

Good Samaritan Foundation


EXCELLENCE
in
NURSING



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

21ST
ANNUAL

21ST ANNUAL

Awards Presentation

12:00 PM

HILTON AMERICAS-HOUSTON



Applauding
the

1,503 NURSES

nominated for the

---2025---

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

Awards

Good Samaritan Foundation

Honoring

---2025 GOLD MEDALISTS---

Jessy Sabu Philip

DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, CWCN

Grace Dompereh

MHA, BSN, RN, CWON, CLSSYB

Morgan Cangelosi

DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CCRN

Richel C. Aliboso

MSN, APRN, FNP-C, AGACNP-BC

Joycelyn Westbrook

MPH, BSN, RN-BC

Shelby R. Boone

MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC, CPN

---2025 SILVER MEDALISTS---

Brian Hoffpauir

MSN, RN, CVRN-BC

Lalita R. Thompson

MSN, RN, CRRN, FARN

Shermel Edwards-Maddox

PHD, RN, CNE, CHSE, RN-BC

Julie Hanson

RN

Ron Ryan Bautista

MBA-HA, BSN, RN, CCRN-N, RNC-NIC, C-ELBW, C-NNIC

Myrna Sonia Garcia

MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPHQ

and the outstanding

---2025 BRONZE MEDALISTS---

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 • 12:00pm

Hilton Americas - Houston

---MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES---

Kathryn Tart, EdD, MSN, RN, FNAP

Founding Dean and Professor

Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

University of Houston



Andy and Barbara Gessner
College of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

---EVENT CHAIR---

Allyssa L. Harris RN, PhD, WHNP-BC, FNAP, FADNL

Dean and Professor

Prairie View A&M University, College of Nursing



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING



Luncheon Menu

---ENTRÉE SALAD---

Miso Glazed Chicken

**Lo Mein Noodles, Crispy Lettuce, Bean Sprouts,
Carrots, Edamame, Radishes, Scallions, Crushed Almonds,
Orange Ginger Dressing**

---DESSERT---

New York Cheesecake with Strawberry Compote

Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea



---WELCOME---

Kathryn Tart, EdD, MSN, RN, FNAP

Founding Dean and Professor
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing
University of Houston

---INVOCATION---

Rev. Dr. Linda Christians

---REMARKS---

Allyssa L. Harris RN, PhD, WHNP-BC, FNAP, FADNL

Dean and Professor
Prairie View A&M University, College of Nursing

---RECOGNITION---

Awards Selection Committee

---AWARDS CEREMONY---

Recognition of Honorable Mention

Recognition of Bronze Medalists

Video Tribute for Silver Medalists

Awards Presentation to Silver Medalists

Awards Presentation to Gold Medalists

---LUNCHEON ADJOURNS---



Since its founding in 1951 by the Reverend Clyde Verheyden and six prominent Houstonians, Claud B. Barrett, William Hamlet Blades, Curtis B. Delhomme, J.W. Donaldson, Walter L. Goldston, and R. E. "Bob" Smith, Good Samaritan Foundation has been solely dedicated to nurses and the nursing profession.

The Foundation seeks excellence in nursing by increasing the profile of nursing; attracting new young people to the field; alleviating the severe shortage of qualified nurses and nurse faculty by granting scholarships directly to students; supporting nursing school faculty programs; and encouraging increased collaboration among the hospitals, nursing schools and Greater Houston community. In order to retain experienced nurses in the Texas workforce, Good Samaritan, through the Excellence in Nursing Awards, encourages others to celebrate and recognize individual nurses who excel in their chosen fields.

Good Samaritan desires to recognize the women and men who are actively working in the nursing profession. The Excellence in Nursing Awards honor registered nurses who are nominated by their peers and selected by a distinguished Awards Selection Committee. These nurses have demonstrated a passion for the nursing profession and exemplify excellence in teaching, mentoring, leadership and service.

We value your commitment and contribution to this important annual event that honors excellence in nursing and provides scholarships to student nurses. We believe that rewarding and recognizing excellent nurses is a key component in retaining quality professionals and addressing the nurse workforce shortage.

All net proceeds from today's luncheon benefit our commitment to support students, education, faculty and professional nurses. Together, we can help nurses and change lives.



Diamond

Houston Methodist • Texas Children's Hospital • Harris Health

Platinum

**UTMB Health • HCA Houston Healthcare • The Lindley Family Foundation
John P. McGovern Foundation • St. Luke's Health**

Gold

**Memorial Hermann Health System
Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Village Medical**

Silver

**The Brenda and John H. Duncan Rise School of Houston
Children's Health • Denver College of Nursing - Houston
Tom and Harriet Omondi • SHSU - School of Nursing
St. Luke's Health Brazosport Hospital
Texas Christian University • Texas Woman's University College of Nursing
University of Houston Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing**

Individual Tickets

**Texas A&M University College of Nursing
Chamberlain University College of Nursing • Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
Haley Knowles (Recipient) • Victorious Medical Services, LLC
Houston Hospice • Irene A. Baltazar • Merlin Jomy • Tina M. Mathers**

