

MSK Cancer Alliance Membership Announced

The LVHN Cancer Institute is officially its second member.

Soccer Team Partners With LVHN

We're the official medical provider of Bethlehem Steel FC.

What Benefits Are You Interested In?

Take a survey to tell us which new benefits to pursue.

Phantoms Ticket Winners Announced

See if your name is on the list.

Bianca Lee is March's Service Star

She displayed professionalism and empathy during a tragedy.

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Read Lehigh Valley Health News

a blog on LVHN.org containing timely health information and health network news.

LVHN Cancer Institute Named Second Member of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance – VIDEO

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · MARCH 15, 2016

After more than two years of planning, the Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) Cancer Institute is now a formal member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Alliance. Representatives of both organizations made the announcement today during a news conference at Lehigh Valley Hospital–Cedar Crest.

Established in 2013, the MSK Cancer Alliance is a partnership between Memorial Sloan Kettering – the world’s oldest and largest private cancer center – and community oncology providers. Its goal is to bring the most current knowledge and advanced cancer care into the community setting. The LVHN Cancer Institute’s membership in the Alliance will enhance



Together. Stronger Against Cancer.

research capabilities at LVHN, allowing the health network to deliver world-class, research-based treatments directly to patients.

“At LVHN, our commitment to providing quality care has meant that we’ve long given people access to the latest cancer treatments and clinical trials,” says LVHN president and chief executive officer (CEO) Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP. “We also know that when facing a foe like cancer, you can always do more. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, a world leader in cancer research, is helping us take our fight against cancer to a new level.”

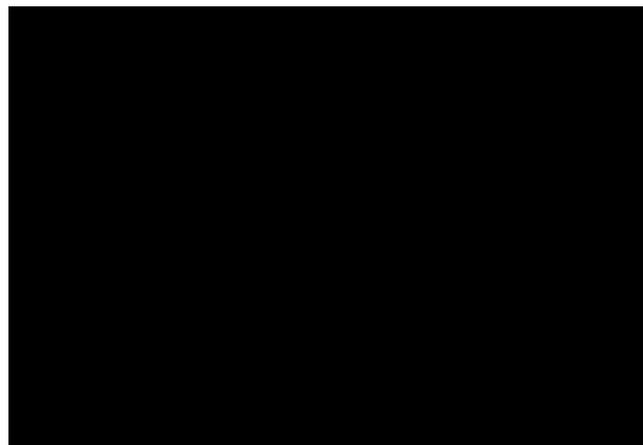
“To become an Alliance member, LVHN had to ensure our standards of care are aligned with the world-class standards established by MSK,” says Suresh Nair, MD, medical director of the LVHN Cancer Institute. “We’ve reached that milestone.”

Here is how the Alliance benefits residents of the Lehigh Valley region:

- Clinical teams at LVHN will quickly learn and adopt MSK standards of care into everyday practice for their patients. By keeping up to date with the latest innovations, LVHN cancer specialists will make treatment decisions for their patients based on the best and most current evidence available.
- Patients receiving cancer care at LVHN will benefit from the diagnosis and treatment expertise of MSK doctors. Physicians from both organizations are meeting regularly to discuss challenging cases and identify the best treatments for patients. LVHN physicians also are visiting MSK to learn about the newest techniques and advances in care.
- LVHN patients will have access to MSK clinical trials. A clinical trial is a research study that tests a new medical approach – such as a drug or combination of drugs – to make sure it is safe and effective. Opening MSK trials at LVHN will speed up the data-collection process so new treatments can be approved faster and become available to more patients at LVHN.

LVHN has been conducting cancer trials for years. Membership in the Alliance will take cancer research at LVHN to the next level and give people in the Lehigh Valley region access to even more clinical trials close to home.

Jonathan Gyuran of Phillipsburg, N.J., can attest to the importance of clinical trials. After learning he had stage IV lung cancer, he decided to participate in a clinical trial at LVHN. He shared his experience at today’s news conference. “Two years ago this month, I was told I had one year to live,” Gyuran says. “I defied the odds for one reason: I participated in a clinical trial.” *Watch the video (above) to see Gyuran’s story.*



If you or someone you know is interested in participating in a clinical trial at LVHN, here is what you should do:

Patients already receiving cancer care at LVHN should talk to their oncologist.

