

Bring Ideas to the Sept. 28 Colleague Forum

Brainstorm ways to improve access and the patient experience.

Friends of Nursing Nominations Open

Honor a colleague or team for excellence in patient care.

Watch September's Leader-to-Leader Video

Learn about local health care trends.

Don't Smoke or Litter on LVHN Property

See why security is patrolling an area of LVH-Cedar Crest.

Meet our Nightingale Award Finalists

Three colleagues continue our tradition of nursing excellence.

Service Star of the Month

AIDS Activities Office colleagues garden for good.

Meet Eric Leiby, MD – VIDEO

The orthopedic surgeon helps patients live pain-free.



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



Bring Your Suggestions to the Sept. 28 Colleague Forum

BY [ADMIN](#) · SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Special Announcement



This email is from Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, president and chief executive officer.

As an LVHN colleague, you've likely either received care at our health network or supported loved ones during their health care journey. I sincerely hope your previous LVHN experiences were exceptional. As an organization that strives for excellence, however, we know we can always discover new ways to continuously improve. That is why I am asking for your help.

Ensuring that patients always have access to our care and that they have the best possible experience when they receive it are major goals of ours in fiscal year 2016. At the Colleague Forum on Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. ([get a list of locations](#)), I will ask colleagues to share suggestions to enhance access and experience for our patients.

Before the forum, think about experiences you've had as a colleague or patient. Brainstorm ways in which we could have improved access to our care or made the patient experience even better. Then share your ideas at the forum in a manner that is productive, respectful and in the spirit of collaboration and constant improvement.

You also can share your ideas on LVHN Daily by commenting on this post. Colleagues who are working on enhancing access and experience will review your suggestions, comment on them, and act upon ideas deemed feasible and effective.

Amid the thousands of passionate health care professionals on our team, I'm confident we'll uncover some gems that will elevate the level of service we provide to the people of our community. I look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Thank you for all you do each and every day.

Tags: [Brian Nester](#) [Colleague Forum](#) [Dr. Nester](#) [Forum](#)

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Nominations Now Open for Friends of Nursing Recognition

BY [JENN FISHER](#) · SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

As a health care worker, it's likely you've encountered an LVHN colleague who stands out as someone special. If a colleague (or a care team) comes to mind for their excellence in patient care, honor them with a Friends of Nursing (FON) award nomination.

The nomination window for the 2016 Friends of Nursing Recognition Awards program is now open. There are multiples individual award categories and some intended for groups or departments, such as the "Fleming Award to Recognize a Unit/Department Which Demonstrates a Commitment to Structural Empowerment." In 2015, this award was presented to medical-surgical unit 4K.



In 2015, the "Fleming Award to Recognize a Unit/Department Which Demonstrates a Commitment to Structural Empowerment" award was presented to medical-surgical unit 4K.

