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Meet June's Service Stars

Hazleton colleagues save the life of a patient's spouse.

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Professional Milestones - Spring 2018

Colleagues are contributing to conferences, journals and more.

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A Designated
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LVHN news

Kids and Hot Cars

Preventing Salmonella
"Melon-choly"

Keep Mosquitoes and Ticks
From Bugging You

Take the LVHN Communications Survey; Win a Prize

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · JUNE 18, 2018

As all 18,000 colleagues move forward together and make LVHN stronger, it's essential you have the information you need to be at your best. That's why we need your feedback about how you receive LVHN news and information now, as well as your ideas about how we can enhance colleague communication at LVHN in the future.

Please take a few moments to [complete this colleague communications survey](#). The deadline to complete the survey is July 2. Based on your feedback, we'll explore and implement new and innovative ways to make it more convenient for you to receive important LVHN news and information. Everyone who submits the survey and includes their name will be entered into a drawing to receive an LVHN gift basket.

Thank you for taking the survey and for doing your part to stay up to date on all the exciting things happening throughout LVHN. We are #LVHNProud.



Service Star of the Month—June 2018

BY [EMILY SHIFFER](#) · JUNE 21, 2018

Christa Pollack and Renee Kokinda— LVH-Hazleton



On Nov. 30, 2017, an elderly female patient arrived at the Sleep Disorders Center at LVH–Hazleton for a scheduled sleep study. She was accompanied by her elderly husband who brought her to the appointment. The patient’s husband was seated while Polysomnographic Technologist Christa Pollack conducted the initial interview and check-in process. The patient’s husband was initially alert and talkative. As Pollack began explaining the procedure for the sleep study, she noticed the man’s head had fallen back in the chair, and he appeared unresponsive. She immediately called Polysomnographic Technologist Renee Kokinda, who quickly came to the room. They moved the man to the floor, where they established he had no pulse or respirations. Kokinda began CPR while Pollack called 911 and readied the AED. CPR was continued by both colleagues until the emergency personnel and police arrived. Emergency personnel assumed care of the man and transported him to the LVH–Hazleton emergency department.

Kokinda and Pollack were also mindful of his spouse, who was visibly upset. They comforted her and provided emotional support after helping to contact her son, and waited with her until he arrived. “In the manner of true professionalism, Christa and Renee were able to care for the other patients who arrived

shortly thereafter and completed their shift,” says nominator Russell Gasser, Supervisor at the Sleep Disorders Center at LVH–Hazleton.

Next Steps

Nominate a Service Star.

Congratulate these PRIDE Award recipients. The PRIDE Award is part of our expanded [Service Star Award program](#).

Scott Brandt and Patti Copp, LVH–Pocono

West End Community Ambulance crew members Scott Brandt, paramedic, and Patti Copp, EMT, were dispatched to care for a pregnant patient in active labor during a large storm. Brandt got out of the ambulance every 20-30 feet to help people move their cars so he could get the ambulance through. Copp stayed with the patient, keeping her calm and comfortable. The trip that normally takes 40 minutes took five hours. Within a few hours after arriving at LVH–Pocono, the woman delivered a healthy baby boy.

Mary Hoffman, Brienne Laranjeira, Amy Radcliffe, RN, Annette Schlener, Melissa Osoria, Shaina Vasquez, Crystal Schaffer, Vicki Siegfried, CRNP, Vanessa Ribaud Kaufman, MD, and Jonaid Aslam, MD, LVPG

LVPG colleagues found an unconscious colleague who began to have a seizure. They immediately jumped into action to assist her. They called 555, an airway kit was retrieved, and they contacted the colleague’s family. The effort put forth was an amazing display of collaboration, teamwork and compassion that was displayed in a calm and coordinated fashion.

Alexandra Mercurio-Woch, OD, and Deirdre Ward, LVH–17th Street

A patient arrived at LVPG Ophthalmology–17th Street after experiencing unusual vision-loss symptoms. The patient was quickly triaged by Ward and taken to Mercurio-Woch who immediately instructed the patient to go to the ER. She believed the patient was experiencing a stroke. She called ahead to the ER and provided all the pertinent information to help expedite the process for the patient’s arrival and ultimate survival.