- People who are not an LVHN patient should call LVHN's customer service line, 610-402-CARE.

The next MSK clinical trial to open at LVHN will study the use of a medication to help women with triple negative breast cancer, a rare form of the disease. "We'll be evaluating a medication that women would take after their chemo, surgery or radiation treatments are finished to prevent a recurrence of their cancer," said the trial's principal investigator, MSK medical oncologist and breast cancer specialist Tiffany Traina, MD. "Opening this trial to the LVHN community gives us a chance to learn more about the disease, and faster, by providing us with a wider population of women to study."

Over its 130-year history, MSK has been at the forefront of cancer research, discovering treatments and techniques that alter the course of cancer care. "We have an obligation to share these breakthroughs," says Wendy Perchick, senior vice president of strategy and innovation at MSK. In turn, MSK also learns by collaborating with community partners. "This helps to challenge our thinking and drives us to come up with collaborative, innovative ways to care for our patients," she says.

The LVHN Cancer Institute is the second member of the MSK Cancer Alliance. Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute in Connecticut was the first Alliance member, while the Miami Cancer Institute of Baptist Health South Florida announced its intention to become the third Alliance member. Physicians from all Alliance organizations can consult with each other to determine the best treatments for their patients.

"Having these teams work together means that physicians can pool their knowledge and learn from each other," says Richard Barakat, MD, deputy physician-in-chief for the Regional Care Network and MSK Cancer Alliance. "It also means that patients at all of our facilities will benefit from this joint expertise."

Visit [LVHN.org/MSK](https://www.lvhn.org/MSK) to:

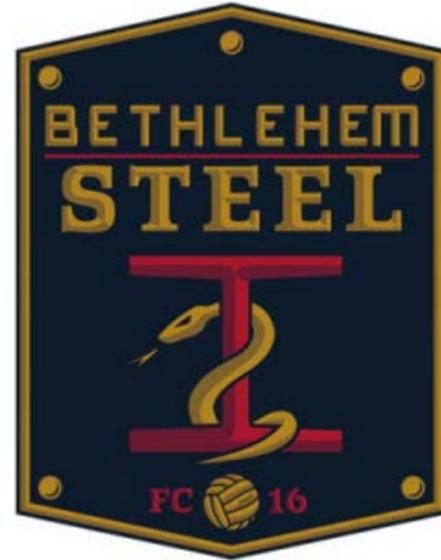
- Learn more about the LVHN Cancer Institute's membership in the MSK Cancer Alliance
- See a list of current clinical trials at LVHN
- Watch videos featuring LVHN patients participating in a clinical trial

Bethlehem Steel FC Soccer Team Announces Partnership With LVHN

BY [ADMIN](#) · MARCH 17, 2016

LVHN has partnered with Bethlehem Steel FC as the official jersey partner and medical provider for health care, orthopedic, sports medicine, medical and physical therapy services, the club announced today. LVHN is the club's first Foundry Partner, the premier corporate status for Bethlehem Steel FC.

"This is a historic day for Bethlehem Steel FC and we are honored to announce this partnership with Lehigh Valley Health Network," says Bethlehem Steel FC Managing Director Rich Searls. "LVHN is one of the most respected health networks in the nation and its commitment to our community aligns perfectly with our vision and values as a club."



Consisting of five hospital campuses throughout the Lehigh Valley, including three in Allentown, one in Bethlehem and one in Hazleton, Pa., [US News & World Report](#) has recognized LVHN for having some of America's Best Hospitals for 20 consecutive years. LVHN also offers 13 health centers and more than 140 primary and specialty care physician practices as well as [ExpressCARE](#) walk-in services, pharmacy, imaging, home health services and lab services.

The LVHN logo will appear on the Bethlehem Steel FC inaugural jersey and all club apparel. The organization will also provide medical treatment to the players as the official medical provider.

