nurse winner
Awarded by: Houston Chronicle, May 2024

Sherin Binoy

2023 Brown Foundation Award for Excellence in
Oncology Nursing (finalist)
Awarded by: The Brown Foundation Inc.
and the Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Dominique Bourgeois

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Parys Boutte

Advanced Practice Provider “Top Performer” Award (Top 10% nationally)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Jackie Broadway-Duren, Ph.D., D.N.P.

APRN Awards: Best of Professional Development Model (Research)
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Joseph Brown

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses

Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, August 2024

Terrika Brown

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Joaquin Buitrago

20 Outstanding Nurses of 2023
Awarded by: Texas Nurses Association District 9, November 2023

Michelle Butaud

2023 Excellence in LEADership Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Wendy Butler

Nursing Quality Caring Award – Education
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Amanda Cabrera

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, February 2024

Jenilee Caeg

2023 Brown Foundation Award for Excellence
in Oncology Nursing (finalist)
Awarded by: The Brown Foundation Inc.
and the Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Melisa Calmo

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Dave Calubaquib

Emerging Perioperative Leader Under 40
Awarded by: Association of perioperative
Registered Nurses, February 2024

Bethsaida Camacho

Advanced Practice Provider “Top Performer” Award (Top 1% nationally)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Jilliane Castillo

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Hannah Chaharlangi

Advanced Practice Provider “Top Performer” Award (Perfect Score)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Latira Chenevert

Advanced Practice Provider “Top Performer” Award (Top 1% nationally)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Shontornia Collins

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Nathan Comeaux

Excellence in Safety Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, December 2023

Vivian Crowder

APRN Awards: Best of Professional Development Model (Overall)
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Juana Cruz

Nursing Quality Caring Award – Excellence in Patient Care
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Qi Dang

Nursing Quality Caring Award – Clinical Nurse, Inpatient
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Mercy Dcunha

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Terri Earles, D.N.P.

The John P. McGovern Foundation
“Champion in Women’s Health and Wellness” Award
Awarded by: The Women’s Fund for Health
Education and Resiliency, November 2023

Yan Ede

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Tonya Edwards

20 Outstanding Nurses of 2023
Awarded by: Texas Nurses Association District 9, November 2023

Vivian Fakhoury

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Sheryl Forbes

Treasurer, Board of Directors for the International
Association of Clinical Research Nurses (2-year term)
Awarded by: International Association of Clinical Research Nurses,
December 2023

Mariana Gallardo

Excellence in Safety Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, December 2023

Alfredo Garcia, Jr.

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, August 2024

Rosabeth Jean Garcia

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, February 2024

Claudia Gonzalez

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Myra Granada

Nursing Quality Caring Award – Nursing Leadership
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Enrique Gutierrez

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Eileen Hacker, Ph.D.

2024 International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame inductee
Awarded by: Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing, July 2024

Regina Harris

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Agnes Hsu

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

2023 Brown Foundation Award for Excellence in Oncology Nursing
Awarded by: The Brown Foundation Inc. and the Division of Nursing,
MD Anderson, November 2023

Chandra Hummons

Advanced Practice Provider “Top Performer” Award (Perfect Score)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Darline Hurst

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Jana Jackson

Nursing Quality Caring Award – Rookie of the Year
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Emily Jamieson

Emma Josephine Loeffelholz McNorris RN Spirituality Award
Awarded by: Institute for Spirituality and Health at the
Texas Medical Center, October 2023

Li Jiang

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Kristin Johnson

20 Outstanding Nurses of 2023
Awarded by: Texas Nurses Association District 9, November 2023

Shina Johnson

2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Yavanas Thattarathu Jose
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, February 2024

Somia Joseph
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Misyl Jovero
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: MD Anderson, MD Anderson, August 2024

Rebecca Kimondiu
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Amanda Klimitchek
Advanced Practice Provider "Top Performer" Award (Top 10% nationally)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Cynthia Kudakachira
Advanced Practice Provider "Top Performer" Award (Top 1% nationally)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Minimol Kunnacherry
Excellence in Safety Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, September 2023

