Four direct-care nurses and a nurse leader from Penn Medicine Princeton Health were among 45 nurses across the University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS) who were recognized at the 21st annual Nursing Clinical Excellence Awards Ceremony, held virtually on April 26.

Individuals at each UPHS entity nominate nurses whose contributions impacted the practice of nursing in one of five key areas (listed below). A peer committee reviews the nominations and selects the awardees. The five categories and the Princeton Health awardees are:

**Lilian Brunner Award for Exemplary Practice**

- **Jordan Mento, BSN, Critical Care**
  An advocate for patients and their families, Mento participates in the Failure to Rescue team and has contributed an invaluable perspective to improving the recognition and response to patients’ clinical decline during hospitalization. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she demonstrated extraordinary resilience and remained positive, providing a source of comfort and inspiration to the members of the Critical Care team.

**Rosalyn J. Watts Award for Community/Patient/Family Relationship**

- **Joyce Hertzog, DNP, Palliative Care**
  A palliative care advanced practice nurse, Hertzog is responsible for the care and treatment of patients in the hospital as well as the surrounding community. Hertzog sees every patient and family as unique and develops a caring and trusting relationship, while guiding them in their illness trajectory. Her devotion to the practice of palliative care has improved the lives of those in need through her selflessness, compassion, and courage.

**Helen McClelland Award for Research & Innovation**

- **Christine Trusiani, BSN, Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE)**
  Trusiani excels in clinical and professional practice and has a passion for ensuring that patients and families receive the best quality care. She worked with a multi-professional team and, alongside the palliative care nurse practitioner, developed an innovative, evidence-based educational intervention that focuses on nurses’ knowledge of and confidence in recommending palliative care to providers, patients, and families.

**Diane Lanham Award for Leadership**

- **Debbie Brian-Taft, MSN, Surgical Services**
  At the peak of the pandemic, Brian-Taft stepped forward to support her peers in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit. Brian-Taft’s kind, supportive, and encouraging leadership style brought a sense of calm to a team of clinical nurses as they adapted their practice to provide care for critically ill COVID-19 patients. Brian-Taft’s clinical leadership, walking side by side with her clinical nursing peers in an extremely challenging time, was a testament to her selfless commitment to patients and their families.

**Victoria L. Rich Award for Transformational Leadership**

- **Daphne Berei, MSN, ACE & Clinical Decision Unit**
  Berei inspires, motivates, and influences others while fostering a culture of organizational excellence. She solves complex problems with ease and her transparent and transformational leadership style brings teams together to advance patient care in new and innovative ways. During the past year she was tasked with transforming ACE unit into a complete COVID-19 unit. Her presence and leadership were truly remarkable as she provided the support, resources, and education her team needed.

**DOCTORS RECOGNIZED During National Nurses Week**

In a National Nurses Week twist, the nursing staff at Penn Medicine Princeton Health presented surprise awards to David Herman, MD, medical director, Infectious Disease (left), and Siddiq Faisal, MD, medical director, Occupational Health (right).

The awards were presented on May 6, the first day of National Nurses Week, to show nurses’ gratitude for the doctors’ work to support nursing. The award reads:

*For selflessly putting the needs of others first and leading us through this time of crisis. Thank you for all of your efforts to make our health system stronger and healthier. You are truly appreciated!*
The community health center on the Penn Medicine Princeton Health campus reopened May 4 under new management and with a new name: Zufall Health Center — Plainsboro.

James Demetriades, CEO of Princeton Health, said the center has always played an important role toward fulfilling Princeton Health’s mission, serving uninsured and underserved members of the healthcare system’s central New Jersey community.

Zufall Health — a nonprofit federally qualified health center (FQHC) that operates eight locations and two mobile units in New Jersey — enjoys access to additional resources that will enable it to increase access and expand services, Demetriades said. Zufall Health will provide the same primary and specialty care that were previously available and add podiatry during the first year. Dental care will be added the following year. Princeton Health will have a representative on Zufall Health’s Board of Directors.

Demetriades commended the center’s staff, many of whom will continue working under Zufall Health; the physicians who volunteer their services; the medical and surgical residents who provide patient care in the center; Ayda Tello, administrative director; and Barbara Edwards, MD, former medical director, who will continue to manage the residency program at the center.

“You all did excellent work, always,” Demetriades said. “Patients were in the best of hands, and we know that will continue under Zufall Health’s leadership.”

Pictured above, left to right: Patricia Kao, MD, medical director; Frances L. Pain, COO, Zufall Health; Barbara Yost, vice president, network development; Princeton Health; Barbara Edwards, MD, academic director of ambulatory residency program; Zufall Health; ERA Tierkirk; Bill Shaker, chairman, Zufall Health board of directors; James Demetriades, CEO, Princeton Health; Linda Steeley, secretary, Zufall Health board of directors; Rita Torres, MD, FACP, CMD, Zufall Health; and Ayda Tello, administrative director.

GIFT SHOP REOPENS IN THE HOSPITAL ATRIUM

The gift shop at Princeton Medical Center (PMC), which was closed through most of the COVID-19 pandemic, has reopened.

Known as Essentials, the gift shop is located in the atrium, near the East Elevator Lobby and the PMC Restaurant. The gift shop’s return was based on encouraging developments, such as a decreasing caseload of COVID-positive patients, increasing percentage of community members who are vaccinated, and loosening of visitation restrictions, allowing for additional foot traffic in the hospital.

The shop will be open weekdays, from 9 am to 4:30 pm, to start. Masks and social distancing are required. As demand increases, evening and weekend hours will be considered.

Return of #PenntoPan

HIGHLIGHTING ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Princeton Health’s Pen-to-Pan initiative, launched in March to spotlight Women’s History Month, made a return appearance for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Each week in May, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee sent an email to all staff introducing chefs of Asian descent and sharing one of their unique recipes (see below). If you make one of the dishes, please snap a photo and use #PenntoPan on social media.

Solla El-Wagly

FEATURED RECIPE:
Pomegranate & Black Pepper Chicken Wings
Chef’s bio, ingredients, and cooking instructions are available at https://tinyurl.com/jx6f6py.

LEARN MORE
Visit hellosohlia.com or follow her on social media @sollaelwagly

Roy Choi

FEATURED RECIPE:
Stir-Fried Rice Beefy T Bowl
Chef’s bio, ingredients, and cooking instructions are available at https://tinyurl.com/9ihdzjx.

LEARN MORE
Visit kogiibq.com/about-chef-roy/ or follow him on social media @chefroychoi

Song, Anwong

FEATURED RECIPE:
Larb Salad from Tip Kho
Chef’s bio, ingredients, and cooking instructions are available at https://tinyurl.com/jj3yjyph.

LEARN MORE
Visit chefsong.com/about/ or follow her on social media @chefsong