"Providing expert medical care and getting players back on the field faster is at the heart of this partnership," says [Michael Pasquale, MD](#), LVHN's chair of surgery. "But there's more to it than that. Keeping both children and adults active is a key step forward in the overall health of the Lehigh Valley. That's why LVHN sees our partnership with the Bethlehem Steel FC as a very visible way to show the vital role physical activity plays in creating a healthier community."

[Faisal Al-Alim, MD](#), and [Neil Mathews, MD](#), both fellowship-trained sports medicine doctors from LVHN, will provide medical care to the Bethlehem Steel FC players from the sidelines at home games. An LVHN certified athletic trainer will also accompany the team for all games, friendlies, scrimmages and practices.

LVHN will also be present at all Bethlehem Steel FC games at Goodman Stadium and will title a home game in which an LVHN representative will take the first kick and serve as the honorary captain.

As an in-hospital promotion, LVHN will offer all expecting parents with the opportunity to welcome their newborns into the Bethlehem Steel FC family. This inaugural membership will consist of a club onesie and a club membership certificate. Bethlehem steel will also provide a first game memento when the new member is able to come to Goodman Stadium to experience his or her first match.

Bethlehem Steel FC will start their inaugural season on Friday, March 25 at FC Montreal and will officially open their doors at Lehigh University's Goodman Stadium the following week on Sunday, April 3 against FC Cincinnati with a 3 p.m. scheduled kickoff.

Jerseys will be available online at www.bethlehemsteelfc.com and at all Bethlehem Steel FC and Philadelphia Union home games. Bethlehem Steel FC will take on Georgetown University in a friendly at the Philadelphia Union Training Center this Sunday starting at 11:30 a.m. before the Union face New England Revolution at 2:30 p.m.

What Benefits Are You Interested In? Take the Survey

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · MARCH 18, 2016

LVHN is continually looking for ways to make this an even better place to work. One possible way we can achieve this is by making enhancements to our already robust benefits package. Giving you the option to purchase voluntary supplemental benefits, for example, would help ensure you and your family have benefits that meet your personal needs and interests.

There are many supplemental insurance plans available. Some plans help defray out-of-pocket health care expenses. Other plans provide additional benefits if you or a dependent is critically ill or injured, unable to work or involved in an accident. There also are theft and



fraud protections plans, prepaid legal assistance
benefits plans, pet insurance and other options.

We want to know if you are interested in these or other voluntary supplemental benefits. [Take this survey](#) and tell us which benefits you're interested in. There are only nine questions, so it won't take long. The survey will remain open until April 1.

We'll use your feedback as we consider which voluntary supplemental benefits option to pursue. So, take the survey now and help make LVHN an even better place to work.

[Like](#) [Share](#)

Congratulations to the Winners of Lehigh Valley Phantoms Tickets

BY [KYLE HARDNER](#) · MARCH 16, 2016

Are you a lucky winner? Scan the list below to see the names of all colleagues who won tickets to the April 9 Lehigh Valley Phantoms American Hockey League game at the PPL Center in downtown Allentown.

Each winner will receive a total of two tickets, which may be picked up at the PPL Center box office (Seventh and Hamilton Streets, Allentown) beginning Wednesday, March 23. The box office is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. from Monday through Friday (later on event nights) and open Saturdays and Sundays on event days only. Tickets also may be picked up the evening of the game.

Tickets will be reserved under the names of the winners



as listed and released only to those individuals. Photo identification (such as a driver's license or your LVHN badge) will be required at the time of pickup.

Here's the list, alphabetical by last name:

First Name	Last Name	Department Name
Robin	Anthony	JCRE
Amanda	Arce	GI Lab
Tanya	Arndt	OBGA
Cheryl	Arnold	2K South
Ashley	Banko	Float Pool
Peggy	Bartleson	Radiology
Jeremy	Batman	PACS
Gail	Bauer	Transplant
Kimrenae	Beers	Finance
Kathy	Bernhard	AAO
Katie	Blum	Guest Services
Lou	Bottitta	Populytics
Alexis	Bove	Health Spectrum 17 th Street
Candice	Boyer	Mother-Baby Unit
Constance	Butler	Cetronia OT Rehabilitation