We also want to thank those who contributed after our printing deadline.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION'S

2025

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

Award Winners

Gold Award

---LARGE HOSPITAL---

Jessy Sabu Philip, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, CWCN

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

---SMALL HOSPITAL---

Grace Dompree, MHA, BSN, RN, CWON, CLSSYB

Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

---NURSING EDUCATION: FACULTY---

Morgan Cangelosi, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CCRN

The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston

---NON-HOSPITAL BASED CARE---

Richel C. Aliboso, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, AGACNP-BC

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

---CLINICAL EDUCATOR---

Joycelyn Westbrook, MPH, BSN, RN-BC

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

---NURSING ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP---

Shelby R. Boone, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC, CPN

Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital

GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION'S

2025

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING

Award Winners

Silver Award

---LARGE HOSPITAL---

Brian Hoffpauir, MSN, RN, CVRN-BC

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

---SMALL HOSPITAL---

Lalita R. Thompson, MSN, RN, CRRN, FARN

TIRR Memorial Hermann

---NURSING EDUCATION: FACULTY---

Shermel Edwards-Maddox, PHD, RN, CNE, CHSE, RN-BC

University of Houston Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

---NON-HOSPITAL BASED CARE---

Julie Hanson, RN

The University of Texas Medical Branch

---CLINICAL EDUCATOR---

Ron Ryan Bautista, MBA-HA, BSN, RN, CCRN-N, RNC-NIC, C-ELBW, C-NNIC

Houston Methodist West (formerly with Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital)

---NURSING ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP---

Myrna Sonia Garcia, MSN, RN, NI-BC, CPHQ

Texas Children's Hospital

GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION'S



Bronze Award

All names and credentials are presented in the format provided by nominators.

Vanessa Abacan DNP, APRN-CNS, ACCNS-P, RNC-MNN, EBP-C
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Vivian Abaidoo MSN, RN, CVRN
CHI St. Luke's Health

Mariarowena Abella BSN, RN, CMSRN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Tessa Abernathy BSN, RN III, RNC-ONC
Houston Methodist West Hospital

Shibi Kunjumon DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CCRN, CVRN
The University of Texas Medical Branch - League City

Anny Abraham MSN, RN, CLNC
Harris Health System-Ambulatory Care Services

Ansu Abraham MSN, BSN, RN, CPHQ
Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Teena Abraham RN
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Lillykutty Abraham BSN, RN, CRRN, CNN
Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Shani Abraham BSN, RN
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Alice Abraham MS-CRM, BSN, RN, CCRP
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Latha C. Achary RN, BSN
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Gita Acharya-Pandey RN, BSN
Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Ama Acheampong MSN, CWON-AP, RN-BC
Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Angela Achord RN, BSN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Ashley Janel Acosta BS, BSN, CNOR
Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Amada Kathrina Acosta MSN, RN, NP-BC

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Ceidra Adams BSN, AMB-BC
Harris Health System-Ambulatory Care Services

Whitney Adams DNP, RN, CEN, NP-BC
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Parbat Adhikari CVRN, RN-BC
Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Nana Baah Adjei DNP, RN, CMSRN, NP-BC
Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Emerson Agcanas RN, BSN
HCA Valley Regional Medical Center

Seema S. Aggarwal PhD, RN, AGNP-C
Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston

Kaki Akin MSN, RN, CRRN, WCC, CLSSYB
TIRR Memorial Hermann

Safaa AlArabi PhD, RN, MSN, MPH, CNL
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Jingle A. Alcazaren MSN, APRN, AGPCNP-C, CAPA
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Loudethzel Aldaba MSN, RN, CVRN
CHI St. Luke's Health

Michael Aldegue RN, ADN
HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland

Tissy Alex BSN, RN, CMSRN
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Anna Alford BSN, RNC-NIC
Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center

Shumaila Ali BSN, RN, CRRN
TIRR Memorial Hermann

Selona Alleyne MSN, BS, RN, CMSRN, NP-BC
Harris Health System-Administration

Sonia Almendarez MBA, BSN, RN, CPXP
HCA Houston Healthcare - Gulf Coast Division

Hamam Al-Rabaa MSN, RN

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Joseph Florida Altamirano RN, BSN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Shelito Alviza BSN, RN, CCRN

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Clear Lake

Maggie Amos BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Andrea Anderson BSN, RN, RN-BC

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Stephanie Anderson MSN, RN, AGCNS-BC

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Janetha Andrade RN, MSN, RNC-MNN

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Sarah Angelo BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Dona Mariya Anoop BSN, RN

HCA Houston Healthcare West

Maria Sheila Anos BSN, RN, CMSRN

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Angelica Antaran BSN, RN, CMSRN, CCRN

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Jocelyn L. Antiola BSN, RN, CAPA

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Leticia Appiah MSN, RN, NP-BC, CVRN-BC

HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement

Reichelle Araula BSN, CCRN

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Marjorie Arbotante BSN, RN, CNOR

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Julie Arellano MHS, BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital

Ida M. Aristizabal BSN, RN, GERO-BC

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Stacy Armer BSN, RN, CRRN

HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement

Melissa Armitage BSN, RN

Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital

Olga Arroyo BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Keana Asadifar BSN, RN

