

Golden Triangle Chapter, ITNS

Newsletter

Fall 2008

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President's Message: Mitzi Barker

Hello Everyone! We are winding down a very productive year with the GTC ITNS. We were able to offer a total of 12 CEUs this year. I would like to thank everyone for their support of the GTC ITNS. With all the changes in grants and donations this could have made for a difficult time. But with everyone's teamwork and understanding, we have been a huge success! 2008-2009 promises to also be exciting! I look forward to seeing everyone next year! Please remember we welcome suggestions. If you have any input please email the GTC account.

What's Happening with the GTC:

The 2008-2009 Board of Directors:

President-Nancy Stitt

President Elect: Nancy Pepke

President Emeritus: Mitzi Barker

Secretary: Katie Lo Coco

Membership Chairpersons: Chavonne Newman & Diane Jaynes

Journal Club Chairperson: Darlene Lovasik

Dinner Meeting Chairpersons: Kim Risch & Anne Marie Byerly

Website Chairperson: Tim Donovan

CONGRATULATIONS to the new BOD!

-The GTC dues are \$20.00 and are due at the October 22nd dinner meeting.

-Journal Club meetings will now be offering CEUs.

Transplant News:

October is Transplant pharmacist month! Remember to tell them how much we as nurses appreciate them!

Meet GTC Members:

Carol Tamenne:

I went to Duquesne University- graduated in 1987 and started at Presby as a staff nurse. I started on unit 53 in orthopedics. I worked there for 9 years and my role evolved to “Patient Care Manager” which was sort of clinician/PNCC combo. The unit had overflow urology and renal transplant patients, which is when I first started working with transplant patients. When the ortho unit moved to MUH I stayed at PUH with the urology and renal transplant patients. My role then evolved to PNCC. I learned a lot from patients and families and became close to them. I really only took on the liver and small bowel transplant patients about 8 years ago. I now work as a PNCC on 11N and 12N at MUH, the abdominal transplant units. My husband Barth and I have been married for 19 years. .We have 2 children- Aaron is 13 and Laura is 8. We live in Lower Burrell. We built a log home there about 8 years ago.

I joined ITNS in 2005, most people are surprised that considering my long UPMC tenure- it took me a long time to join, the truth is I always felt like I was just learning about transplant patients and not worthy of joining this group. I have really enjoyed my membership so much and I wish I would have joined sooner. I feel there is so much more to learn always. A few months ago I had the opportunity to be interviewed by “Nursing 2008” and I described transplant nursing as “extreme nursing”.

Shelley Zomak:

I attended Carlow College, I obtained a BS in nursing in 1991 and a MS in professional leadership: health science education in 2000. I started with UPMC in 1988 as a nurses' aide/ unit secretary at the Eye and Ear Hospital. Upon graduation from Carlow I worked with the Cardiothoracic Transplant population as a nurse on the floor. In 1998 I moved over to the outpatient side as a Transplant Coordinator. Last fall I was promoted to Unit Director. Currently, as the unit director my primary role for the last year was to plan the NKF 2008 U.S. Transplant Games which were held in Pittsburgh. I served on the GTC BOD multiple times: Membership Chair 2003-2004, Website Director 2004, President Elect 2005, President 2006, President Emeritus 2007. I became a member of ITNS in 1998. I reside with my parents and am very close to my sister and her family. I also look at Team Pittsburgh as part of my family; I have been with the team since 2000. I like to stay active. I enjoy walking on the trail or adventuring to a new destination. I enjoy cooking – it is the best relaxing activity for me.

Upcoming GTC Events:

The next educational offering/dinner will be held at the LeMont. The speaker will be Adrianna Zeeve, Ph.D. The topic of the educational offering will be Post Transplant Immune Monitoring. The educational offering will be worth 1 CEU credit.

Meet Your New GTC Presidents:

President: Nancy Stitt

I am the co-founder of ITNS along with Kandy Newell. ITNS launched its inaugural Symposium in March 1992 and I was elected the first president of ITNS and served from 1992-1994. In 1988, I began to train Italian nurses brought to UPMC to learn about transplantation. I spent the next 7 years helping to build UPMC-Italy and served as the Director of Nursing Education. I graduated from Penn State in 1979. I am an avid Nittany Lions fan. I began my nursing career at Presby in January 1980 on unit "10-3" now known as 10D. Dr Starzl brought the liver transplant population to this unit in 1981. I then moved into the educator role for liver transplantation and have remained in education since then. I married Len Vermillion in 2005. He is in the publishing/editing field and lives in New Jersey. We maintain a long-distance marriage. I have one cat, Izzy, who I adopted off the streets of Palermo.

President-Elect: Nancy Pepke

I graduated from The Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May 1984. I have a minor in psych. I have been working at UPMC for the majority of my career. I have worked in cardiology and was in nursing education for 3 years. I became a Pre-Lung Transplant Coordinator in 2004. I obtained my CCTC in 2007. I joined ITNS in 2004. I am currently finishing my term on the BOD as Membership Chairperson. The part of my job that I enjoy the most is educating patients and their families.

Congratulations to GTC Members:

-Congratulations to Beth Kallenborn! Beth was elected as President Elect for ITNS for the term 2008-2009.

-Congratulations to Darlene Lovasik! Darlene was nominated for the 2008 ITNS/Roche Excellence in Transplant Nursing Award.

-Congratulations to Diane Jaynes! Diane is the 2008 Cameo of Caring Award winner for UPMC Presbyterian.

Editor's Note:

I would like to thank Bill Stein for all of his help this year as I served my term as website/newsletter chairperson. I would not have been able to do it without his help. Thanks Bill for your dedication to helping the GTC! I would also like to thank Chavonne Newman for being the sole member of the newsletter committee and for all of her help. I have greatly enjoyed serving on the BOD this year and look forward to continuing to work with all of you. –Diane Jaynes