Nancy	Butler	LVPG Infectious Diseases – 1250 SCC
Kim	Callahan	Revenue Cycle
Romin	Cammarota	LVPG Ophthalmology
Barrie	Carr	Cardiac Diagnostic Center
Lori	Cesaneck	CBO Payment Posting Dept.
Susan	Chaikowsky	Dental Clinic LVH–Muhlenberg
Kristy	Cressman	LVPG Adult and Pediatric Psychology
Suzanne	Davis	Health Spectrum Billing
John	Demczyszyn	Engineering
Kim	Diehl	Public Safety
Carol	Digilio	LVPG Ob/gyn Lehighton
Ruth	Dulaney	Population Health
Nicole	Echevarria	Revenue Cycle
Cara	Eckhart	Float Pool
Amy	Edgett	Psych. Eval. Services
Colleen	Egan	Sleep Center 17 th Street
Kristy	Ernst	LVPG Family Medicine Bath
John	Feher	I/S
Danita	Fenstermacher	7C
Chris	Fenstermaker	Respiratory Care
Laura	Ferris	Interventional Radiology LVH–M
Kathy	Fink	The Children’s Clinic
Jennifer	Fisher	General Services
Jennifer	Fleming	Patient Accounting
Michelle	Foehrkolb	ROI
Helen	Forshaw	HealthWorks–Bethlehem Township
Kristin	Fox	LVPG Geriatric Medicine
Jennifer	Frankenfield	Claims Adjudication

Sharon	Glass	5K
Rebecca	Glueck	Case Management
Kelley	Gold	Guest Services
Chris	Gower	Emergency Communications
Jennifer	Graaf	LVPG Internal Medicine–1230 CC
Steve	Graff	Property Admin.
Judy	Grant	Accounts Payable
Ann	Gunther	LVPG Hematology Oncology
Gabriel	Haire	I/S
Cynthia	Heist	breast health services
Amanda	Hengstenberger	BH
Mary	Higgins	3K-TOHU
Chris	Hoffman	Chiropractic Medicine
David	Hoffman	Patient Transport
Cheryl	Hoffner	Courier
Jennie	Hower	Sales
Linda	Hunsberger	LVPG Family Medicine–Cetronia
Sandra	Infanti	Sterile Processing FSC
Ruth	Johnson	PAT
Denise	Jones	LVPG Cardiology LVH–M
Michelle	Keeney	Mother-Baby Unit
Joshua	Kern	PACU
Angela	Kessler	HLA lab
Ann	Kirka	inpatient Pharmacy
Cheryl	Kraemer	Clinical Informatics
Sandy	Kulp	Pharmacy
Kimberly	Labert	LVPG Pediatrics–Fogelsville
Wendy	Lebron	Transitional Skilled Unit

Lisa	Lehr	Lehigh Valley Physicians Practice
Heather	Lenhart	CBO Mack Blvd.
Paul	Lewis	7K Ortho
Yashira	lozada	SDS
Mary Ann	Lubinensky	6T LVH-M
Donna	Lynn	Supply Management
Heather	Mahalick	Human Resources
Jennifer	Makovsky	Ob/gyn Valley Center Parkway
Michael	Matejicka	Epic
George	Mathew	Organizational Effectiveness
Tim	Matijasick	Human Resources
Janet	McKinnon	Case Management
Kim	Miller	Imaging Services, Cetronia Rd., CT
Elyse	Mineo	LVPG WHFM
Lisa	Myers	Supply Chain Analytics
Joyce	Najarian	Inpatient Diabetes, Department of Medicine
Terry	Norcott-Gibbons	Family Medicine – Trexlertown
Sherri	Norris	Healthcare Analytics
Jean	Novak	NORI
Melissa	O'Neill	Float Pool
Kelly	Owens	LVPG Geriatrics Fleming Memory Center
Lori	Papciak	Breast Health
Jane	Parenti	Medical Records
Elizabeth	Partington	Nursing 6C
Bryan	Paulson	Float Pool
Robert	Peters	Finance
Lourdes	Petko	Compliance
Dawn	Raisner	TTU

