

Awards Committee-American Association of Neuroscience nursing

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

I am honored to nominate my colleague for the Rising Star in Clinic Practice Nursing Award. In just over a year specializing in neuroimmunology within neuroscience nursing, she has distinguished herself as an exemplary practitioner whose commitment to high standards of clinical practice, deepening knowledge, and compassionate patient care truly mark her as a rising star within our field.

From the outset, she has demonstrated remarkable professionalism and an eagerness to advance her expertise in neuroimmunology. She has rapidly developed a strong foundation of knowledge that guides her in managing complex neurological and immunological disorders, ensuring that patient care is both evidence-based and highly individualized.

Beyond her clinical acumen, she has spearheaded several quality improvement (QI) projects aimed at standardizing care across both inpatient and outpatient settings. One notable initiative focuses on enhancing patient follow-up processes, and discharge clinics which has resulted in improved continuity of care and better patient outcomes. She quickly identified a gap in post-discharge follow-up in the Neuroimmunology Center and organized and developed an NP-led Discharge Clinic to ensure patients are seen within 21 days of inpatient discharge. Furthermore, she coordinated multidisciplinary efforts with PT/OT and implemented EPIC-based workflows to streamline scheduling and communication. This initiative improved follow-up timeliness (average follow up time went from 24.2 → 15.8 days), enhanced patient safety, and strengthened continuity of care, demonstrating successful identification of care outliers, strategic management, and navigation of systemic barriers.

She was also instrumental in developing the Opsoclonus-Myoclonus Ataxia Syndrome clinic. Her proactive approach to identifying gaps and implementing sustainable improvements speaks to her forward-thinking mindset and leadership potential. Very early on, she helped the team with creating templates and smart phrases for ease of data research extraction.

In addition to her QI work, she has quickly mastered a variety of specialized procedures integral to neuroimmunology nursing. She has become a vital member of the procedural team, expertly performing lumbar punctures and medication injections with skill and precision. This procedural competence not only elevates patient care but also strengthens the multidisciplinary team's ability to deliver timely, effective treatments. She is always the first to seize a learning opportunity particularly if it pertains to improving patient care. She developed a collaboration Neurosurgery to develop evidence-based LP guidelines for pediatric patients with Chiari Malformations that promote consistent, multidisciplinary decision-making and alignment with best practices to improve outcomes.

Her caring and empathetic approach to patients remains a hallmark of her practice. She consistently approaches patients and families with kindness and respect, ensuring their concerns are heard and addressed, which fosters trust and comfort during challenging clinical encounters.

Her influence extends beyond direct patient care. She has played an instrumental role in educating students and newly hired staff, facilitating their integration and growth within our neuroscience program. Her passion for learning and teaching is further evidenced by her presentations at both local and national conferences, sharing her knowledge and insights with the wider nursing community.

Her leadership has been recognized beyond our institution, as demonstrated by her recruitment to the vaccine task force created by the Child Neurology Society—a prestigious appointment that reflects her growing reputation in the field. Furthermore, her active involvement with the American Clinical Neuroscience Nurses (ACNN) and the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) underscores her commitment to professional development and networking.

Peers and supervisors alike regard her as a rising star due to her unwavering dedication, professionalism, and rapid growth as a clinician and leader. She consistently embraces new opportunities to enhance her skills and contribute meaningfully to our specialty.

In summary, she exemplifies all the qualities celebrated by the Rising Star in Clinic Practice Nursing Award. Her high standard of practice, specialized knowledge in neuroimmunology, leadership in quality improvement, compassionate patient care, and recognition within the neuroscience community position her as an outstanding candidate. I am confident she will continue to make significant contributions to neuroscience nursing and strongly recommend her for this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,