Carol Demcher, RN, and Kimberly Hashin, MD, LVH–Schuylkill

When a parishioner became ill and lost consciousness during mass, Demcher and Hashin helped care for the patient.

Laure Rutt, RN, Brian Hoffstadt, RN, and Ashley Everett, LVH–Cedar Crest

A patient that recently had surgery became dizzy and faint trying to leave the building during a fire alarm. Rutt, Hoffstadt and Everett recognized the patient needed help. An ambulance was called, and they retrieved an emergency box, elevated her feet and continued to reassure her and her husband that she would be OK. They administered glucose after checking her level and the patient began to show improvement and was taken by ambulance to the hospital for further evaluation.

Mario Gentile, LVHN–One City Center

When a recent file conversion resulted in a major issue, Gentile used his expertise and knowledge to correct more than 4,600 FSA duplicate contributions applied to accounts in error and identified 2,133 HSA contributions that needed to be sent for reversals. Through his dedication, all current procedures were reviewed individually and appropriately updated.

Dana Tucker, LVH–Muhlenberg

After conducting a satisfaction survey with LVH–Muhlenberg, EMS providers identified that the EMS rooms were missing supplies needed to get ambulances back in service quickly. Plus, they desired different types of snacks and food be stocked in rooms. Tucker talked with EMS partners to understand what they needed and make the necessary adjustments.

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You're Invited to a Fine Wine and Finance Event

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · JUNE 22, 2018

Did you know that fine wine and finances share some commonalities? They mature with age, are separated into different categories based off grape or investment vehicle. and are suited to fit different people and occasions. You are invited to attend a Fine Wine and Finance event on Wednesday, July 18, at the Renaissance Hotel (12 N. 7th St, Allentown) at 6 p.m. to learn about these distinct similarities, while sipping on some regionally sourced wine.

Tell your friends, and register at my.valic.com/seminars using code: LVHALL11CH. Space is limited.

If you have any questions, please contact our dedicated VALIC financial advisors at 610-402-8801.



Professional Milestones – Spring 2018

BY [ADMIN](#) · JUNE 20, 2018

LVHN Nurses in Publications

“Perception and Practice Among Emergency Medicine Health Care Providers Regarding Discharging Patients After Opioid Administration,” Clinical Therapeutics, doi.org/10.1016/j.clinthera.2018.01, January 2018.

Alexandra Amaducci, DO

Marna Rayl Greenberg, DO, MPH

Kathryn Henry, DO

Lindsay Houck, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CEN, CPEN, TCRN, PHRN

Michael Jong, MD

Kenneth Katz, MD

Emily Kiernan, DO

Hope Kincaid, MPH, CPH

Sandra Sabbatini, MSN, RN-BC, CEN

Ryan Surmaitis, DO

“An Integrative Review of Peer Support for Patients Undergoing Major Limb Amputation,” Journal of Vascular Nursing, Volume 36, Issue 1, March 2018.

Kimberly Bartman, BSN, RN, CVN

James P. Reichmann, MBA

“*Escherichia coli* Complications in Pediatric Critical Care,” Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America,



Volume 30, Issue 1, March 2018.

Michele Dunstan, MSN, RN, CCRN

Suzanne Puentes, BSN, RN, CCRN

“A Multidisciplinary Approach in Reducing Pressure Injuries during the Utilization of Non-invasive Ventilation,” Respiratory Therapy, Volume 13, Number 2, Spring 2018.

Lucy Cascioli, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC,

Christine Hartner, MSN, RN,

Munawer Kermalli, MBA, BA

Kenny Miller, MSRT, MEd, RRT-AACS, FAARC

“AACN TeleICU Nursing Practice: An Expert Consensus Statement Supporting High Acuity, Progressive and Critical Care,” American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Task Force, 2018.

Lorraine Valeriano, BSN, RN, CNRN

“Preplanning for a Small-Town Terrorist Attack,” Fire Engineering, May 2018.