Yaris	Ramos	LVPP
Christine	Reichard	6 Tower LVH–M
Lorraine	Reinhart	7A Neuroscience **Winner of the puck drop**
Melissa	Reis	LVPG orthopedics
Megan	Reiss	NICU
Charles	Reitz	Float Pool Cedar Crest
Donna	Reph	LVPG Family Medicine–Folgesville
Gary	Riddell	Clinical Engineering
Anthony	Riddick	Burn Recovery Center
Adam	Rivera	Emergency Communications
Jennifer	Roche	LVPG Endocrinology
Brenda	Rodriguez	LVPG Geriatrics
Raizalie	Roman	Cancer Support Services
Yanira	Roman	Guest Services
Catherine	Romig	LVPG Geriatrics
Zuemi	Ruiz	Cancer Support Services
Gena	Santini	CBO
Dana	Schaeffer	LVPG Ophthalmology–17th Street
Tammy	Schmick	Wound Healing Center
Erika	Seibert	Medical Records
Tammy	Seibert	LVPG Neurology
Karen	Shimer	DCC17th Street
Amy	Shofran	Case Management
Lesa	Simmons	Cancer Support
Mary jo	Simmons	Radiology
Nicole	Spess	5 Kasych
Renee	Stinnett	LVH–CC ED

Casey	Stoss	Patient Transport
Jamie	Stoudt	Medical Records
Kathleen	Straubinger	LVPG Family Medicine–Muhlenberg
Theresa	Sullivan	I/S Telecommunications
Tamina	Tannous	BHS
Martha	Teel	Organizational Effectiveness
Joshua	Thomas	Nursing Float Pool
Ann Marie	Thompson	Revenue Cycle
Wattana U	Treese	LVPG Coding Integrity Department
Pedro Juan	Vazquez	LVPG Endocrinology
Michelle	Violante	Pharmacy
Elizabeth	Walker	CDC, LVH–M
Lori	Washburn	TSUT
Lisa	Watkins	LVHN–Tilghman Outpatient Surgery Center
Roberta	Werkheiser	Cancer Financial Services
Katherine	Weron	LVPG Pediatrics–Fogelsville
Vicki	Werst	Invasive Cardiology Suite
Wendy	Wood	6T
Cecelia	Wotring	LVPG ob/gyn CC
Lori	Yackanicz	Enterprise Analytics
Matthew	Yost	HSP-CC
Tracy	Young	Dental Clinic
Sandra	Zawistowski	HealthWorks Allentown
Cathy	Zeliff	LVPG Hematology Oncology

Service Star of the Month – March 2016

BY [SHEILA CABALLERO](#) · MARCH 17, 2016



Bianca Lee

As health care professionals, colleagues must be prepared for any situation. Training helps guide how we perform tasks in difficult situations. Yet there is no training manual for handling the human side of tragedies. How we interact with patients, families and colleagues during these high-intensity situations challenges us to be our best and leaves a lasting impression on others.

Colleagues in patient transport services witness the human drama of health care in the daily course of their responsibilities, as demonstrated recently by patient transporter Bianca Lee.

Recently, Lee was transporting a patient back to his room after tests for an infection when they saw his wife waiting with tears in her eyes. A casual observer could have assumed it was worry causing those tears. Yet the woman had other news weighing on her heart.

In a tragic turn of events, the patient's mother-in-law – who had just paid a visit to him the night before – passed away unexpectedly that morning.

As the wife broke the news to her husband, Lee stepped back so the couple could have a private moment. As the couple cried in the hallway, Lee waited quietly with tears streaking her own eyes.

Nominator Eileen Sacco, RN, witnessed Lee's compassion in these and other events that day. "Bianca exemplifies professionalism, courtesy and respect," Sacco says. "She could have canceled her job and let the nurses handle the situation. Instead, she went above and beyond."

After learning of his mother-in-law's death, the patient wanted to say a prayer and pay his respects in

the emergency department (ED) downstairs. Lee found a wheelchair to escort him, his wife, a chaplain and Sacco to the ED. After they paid their final respects, she escorted the family back to the floor.