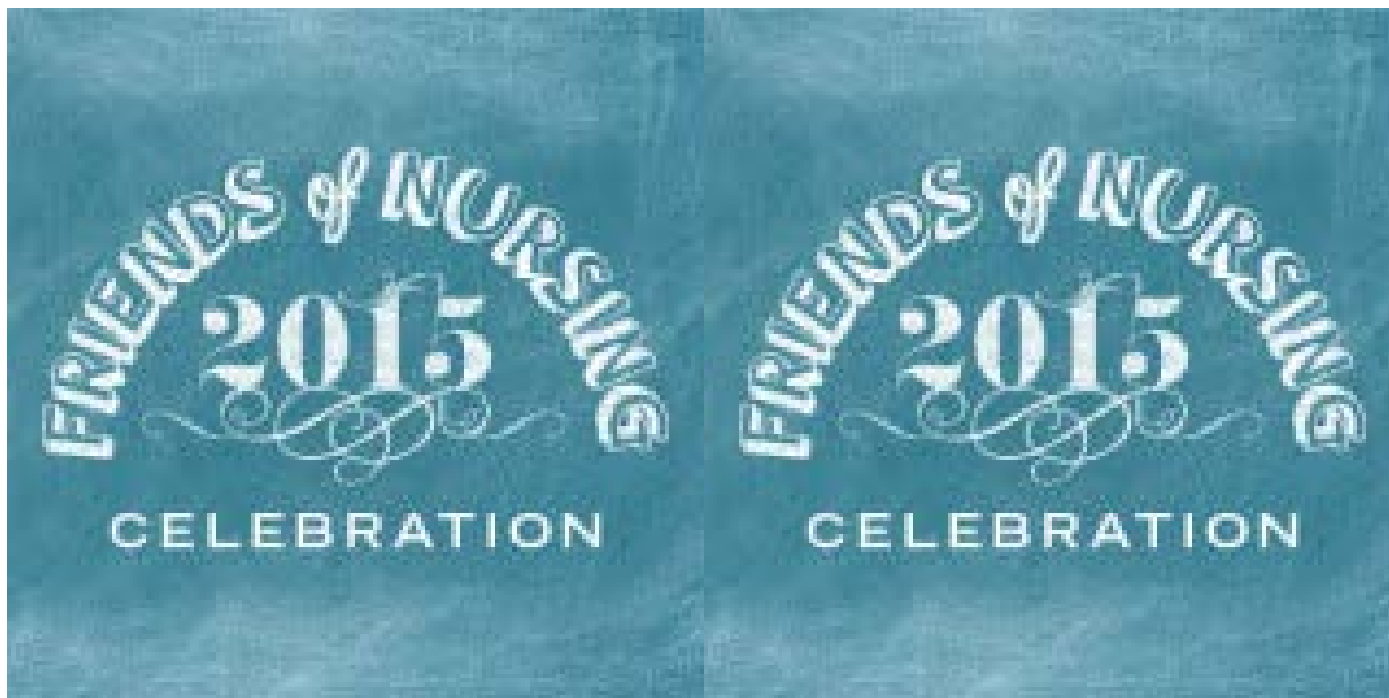
Learn more about the FON nomination process by visiting the [Friends of Nursing page](#) on the [Center for](#)

[Professional Excellence](#) intranet site. Begin by reviewing the [2016 Friends of Nursing Awards Book](#) for detailed information about each award. Nominations will be accepted until December 4 at 5 p.m.

Should you have any questions, send them to [Kim Hitchings, RN](#), or [Pattie Hoak, RN](#).

Tags: [4K](#) [FON](#) [Friends of Nursing](#) [Kim Hitchings](#) [Nursing Recognition Awards](#) [Pattie Hoak](#)

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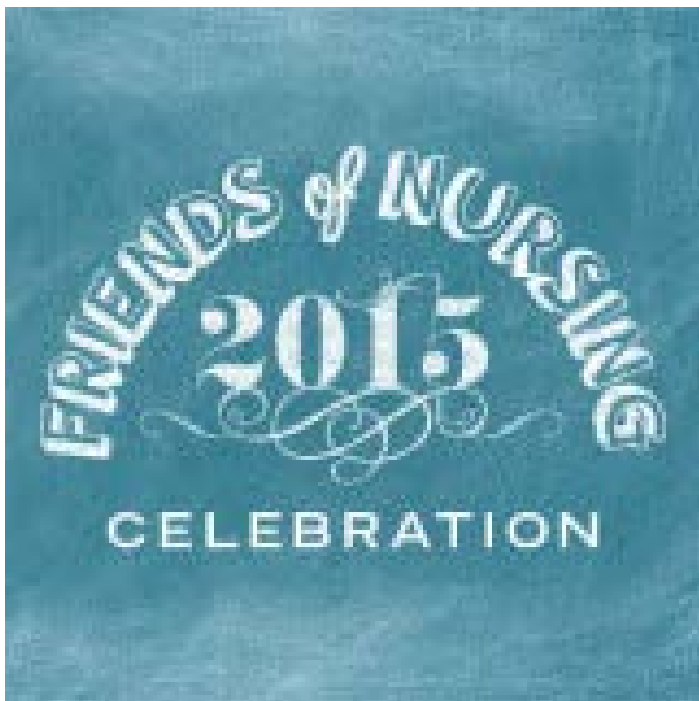


Final Salute to Our 2015 Friends of Nursing Award Recipients

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Watch September's Leader-to-Leader Video

BY [ASHLEY MILLER](#) · SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Do you want to know what's going on in our health network? Watch the Leader-to-Leader meeting. Leader-to-Leader meetings are held the third Thursday each month in the Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest auditorium and simulcast to participants at Lehigh Valley Hospital-17th Street, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton and Mack Boulevard. Using a PowerPoint presentation as a guide, guest speakers share updates on key issues and initiatives.