James Kish, RN

Oral Presentations

“The Road Less Traveled: Evolution of a Peer Visitation Support Program for Limb Amputees,” at the Hangar Prosthetics Fair in Las Vegas, in January 2018.

Kimberly Bartman, BSN, RN, CVN

“Tinkle Tuesdays and Foley Fridays – How Do These Impact Patient Safety and Quality?” at the American Nurses Association (ANA) Quality and Innovation Conference in Orlando, Fla., in March 2018.

Anne Rabert, DHA, MS, BSN, RN, CCRN, NE-BC

Amanda K Strunk, BSN, RN

“Preventing Falls by Implementing a Fall Agreement,” at the UHC 2018 Annual Nurse Residency Program (NRP) Vizient Conference in Savannah, Ga., in March 2018.

Nicole Morin, BSN, RN

Megan Phegley, BSN, RN

“It’s All About Impact – Disseminating Residents’ EBP Projects,” at the UHC 2018 Annual NRP Vizient Conference in Savannah, Ga., in March 2018.

Julie M. Kaszuba, MSN, RN-BC

“Huddled-Up and Wired to a Real-Time Electronic Dashboard,” at the American Organization of Nurse Executives Conference in Indianapolis, in April 2018.

David Burmeister, MD

Kim Jordan, DNP, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC

“Geriatric Elopement: Code Purple,” at the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) Annual Conference in Atlanta, in April 2018.

Tracie Heckman, MSN, RN, CMSRN

“Increasing Patient Engagement in Their Care Utilizing Mobile Technology,” at the American Nursing Informatics Association Conference in Orlando, Fla., in May 2018.

Alice Vrsan, MSN RN-BC

“Clinical Informatics: Collaboration between Sites for Lessons Learned and Shared Wisdom,” at Epic XGM 2018 – Nursing Advisory Council (NAC) – NAC Nursing Informatics & Adoption Track in Verona, Wis., in May, 2018.

Debra Peter, MSN, RN-BC, CMSRN

“Pearls: CPM Upgrade,” at Epic XGM 2018 in Verona, Wis., in May 2018.

Debra Peter, MSN, RN-BC, CMSRN

Kelly Wiland, MBA

Poster Presentations

“Some Like it Hot: Brains Do Not! Utilizing a Normothermia Protocol to Attenuate Fever Burden in Neuroscience Patients” at the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) 50th Annual Educational Meeting in San Diego, in March 2018.

Christina Merrell, BSN, RN, CNRN

Jill Peoples, BSN, RN, CNRN

“Reducing Pressure Injuries Associated with Non-invasive Ventilation,” at the American Nurses Association (ANA) Quality and Innovation Conference in Orlando, Fla., in March 2018.

Stacy Davis, BSN, RN, CCRN

Munawer Kermalli, MBA, BA

“Thrombolytics and Ultrasound – Creating a Passage for Perfusion,” at the Society of Trauma Nursing Conference, Portland, Ore., in March 2018.

Veronica Barndt, BSN, RN

Cheryl Kyte, BSN, RN, CCRN

“Recognizing Symptoms of Withdrawal Through Implementation of the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) in Adult Acute Care Settings,” at the UHC 2018 Annual NRP Vizient Conference in Savannah, Ga., in March 2018.

Carlie Griffiths, BSN, RN

“Battling the Bugs: Reducing Hospital-Acquired Infections Through Interprofessional Collaboration,” at the American Burn Association – Annual Meeting in Chicago, in April 2018.

Alida Ammons, MSN, RN, CIC

Michelle Keller BSN, RN

Amanda McMillion, BSN, RN

“V-V ECMO and Profound Instability: Think Mobility from Cannulation,” at the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) NTI Conference in Boston, in May 2018.

Chantal Branco, BSN, RN, CCRN

Jessica Dalton, BSN, RN-BC, CCRN-CMC

“Phenobarbital – An Alternative to Traditional Alcohol Withdrawal Management,” at the AACN NTI Conference in Boston, in May 2018.

