PAULA DAVIS RETIRES AFTER 50 Years WITH PRINCETON HEALTH

Paula Davis, RN — then known as Paula Katona — began her career at Princeton Hospital in June 1971. The hospital operated an on-site practical nursing school at the time, and many students lived in Lambert House, a residential building attached to the hospital.

Davis — her last’s recent graduate of Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing in Allentown, Pa. — lived among the Princeton students. Her home was a two-bedroom suite with a shared bathroom in the middle. She lived on one side, Alyce Swartz, CRNA, was on the other. They became friends and later shared a hospital-own home on Harris Road.

“Medicine was very different then,” Davis said.

How different? Today’s hospital, known as Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center (PMC), is fully equipped with state-of-the-art imaging technology. A CT scan entails a short trip down the hall. When Davis started, the nearest CT scan was 16 miles away in New Brunswick, N. J.

Hospital stays tended to be longer. Davis, a pediatrics nurse, would get to know her patients’ families fairly well. The hospital was small and had a tight-knit staff.

“We had a bowling league,” she recalled.

Davis spent 36 years in pediatrics, including 20 years as assistant nurse manager and six years as nurse manager of both pediatrics and the Princeton Center for Eating Disorders.

During that time, she completed her BSN at The College of New Jersey (then Trenton State College) and married Frederick Davis, a transporter at the hospital for more than 30 years. Their daughter later worked at a day care center for Princeton Health employees’ children at the old Merwick Care Center in Princeton. Their son worked at the hospital for about a year as well.

Fourteen years ago, Davis took the position of administrative coordinator in the Nurse Staffing Office. Yet pediatrics remained her passion, and Davis served many years as a school nurse at Princeton Charter School.

The site project began in the mid-1990s, when the hospital signed a contract with the charter school to provide trained nurses. The hospital contract expired several years ago, but Davis continued her work with the school until retiring last December.

Davis was looking forward to retiring from the hospital, too. Her first grandson — her son’s child — turned a year old in July. Davis’ daughter and son-in-law, who lived in the Boston area for the past decade, are now back closer to home. And she still stays in touch with friends she’s known since she first started at the hospital, such as Swartz (her Harris Road housemate) and Laura Kelly, RN, who retired earlier this year from pre-admission testing.

Davis continued working at PMC until July, in large part to reach the 50-year milestone at a place that was such an important part of her life.

“Paula has long been a respected nursing leader and she will be missed greatly,” said Karyn Book, MSN, RN, assistant vice president, associate chief nursing officer.

“Her positive attitude and dedication to Princeton shines through each and every day.”

Happening

Stoke Care at Princeton Medical Center Gets the Gold

For the third year in a row, Princeton Medical Center (PMC) earned the Get With The Guidelines®—Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, granted by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) to hospitals that demonstrate a commitment to high-quality stroke care.

The program is intended to optimize stroke management, speed recovery, reduce hospital readmissions, and improve quality of life for people who experience strokes.

“When someone is having a stroke, every second counts,” said Paul K. Kaiser, MD, medical director of PMC’s Stroke Program. “The Get With The Guidelines® program helps to expedite diagnosis and treatment to ensure we give every patient the best possible chance to recover.”

Hospitals are evaluated on quality measures that focus on provision of appropriate medications, treatment methods, patient education and counseling aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines. To earn gold recognition the first time, hospitals must meet or exceed the guidelines for 24 consecutive months. PMC has maintained that level of excellence for 48 consecutive months.

Also this year, PMC earned a place on the AHA/ASA’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll by meeting evidence-based criteria that improve outcomes for patients with type 2 diabetes who are hospitalized for cardiovascular disease or stroke.

Quality Recognition for Heart Failure Treatment

Congratulations to the providers and employees of PMC, who work supports the diagnosis and treatment of stroke. Phillip Tran, RN, stroke coordinator at PMC, commended the physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and senior managers on the hospital’s Stroke Committee for their leadership.

For the third year in a row, Princeton Medical Center (PMC) earned the Get With The Guidelines®—Heart Failure Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association (AHA).