[Welcome](#)

[Service Star](#)

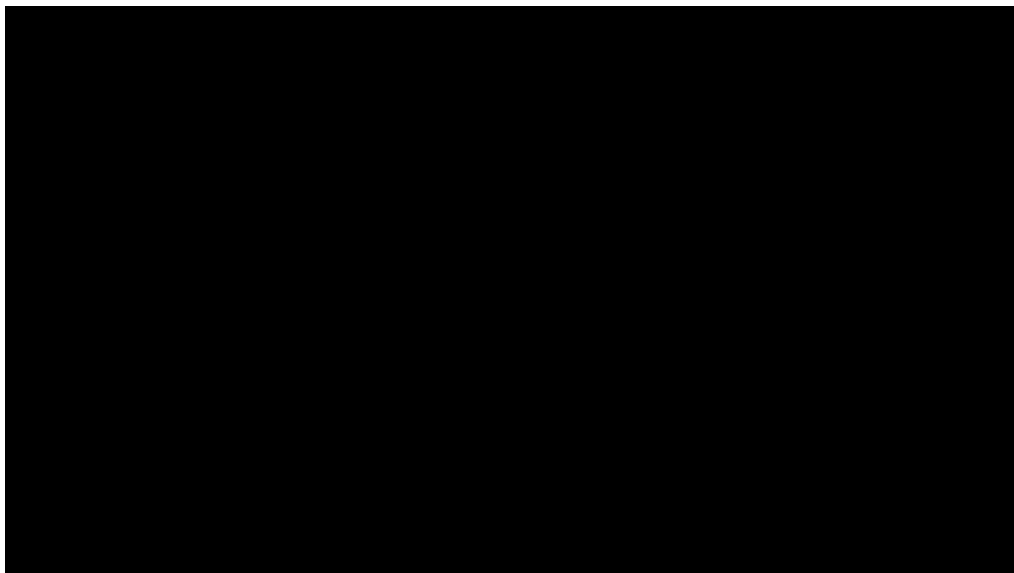
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(Please note you must be logged on to our intranet with Internet Explorer in order to access the videos above. You also need to have Microsoft Silverlight installed on your computer. If the links do not open properly, try refreshing your browser. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact information services at 610-402-8303.)

At the September leader-to-leader meeting, Susan Hoffman, vice president, marketing and public affairs, presented a new take on the former LVHN In the News segment. We listened to what meeting attendees asked for in a recent

survey and created a shorter, more concise and socially focused video that recaps the quarter's top three stories. It's called In Case You Missed It (ICYMI). Watch it below and share your feedback with us in the comments.



Tags: [Healthcare Reform](#) [Healthcare Trends](#) [ICYMI](#) [In Case You Missed It](#) [L2L](#) [LCME](#) [Leader-to-Leader](#)

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Don't Smoke or Litter on LVHN Property

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Look at these pictures. You'll see cigarette butts, lids, plastic and cardboard containers from our hospital cafeteria, as well as bottles and cans. The area shown is at the western end of the LVH-Cedar Crest campus bordering the yard of a neighbor's home. Who made this mess – colleagues or visitors to the campus – is not known. However, it's up to all of us to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Many people like to go outside to take advantage of the walkways around our campuses or enjoy a meal outdoors in nice weather. Those who go outside must remember to dispose of garbage properly, and that smoking and the use of tobacco is not permitted on LVHN property. This policy was put in place to promote a healthier community and to help ensure colleagues' actions are consistent with our mission.

"We want to be good neighbors to everyone around our campuses," says Craig Finnerty, director, security services. "It's not too much to ask people not to litter or smoke, whether it's in this



area or anywhere on LVHN property.” LVHN security teams will patrol this area to prevent littering and smoking, and because we want to be a good neighbor. “We hope we won’t have to patrol for long,” Finnerty says.

