

## **SHE WON!**

### **ITNS TRANSPLANT NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

It is an honor for us to nominate Patricia G. Folk, RN, BSN, CCTC for the ITNS Transplant Nursing Excellence Award. Pat began her transplant nursing career in 1971 as a staff nurse on a kidney transplant unit. Now, more than thirty years later, Pat has been involved in every facet of pre and post transplant care with heart, lung, kidney, liver and intestinal transplants. Her vast knowledge and experience and her willingness to help others makes her an amazing mentor and instructor of transplant nursing.

Pat's transplant experience includes positions as a Head nurse, Home care coordinator, Liver transplant Coordinator, Transplant Nursing Specialist for a Pharmaceutical Company, Consulting Clinical Project Manager, and Cardiothoracic Transplant Unit Director. She now directs nursing care at the Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant Center at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Pat consistently gives 150% of herself to her patients, colleagues, hospital and transplant community. She has published numerous transplant nursing articles and is an accomplished lecturer with more than 100 presentations since 1989. Despite her long hours at the hospital, Pat has been involved with many transplant organizations. She has served as President of our ITNS chapter as well as serving a 2-year term on the Board of Directors of ITNS. She has served on local planning committees for the 2002 Transplant Olympics and the National Kidney Foundation. Pat is on the Credentialing Committee for the ABTC and has served on the Board of Directors for the United Liver Association. Over the years, Pat's dedication to transplant nursing is clearly reflected in her involvement in more than 40 professional organizations and committees.

Pat is well known by her colleagues, patients and families as a strong patient advocate. Because she has a deep commitment to her patients, it is not unusual to find her on the phone with a patient "after hours" discussing a problem or simply giving reassurance. She also unselfishly gives of herself to her nursing colleagues and is recognized as an educator and mentor. She has been instrumental in developing all aspects of transplant education at our center as well as transplant centers in California.

Pat not only is a mainstay in our transplant program, but she has also made a significant impact on transplant nursing. Her positive attitude, professionalism and dedication have helped to elevate our profession to a new level. Pat promotes transplantation and organ donation whenever possible. She has been interviewed more than a dozen times including participation on CBS News 48 Hours, CNN, and feature length documentaries on transplantation.

It is with great pride that we nominate Pat for this esteemed award. We are very fortunate to have Pat as a member of our team at our center as well as a member of our transplant community.