After discharge, the patient sent a letter thanking the staff for their passionate care. The letter named many colleagues and acknowledged many others whose names the patient could not recall. Lee was one of those colleagues.

“Bianca made a difference by making this family’s experience the best it could be,” Sacco says. “Her name may have been forgotten, but the care and respect she conveyed never will.”

Next Steps

[Nominate a Service Star.](#)

- Choose a colleague or team of colleagues.
- Tell a story. Specifically explain how the colleague or team did something extra special.
- You don’t have to provide patient care to be a Service Star. All colleagues and teams can be nominated.

Congratulate these nominees:

- **John Garber and Jonathan Mchugh, anesthesia, LVH–Cedar Crest**

Garber and McHugh were at the end of their shifts when they became aware of a patient with a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. Both colleagues stayed throughout the entire length of the case to assist during surgery.

- **Jessica Woodward, Kaye Barnhardt, RN, Nancy Schlener, John Welkie, MD, colleagues from the OR, ASU, PACU, LVPG Peripheral Vascular Surgery, the gift shop, and other anonymous colleagues, LVH–Muhlenberg**

Colleagues came together to assist a colleague in need during the holidays. Financial contributions helped the colleague pay her utilities, provide presents for her sons and put food on the table.

- **Nancy Duro and Elizabeth Pereira, radiology administration, LVH–Muhlenberg**

Duro and Pereira proactively identified and resolved duplicate scheduling issues related to the Epic implementation. They took the initiative to contact physician offices to root out duplicative scheduling requests to prevent patients from having unnecessary tests.

- **Lamont Hosfeld, III, information services**

Hosfeld was volunteering with another colleague at Daybreak, a drop-in center serving people with mental illness, disability, addiction, HIV/AIDS and the elderly. When an individual was found unresponsive, Hosfeld assisted staff with CPR, keeping the individual’s airway open and performing rescue breaths until paramedics arrived.

- **Cynthia Domenech, vascular lab, LVH–Muhlenberg**

A patient contacted LVH–Muhlenberg after receiving “awesome, unbelievable care” from Domenech during and after a vascular study. Domenech soothed and comforted the patient who was distressed because cancer had returned. After completing the study and attending to the patient’s emotional needs, she purchased food for the patient’s diabetic brother at a nearby convenience store because the cafeteria was closed.

- **Ann Robin, radiology, LVH–17th Street**

Robin was doing an X-ray study on an infant who was the alleged victim of abuse. She went out of her way to soothe, feed, clothe and diaper the infant. Her comforting approach calmed the infant who likely had been traumatized.

- **Robin Crist, LVPG Family Medicine–Hamburg**

Crist is in tune with patients, customers and colleagues and tries to anticipate their needs before they ask. She demonstrates the highest level of professional excellence and serves as a mentor and role model to colleagues.

- **Erik Resch, RN, nursing float pool, LVH–Cedar Crest**

Resch is a respected leader, role model and manager. Recently, he put the needs of patients and colleagues ahead of his own during a snowstorm. Despite severe weather and a state of emergency, he picked up multiple colleagues from various locations to help them get to work safely.

- **NORI staff and Sameh Morkous, MD, LVPG Pediatric Neurology–1210 Cedar Crest**

NORI colleagues and Morkous, made it possible to launch the Phase II Neiman-Pick C trial at Lehigh Valley Hospital – one of two sites in the U.S. to offer this study. The study required significant coordination and prioritization among colleagues in many areas. A local family who will be helped by this study was “overwhelmed and so grateful” for everything the team did to provide hope and treatment for their son, who is living with the fatal illness that currently has no cure.

- **Patricia O’Neil, patient logistics, LVH–Cedar Crest**

O’Neil is a devoted colleague. Rather than risk getting to and from work during a recent blizzard, she brought her sleeping bag and slept in the hospital for two nights so she could cover for absent colleagues. During the storm, she covered shifts so her department could still float and provide for people requesting snow beds to rest their head.

