

2020 Excellence in Clinical Patient Care Award

Marilyn Reed, BSN RN CNRN

Nominated by Sherry Fox



It is my pleasure to nominate this award-winning expert clinical nurse for the Excellence in Clinical Patient Care Award. The nominee has 34 years' experience in patient-centered nursing caring for neuroscience clients on medical-surgical units, step-down, critical care and specialty units over those years.

Over the last 12 years the nominee has been delivering patient-centered care with brain tumor patients in her hospital and community. When she started in her current position as a neuro nurse specialist (not a clinical nurse specialist), she had one week of "training" and then she hit the ground running making important contributions as a clinical nurse leader. It didn't take long for her to identify that to improve patient outcomes it was best to have all physicians involved in treatment decisions "on the same page" thus facilitating a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to care. This was not an easy task in a community hospital with multiple private practices involved. One by one she gathered support of physicians (3 at the time, 9 now) and started a neuro-oncology conference that would meet 2 times a month during lunch. Many weeks this nurse would be the only one in attendance. Eight years later, it is one of the most robust conferences at the hospital and now meets on a weekly basis

From the conference noted above a brain tumor subcommittee evolved to continually look at processes and ways to improve patients care and experience. Once again, this nominee stepped up to provide clinical leadership and continually examine ways with her interdisciplinary colleagues to promote good outcomes for neuro-oncology patients.

Recently the team under her leadership developed care paths for every neuro-oncology patient type thus creating an algorithm to guide practitioners on key steps in the path of the patient. In addition to the care path the nominee is precepting two newer nurses on the team in the development of an educational booklet for any person undergoing surgery for a neuro-oncology problem, mainly persons with brain tumors. Clearly this nominee has become the “go to” person when it comes to addressing the many unique issues of clients with brain tumors.

This nominee has volunteered for AANN since 2004 when she attended her first conference. She has submitted and had accepted 9 peer-reviewed posters and presentations for AANN. She has served as an AANN volunteer and SFG co-facilitator and facilitator. Furthermore, she has reached out to her local chapter with ongoing suggestions for educational events and activities to promote the clinical expertise of her local colleagues. Additionally, she has presented at numerous educational activities for neuro nurses in her local hospital.

In addition to more formal educational presentations this nominee continues to mentor nurses on writing abstracts and presenting neuro content. At last year’s meeting she co-presented a poster with two less experienced colleagues. Furthermore, this nominee mentors’ nurses in her facility to obtain their CNRN and SCR.N. Several years ago, she started a committee to improve neuroscience education in her hospital, the committee included physicians and nurse managers. With the help of a physician champion dedicated to education, the hospital now offers review courses for CNRN and more recently SCR.N.

In addition to her contributions to education of her neuro nursing colleagues this nominee has also contributed to the neuroscience nursing body of knowledge through authorship. Last year this nominee led a group of 5 nurses in writing their first article for a peer reviewed journal, JNN. Working closely with a mentor, this nominee worked diligently with the group to meet all deadlines and get the article published. This was no easy task while also maintaining her daily clinical duties. In addition to her article with this team of nurses, she has 3 other peer reviewed publications as a co-author with physician colleagues.

Along with a focus on mentoring, educating and delivering patient centered care, this nominee rounds out her contributions to practice and patients by also contributing to the research occurring within the hospital and her department. The nominee has collaborated with the neuro-oncology team in at least 3 research projects over the past several years.

This nominee also in her continued efforts to provide patient-centered, compassionate care also facilitates a brain tumor support group, through her hospital, but for the community at large. Any patient or family member is welcome regardless of where they may have received care. While several of the hospitals other support groups have

stopped due to low turnout, this group continues to grow. Most meetings have between 10-20 attendees-one meeting drew 45 people.

Two years ago, this nominee identified a gap in care for patients and their families via the brain tumor support group. Within the group there were multiple members with school age children. The nominee noted that a member had been diagnosed 12 years earlier and his tumor had just recurred. One month before he died, he asked the nominee if there was anything that his 9-year-old son could attend to help him understand his illness and help him prepare for his death. This nominee searched locally only to find there were only groups for grieving children. This patient's death underscored the need for support/education for children of parents with brain tumors who were on the treatment journey and anticipating death. After collaboratively researching programs with one of the hospital social workers, the duo obtained financial support from the hospital to implement a program called CLIMB (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery). The nominee sought training to implement the program. The CLIMB program was successfully implemented this past year by the nominee. Evaluations have been positive, and the nominee is planning for additional sessions with children in need. The nominee will be presenting the outcomes of this innovative program at the AANN 2020 meeting.

As a final example of this nominee's focus on patient centered, compassionate care recently a young mom was calmly talking to the physicians and nurses in her ICU room after learning that she had a brain tumor. Suddenly she burst into tears and asked "Can anyone help me? I don't know to tell my kids; my son told his dad he is afraid I am going to die". The physicians and nurses turned to this nominee. The nominee adapted one of the activities from the program and met with the patients 2 children. They completed the project prior to their moms' surgery. A physician noted in the patient's chart, "Thank you to (the nominee) for her holistic approach to this patient and her family".

In closing, again it is my pleasure to submit this nominee for this award. She is a clinical expert practicing at an advanced practice level despite not having an advanced practice degree. She consistently demonstrates and exceeds the criteria set forth for the award. She is a shining example of the incredible clinical talent that exists within neuroscience and AANN.