Renee Grow, BSN, RN, CCRN

Stacy Michalik, BS, RN, PHRN

“To Pee or Not to Pee,” at the AACN NTI Conference in Boston, in May 2018.

Kristina Houck, BSN, RN, CNRN

“Sepsis – Using Technology to Improve Patient Outcomes,” at the American Nursing Informatics Association Conference in Orlando, Fla., in May 2018.

Alice Vrsan, MSN RN-BC

“Implementing Point of Care Scanning to Achieve HIMSS Stage 7 Certification,” at the American Nursing Informatics Association Conference in Orlando, Fla., in May 2018.

Sheryl Repischak, RN

“The Journey to Decrease Length of Stay for Total Knee and Hip Joint Replacement Patients: From 3.13 to 1.82 Days,” at the National Association of Orthopedic Nursing Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., in May 2018.

Susan Gross, MHA, BSN, RN

Tracey Silfies, MSN, RN, CMSRN

“Dial In for Quality and Safety,” at the Oncology Nursing Society 43rd Annual Congress, in Washington, D.C., in May 2018.

Catherine Messere, BSN, RN, OCN

Jenna Ruggiero, BSN, RN

“Improving Oncology Inpatient Access through Reduction of Intra-Unit Transfer Times,” at the Oncology Nursing Society 43rd Annual Congress, in Washington, D.C., in May 2018.

Sarah Mason, RN

“Huddled-Up and Wired: A Real-Time Electronic Dashboard Enhances the Oncology Patient Experience,” at the Oncology Nursing Society 43rd Annual Congress, in Washington, D.C., in May 2018.

Deidre Kutzler, BSN, RN, OCN

“A Conceptual Framework and Case Study Tactics to Address Compassion Fatigue,” at the Oncology Nursing Society 43rd Annual Congress, in Washington, D.C., in May 2018.

Megan Anderson, BSN, RN

Danielle France, BSN, RN

“Immune System Overdrive: A Case Study of an Obstetric Patient with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis,” at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Conference, in Tampa, Fla., in June 2018.

Laurie Griesel, RN, RNC-OB

Jaime Kupillas, MSN, RN

“Collaborating Against Catecholamines: Using Interprofessional Simulation to Prepare for a Potential Cardiac Emergency in Pregnancy,” at the AWHONN Conference, in Tampa, Fla., in June 2018.

Julia Gogle, MSN, RNC-OB

Tonya L. Kemp, RN, RNC-OB

Nursing Specialty Certifications

Michele Adzema, RN, CMSRN

Cherie Allen, RN, CMSRN

Mariana Badelita, RN, CMSRN

Angela DeLuca, RN, CMSRN

Vanessa Dorward, RN, CMSRN

Shannah Dutko, RN, CEN

Katie Geisler, RN, CMSRN

Colleen Green, RN, RN-BC

April Hargy, RN, CMSRN

Emily Hegner, RN, CMSRN

Anthony Hernandez, RN, CCRN

Caitlin Jacobs, CPHON

Melisa Kubic, RN, CHFNP

Morgan Kutz, RN, TCRN

Joy Marshall, RN, CMSRN

Joanne McNellis, RN, CMSRN

Kateryna Mease, OCN

Jennifer Molchany, RN, CMSRN

Nicole Molettiere, RN, CMSRN

Loice Oluoch Nelson, RN, CMSRN

Bryan Paulson, RN, CMSRN

Melissa Perri, RN, CMSRN

Carolyn Reinhart, RN, CMSRN

Beverly Reinik, RN, CMSRN

Courtney Rittenhouse, RN, HNB-BC

Laura Rogers, RN, CMSRN

Melissa Salovay, RN, CEN

Amy Serfas, RN, CPN

Samantha Steich, RN, CPN

Kelly Tripp, OCN

Nicholas Tucciarone, RN, CEN

William Watson Jr., RN, CCRN

Sonya Whitman, RN, CMSRN

Michael Wiesel, RN, CNOR

Justine Wood, RN, CMSRN

Katherine Wuerstle, RN, CEN

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