“We’ve also heard reports of colleagues leaving LVHN property to have a cigarette,” says Don Hougendobler, director, environment and sustainability. “We must remember we’re trying to represent LVHN the best we can, and doing this isn’t fulfilling that goal.” When colleagues leave work to smoke – and then leave cigarette butts behind – we’re not being a good neighbor or representing our health network properly.



With more than 13,000 colleagues, it stands to reason that some colleagues may have a difficult time quitting smoking or using tobacco. LVHN can help. Our Tobacco Treatment Program provides counseling that increases your chances of living tobacco-free. This program is reimbursed through Choice Plus. Call 610-402-CARE to enroll or learn more. Remember, quitting smoking reduces the risk for cancer, heart disease, respiratory conditions and other health problems.

Tags: [littering](#) [policy](#) [smoking](#)

Meet Our 2015 Nightingale Awards Finalists

BY [KYLE HARDNER](#) · SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

For 24 years, the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania have recognized exceptional nurses practicing in the commonwealth. LVHN has had Nightingale Award finalists in all 24 years, and 19 nurses have been Nightingale Award recipients. This year three LVHN nursing leaders are finalists for the 2015 awards, which will be presented in late October in Camp Hill.

Kristina Holleran, MSN, RN, CMSRN

Patient care specialist, 4K, 5K, 6K

Finalist – Nurse Educator – Staff award

Holleran focuses on the professional development of each colleague on her units. She was nominated for her enthusiasm in investing in each nurse resident's success, making herself available to mentor through challenging situations. "A good nurse educator has an ability to provide both recognition and feedback that is meaningful to the learner," she says. She also was a key participant in the development of ROADMAP (Review of All Daily Medical Actions and Plans), a daily bedside plan of care shared with patients that has evolved into a standard hospital practice. "I hear regularly from colleagues



who have family members or friends as patients and found ROADMAP to be so helpful in keeping them up to date,” she says.

Nicole Reimer, BSN, RN, OCN

Director, clinical services, 7C hematology oncology

Finalist – Nursing Administrator – Leader/Manager award

Reimer’s success as a director is evidenced by a 0 percent nurse vacancy rate and consistently high marks in employee satisfaction.

“Not a day goes by that I don’t ask every employee on our unit if there’s something that I can do to make their day better,” Reimer says. She’s also been involved with numerous nursing organizations and has been a major contributor to the Patient-

Family Initiative, a formal policy supporting family presence throughout the care continuum. “Families are the voice

for their loved ones,” Reimer says. “Our staff does whatever it takes to help families cope with cancer.” Reimer has authored two articles in the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing that highlight strategies to impact exemplary professional practice on her unit.



Anne Panik, MS, BSN, RN, NEA-BC

Senior vice president and chief nursing officer

Finalist – Nursing Administration – Executive (CNO level) award

Panik clearly communicates personal expectations and publicly recognizes achievements. She practices what she preaches, annually joining colleagues volunteering for our drive-through flu clinics and inside Musikfest’s health tents. “Choosing nursing was

one of the best decisions of my life,” she says. “When you see a life saved, a baby being born, or hold the hand of an elderly dying patient, it validates why you chose the profession.” She directed LVHN’s winning nomination of the prestigious 2013 Magnet prize for our innovation in telehealth services and also has spearheaded the adoption of the tenets the Institute of Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation “Future of Nursing” report. “Health care is not easy because it pulls on your mind and heart,” she says. “You see such joy and sadness – there is always that duality with which one has to deal.”



Tags: [Anne Panik](#) [Kristina Holleran](#) [Nicole Reimer](#) [Nightingale Award](#) [Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania](#)

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Service Star of the Month – September 2015

BY [SHEILA CABALLERO](#) · SEPTEMBER 17, 2015



AIDS Activities Office

LVHN's AIDS Activities Office (AAO) provides medical care and psycho-social support to approximately 900 patients with HIV and their families. The multidisciplinary team provides the most comprehensive HIV care in the Lehigh Valley.

In 2014, AAO was looking for a team-building exercise that could engage all colleagues in their department. The group decided to start a garden and donate the fresh produce to the local AAO food bank located in center-city Allentown. After acquiring a plot of land at Jordan Creek Parkway gardens, the team got to work planting their harvest. AAO volunteers tend the garden on a weekly rotating schedule.