Sharon Kuruvilla
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Cindy Kwok
APRN Awards: Best of Professional Development Model (Education)
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Tiffany Kwong
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Laura Layton
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Susan Lee, Ph.D.
Ambassador for the Friends of the National Institute
of Nursing Research (FNINR)
Awarded by: FNINR, July 2024

Fellow of the Academy of Nursing Education
Awarded by: National League for Nursing, August 2024

Soo-Hyun Lee-Kim
APRN Awards: Best of Professional
Development Model (Administration)
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Kim Littles, D.N.P.
Director, Houston Organization for Nursing
Leadership (2-year term)
Awarded by: Houston Organization for
Nursing Leadership, November 2023

Kathryn Lito
The Heart of MD Anderson Outstanding Employee Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, June 2024

Andrea Lopez
2023 Excellence in LEADership Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Daniella Luna
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, August 2024

Frances Macdonald
Nursing Quality Caring Award – Clinical Nurse, Ambulatory
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Jessiele Manzano
The Heart of MD Anderson Outstanding Employee Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Viji Mathew
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Gilda Matute
The Heart of MD Anderson Outstanding Employee Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, July 2024

Heather McCord
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Charla McMichael
2024 Distinguished Mentor Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, February 2024

Meghan Morrow
Dawn Gross Memorial Scholarship recipient (Master's degree)
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Ellen Mullen
Advanced Practice Provider "Top Performer" Award (Perfect Score)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Anuradha Narva
Dawn Gross Memorial Scholarship recipient (Master's degree)
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Noelle Odom
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, February 2024

Necole Oscar
President-elect, Houston Organization for Nursing Leadership
Awarded by: Houston Organization for Nursing Leadership,
December 2023

Carla Patel, D.N.P.
APRN awards: Loretta Ford MD Anderson Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Dharusal Patel
Advanced Practice Provider "Top Performer" Award (Top 1% nationally)
Awarded by: MD Anderson, October 2023

Fritzie Perez
Salute to Nurses – Top 200 nurse winner
Awarded by: Houston Chronicle, May 2024

Annie Philip
Excellence in Safety Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, December 2023

Sajo Philipose
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Brad Phillips, D.N.P.
Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives
Awarded by: American College of Healthcare Executives, April 2024

Anitha Polackal
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, August 2024

Melanie Polston
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Carol Porter, D.N.P.
Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing
Awarded by: Hong Kong Academy of Nursing, October 2023

Gracy Renjit
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Paris Ritthamel
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, February 2024

Yvette Rosenthal
Nursing Quality Caring Award – Nurse Preceptor
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Stacy Sam
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Falguni Shah
Excellence in Safety Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, February 2024

Shiow-Ru Shau
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Brandon Sterling, Ph.D.
APRN Awards: Best of Professional Development Model (Clinical)
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Shane Stout
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Adonis Taylor
Perioperative Leadership Grant recipient
Awarded by: Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, July 2024

Anumol Thomas, D.N.P.
APRN awards: Core Values Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Connie To
APRN awards: Rookie of the Year
Awarded by: MD Anderson APRN Council, November 2023

Jisha Tom
Nursing Quality Caring Award - APRN
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Andy Tran
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, November 2023

Carrie Tsekouras
2024 Distinguished Mentor Award
Awarded by: MD Anderson, February 2024

Joyace Ussin
2024 Award of Service Excellence
Awarded by: Case Management Society of America, April 2024

Ann Uy
Nursing Quality Caring Award – Clinical Research Nurse
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

Anu Valayil
2023 Excellence in Nursing Award (Bronze)
Awarded by: Good Samaritan Foundation, December 2023

Angela Valeriano
Salute to Nurses – Top 200 nurse winner
Awarded by: Houston Chronicle, May 2024

Edward Waiter, Jr.
The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, August 2024

Sue Wilson
Nursing Quality Caring Award – Case Management
Awarded by: Division of Nursing, MD Anderson, June 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
~~Cancer~~ Center
Making Cancer History®