The Get With The Guidelines® program is intended to speed recovery, reduce hospital readmissions, and improve the quality of life for people living with heart failure. The program recognizes hospitals for their commitment to ensuring patients with heart failure receive the most appropriate care based on the latest scientific research. Hospitals are evaluated on whether patients were prescribed appropriate medications, given necessary diagnostic testing, and scheduled for follow-up visits.

“The Get With The Guidelines® initiative gives us a framework for high-quality care, yet it’s so much more than checking boxes,” said Lisa Motavalli, MD, a board-certified cardiologist with Princeton Medicine Physicians. The goal is to ensure that patients receive evidence-based medications, education and post-discharge follow-up — all key factors to help them best manage their condition, stay healthy, and lead full lives.

To earn the Silver, Award, PMC must meet or exceeded the guidelines for 12 consecutive months. PMC added Plus status by documenting performance in another four achievement measures. PMC also earned a place on the AHA/ASA’s Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll by meeting specific criteria that improve medication adherence, provide early follow-up care and coordination, and enhance patient education.
Whether it’s a medical emergency or a routine visit, our patients deserve clear, concise messages in the language of their choice. At Princeton Health, staff members now have 24/7 access to Martti® “— My accessible real-time trusted interpreter” — whom caring for patients who speak a foreign language or who are hearing impaired and use sign language.

Upon admission, all patients should be asked for their preferred language. If that is any language other than English, staff and providers should use Martti to ensure proper communication, regardless of whether a patient understands English, or — in the case of a patient who is deaf or hard of hearing — has hearing aids or other assistance available.

Martti offers interpretive services via phone or a video link. Live, in-person interpreters also can be arranged as needed.

Maximizing our patients’ experience—

Do…

Don’t…

Eliminate or mitigate background noise and confirm that you, the patient, and the interpreter can hear one another clearly.

Say anything you do not want to be interpreted. The interpreter is bound by ethical standards to translate everything said by all parties.

Address the patient, not the interpreter.

Use complex medical jargon or terms.

Speak in short, complete sentences, pausing often to allow the interpreter to interpret. Ask the patient to repeat one at a time, to ensure clarity.

Talk over the patient or the interpreter.

For technical assistance, call Martti support at 1.866.449.4428. For questions regarding interpretive services, call Patient and Guest Relations at 609.853.7490.

Tone sheets and other Martti resources are available on the Princeton Health intranet.

—Video Remote Interpretation

This option is helpful in any situation when visual body language would benefit the patient.

Video service is required for patients who need sign language translation and is also useful for foreign-language interpretation in many cases.

A video link can be arranged via Switchboard (PennChart) for scheduled or emergency visits.

The video connection can be accessed using a Martti cart. At Princeton Medical Center (PMC), carts are available in the Emergency Department and the Nursing Supervisor’s Office. Princeton House Behavioral Health has its own cart as well.

iPads provided by IT are equipped with the Martti app and have been assigned ID codes.

—Live Interpreters

This option is best for sensitive conversations, particularly when delivering bad news or conferring about complex issues; group discussions; and any time when video connection or quality is not optimal.

To schedule a live interpreter from 8 am to 5 pm on weekdays, call Patient and Guest Relations at 609.853.7490.

After hours or on weekends and holidays, contact the nursing supervisor at 609.853.7115.

For technical assistance, call Martti support at 1.866.449.4428. For questions regarding interpretive services, call Patient and Guest Relations at 609.853.7490.

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SUPPORT

Haiti Relief Effort

Penn Medicine Princeton Health donated 10 pallets of PPE, including face shields, gloves, and gowns, to MedShare, an international humanitarian aid organization with a collection center in Secaucus, N.J. (See related story in the September 2021 edition of Happenings.) In a thank-you email to Greg Evans, director of sustainability at Princeton Health, Jane He, MedShare’s Northeast regional director, said three of the 10 pallets were sent to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in a container carrying nearly three tons of PPE earmarked for health care personnel responding to the crisis.