Last year, the group donated 592 pounds of fresh produce to the food bank, which provides fresh produce and other pantry items to about 60 families every Thursday. The team effort is a true labor of love. Access to fresh, healthful food provides good nutrition to help patients better manage their health. To get access to the food bank, patients must also be in active medical care – ensuring they get other medical and psycho-social needs addressed too.

The project has proven to be a true team builder, with up to a half dozen colleagues volunteering side-by-side in the garden each week. Together they plant, weed, tend and harvest the produce.

Nominator Katie Velekei believes giving patients access to healthier food choices is making a difference. “Our patients respect and admire AAO’s efforts,” she says. “They know they are going above and beyond to improve their health and they’re touched by the care shown to them.”

Next Steps

[Nominate a Service Star.](#)

Congratulate these nominees:

- **Maureen Unser, RN, Tracy Hartman, Laura Ferris, Donna Rosario and Darryn Shaff, MD – interventional radiology**

The interventional radiology team worked quickly using advanced therapies not often utilized in lower case-volume settings to save a patient suffering a stroke. Their quick teamwork and professional expertise saved the patient's life and helped him achieve 100-percent recovery, despite the serious nature of his condition when he arrived at the emergency department.

- **Carolyn Baaden, PA – LVPG Hospital Medicine at Cedar Crest**

Baaden took the time to comfort a distraught patient who had received disheartening health news. The man misunderstood his diagnosis and treatment options, so Baaden reviewed his records and prior tests. Her efforts helped the man understand his options and helped to relieve his pain and discomfort.

- **Laura Venet, psychology**

Venet is dedicated to patients struggling with drug, alcohol and psychiatric issues. She focuses on stabilizing patients and finding ways they can maintain their sobriety. When a patient displayed readiness to undergo rehabilitation but couldn't get approval, Venet explored other options and eventually secured permission. Venet has been recognized by the insurance reviewer for exceptional evaluation techniques, which they plan to use as a teaching tool.

▪ **Tamina Tannous, Breast Health Services**

Tannous is a super user for the Epic transformation. She has been very helpful to the team, even taking time to sit with colleagues and walk them through Epic step-by-step so everyone understands the new system.

Tags: [AAO](#) [AIDS Activities Office](#) [Service Star](#)

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Service Star of the Month – August 2015

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Service Star of the Month – June 2015

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Orthopedic Surgery at LVHN: Meet Eric Leppy, MD – VIDEO

BY [KYLE HARDNER](#) · SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

When [Eric Leppy, MD](#), meets with people who need joint replacement surgery, he often hears about what they used to do.

“A lot of my patients used to enjoy golf, used to enjoy swimming, used to enjoy horseback riding,” says Leppy, an orthopedic surgeon with [VSAS Orthopaedics](#). “Usually, when they [first] see me, they’re not able to do that.”

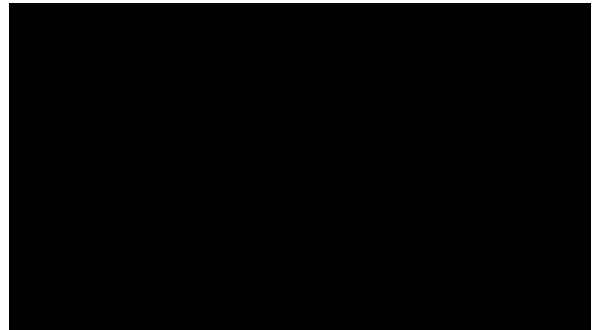
That’s why Leppy specializes in joint replacements and revisions, to help people get back to what they enjoy doing. He and his team of 45 fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeons have performed more than 20,000 joint replacements.

“To see a patient in a wheelchair, and see that patient months later to be able to actually walk, they get their lives back, and that’s a pretty cool thing,” he says.

Learn more about his expertise in this video.

Meet more of [our surgeons](#).

Learn more about [orthopedics at LVHN](#), including the region’s only dedicated orthopedic campus at [LVHN–](#)



Tilghman in west Allentown.

Tags: [Dr. Leiby](#) [Eric Leiby](#) [LVPG](#) [Surgical Excellence](#) [VSAS Orthopaedics](#)

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