Visit Gettysburg in May

BY [NICHOLAS FRITZ](#) · MARCH 14, 2016

LVHN's Recreation Committee is hosting a trip to Gettysburg on Saturday, May 14. The trip includes:

- Round trip motor coach transportation
- Entrance to the Gettysburg Visitors Center museum, cyclorama and film
- Lunch on your own at the Visitors Center Cafe
- Guided tour of the battlefield
- Tour of the Shriver House, a museum that explores the civilian experiences during and after the battle
- Dinner at General Pickett's Buffet

Prices



Adults: \$78

Students 6-17: \$73

Children 1-5: \$57

[Get more details and a registration form.](#) The reservation and payment deadline is April 8. [Email Louise Rheiner](#) for more information.

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Insight from National Nursing Conferences

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · MARCH 15, 2016

Professional development has long been part of LVHN's nursing culture, which is why our health network gives nurses the opportunity to present and attend at national conferences. Meet two nursing teams that did just that. Discover what they taught and learned, and how their experience is creating change both at LVHN and nationwide.

Conference: Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Annual Convention, Las Vegas
Attendees: Heather Painter, RN, and Alyssa Soltis, RN,
4K



Heather Painter, RN, and Alyssa Soltis, RN, 4K

Shared governance – defined in the Magnet Program Manual as a model in which nurses are formally organized to make decisions about clinical practice standards, quality improvement, staff and professional development, and research – has been part of LVHN’s Magnet culture for years. It’s practiced successfully throughout our organization, including 4K, a 30-bed medical-surgical unit that received a 2015 Friends of Nursing award based in part on the effectiveness of its shared governance model.

To educate nurses nationwide on 4K’s model, Painter and Soltis delivered a poster presentation titled “Embracing a Shared Governance Model to Improve Your Practice” at the conference. Many nurses were interested in learning about and employing the model. “We found most hospitals are unsuccessful when they try to implement a shared governance model because they can’t get nurses involved,” Painter says.

4K’s model is all about involvement. Each nurse on the unit is expected to be a member of one of five councils:

1. Practice – Collects data for process improvement projects and organizes 4K’s annual education blitz
2. Environmental – Examines safety and efficiency in the workplace
3. Staffing and scheduling – Determines staffing guidelines and completes monthly self-schedules
4. Reward and recognition – Recognizes nursing certifications, nominates colleagues for excellence awards and organizes National Nurses Week activities
5. Peer review – Determines and implements the peer review process and guidelines

As part of their presentation, Painter and Soltis distributed handouts containing information to help other hospitals replicate 4K’s model. Soltis, who grew up in the Lehigh Valley always wanting to work here, says, “I was proud to represent LVHN and give nurses from other hospitals information that would encourage them to follow in our footsteps.”

Conference: American Nurses Credentialing Center
National Magnet Conference®, Atlanta

Attendees: Melissa Teitsworth, RN, LVH–Muhlenberg
emergency department (ED), and Cheryl Morgan, RN,
5T

Attended by more than 9,000 nurses, this annual
conference showcases best nursing practices for the
Magnet community. Those who attend return to their
organizations energized to improve their nursing
practice and equipped with proven methods to do so.



Cheryl Morgan, RN

That was the case for Teitsworth and Morgan. Teitsworth learned how some hospitals are enhancing the

emergency care experience by opening geriatric ERs. These facilities have nurses certified in geriatrics, exam rooms with bathrooms and other characteristics to meet the needs of geriatric patients, simplified call bells and other features to decrease fall risk. “As the baby boomers age, organizations are opening geriatric ERs to prepare for the expected increase in elderly patients who will need emergency care,” Teitsworth says.

For Morgan, a presentation by David Marquet, author of “Turn This Ship Around,” rang true. Marquet talked about how followers become leaders when they have strong leadership themselves. Morgan has experienced that since Jennifer Devine, RN, became 5T’s new director. “There’s renewed energy in our unit,” Morgan says. “She allows people to flourish by trusting them to use their best judgment.”

During dinner on the last night of the conference, colleagues discussed their “big idea,” one thing they learned that we can implement at LVHN. Teitsworth shared ways we can make our emergency departments more geriatric friendly. “The conference empowers you to make changes happen, to be a better nurse and a better person,” she says.



Melissa Teitsworth, RN