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Jyothi Asokan MSN, MBA, RN-BC, CLSSYB

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Mahala Augustine RN, BSN

HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland

Doris Augustine MSN, RN, CNOR

Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital

Garry Austria BSN, RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Rachel Babu BSN, RN

HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland

Mercy Babu BSN, CMSRN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Brittany Backstrom MSN, MBA, BSN, RN-BC, CEN, CPHQ

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Maysoon Bader MSN, RN

Behavioral Hospital of Bellaire

Michael Scott Bagwell MSN, RN, CCRN, CSC

Houston Methodist Hospital

Rachel Baird RN

HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake

Sharon Baker BSN, RN, CMSRN, CV-BC

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital

Sofia Baldwin BSN, RN, CAPA

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Nicholas Balidin RN, BSN, MSN, MBA

TIRR Memorial Hermann

Irene Baltazar DNP, RN, CCRN-K

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Victoria Elizabeth Banks BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Katlyn Barber BSN, RN, CCRN-CSC

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Veronica Bardales BSN, RN, CCRN

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Kali Barnes BSN, RN

The University of Texas Medical Branch

Audrey Barnett MSN, RNC-NIC, CPHQ, CLSSBB

Memorial Hermann

Jennifer Barr DNP, FNP-C, CPNP-AC

Texas Children's Hospital

Evelyn Barren RN, BSN, CCRN, TNCC

Texas Children's Hospital

Kirstie Barrick BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Lea Bartel BSN, RN, VA-BC

Texas Children's Hospital

Sarah Basaria BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Elise Bass MSN, RN, CPAN

Houston Methodist Hospital

Sonia Bassett MSN, A-GNP-C-CIC

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Aessa Bates MSN, APRN

The Woodlands Specialty Hospital

Karen Battistoni RN, CCRN-CSC-CMC, CHFN, CVRN-BC

HCA Houston Healthcare Medical Center

Stephanie Bautista Meyers RN, BSN, BS

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Heather Belanger MSN, RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Montrell Bell BSN, RN

Texas Children's Hospital

Brenda Rene Bellows RN

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Edwin Beltran BSN, RN

The Woodlands Specialty Hospital

Bronze Award

Fallon Benavides DNP, RN, ACM

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Rani Benson MSN, APRN, ACGNP

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Amanda Bergeron MSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Feven Berhe BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Kimberly Bernard MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC

Houston Methodist Hospital

Aubrey Bernardo-Balunsat RN, BSN, CVRN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Gay Bertulfo RN, BSN, CCRN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Courtney Besett BSN, BMTCN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Priya Bhakta BSHP, MSN, RN, CMSRN

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Kimberly Bibbins BSN, RN, CVRN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Janna Billetdeaux MSN, RN, NPD-BC, PCCN, MEDSURG-BC, CMSRN

HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement

Natalie Billot MSN, RN, NEA-BC, AMB-BC

Houston Methodist Physician Organization

Tinsy M. Binoy AGACNP-BC, GS-C

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Reena Binu BSN, RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Kerrine Black BSN, RN

CHI St. Luke's Health

Meghan Blackburn BSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, CVRN-BC

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Diane Blair BS, MSHCA, BSN, RN, OCN, CHPN, MEDSURG-BC

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Leuvania Blanco MSN, RN

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Mary Blanton BSN, RN, CES-P

Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

Sibil Blee DNP, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, AMB-BC

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Ofonime Bleess DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, ENP-C

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Debra Boeker MSN, RN, CEN, SCRNP

Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital

Maria Boissonneault BSN, RN, RN-BC, CMSRN

Houston Methodist Hospital

Mary Bonnette BSN, RN, CMSRN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Regina Bonton RN

HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress

Renz Leomar Bordan BSN, RN, CVRN

CHI St. Luke's Health

Ann Bostedt MSN, RN, RNC-OB

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Kristin Bourgeois MSN, RN, CVRN

The University of Texas Medical Branch - League City

Veronica J. Brady PhD, RN, ACRN, BC-ADM, FADCS

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston

Victoria Brasseaux BSN, RN

Texas Children's Hospital

Floris Jane Braza BSN, RN, CRN

Houston Methodist Hospital

Arsenia Braza RN, BSN, CVRN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Elizabeth Brewer MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, NE-BC

Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Kathy Brock MBA, BSN, NE-BC, RNC

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

LaTasha Broussard MSN, RN, RN-BC, NEA-BC

HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood

Danita Broussard MSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

Jordan Brown RN, CHPN

Houston Hospice

Tammy Renee Brown MSN, ACNP-C

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Sarah Kaitlen Broyles BSN, RN, CMSRN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Sylvia L. Bryant ADN, RN

Lancaster ISD

Jill Bryant-Bova DNP, RN, BS, LNCC-R, CPHQ, NE-BC

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Hanna Buchanan MSN, RNC-OB, C-ONQS, CLSSWB

Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center

Britany Buentello BSN, RN

Texas Children's Hospital

Tracy Thanh Bui BSN, RN, CVRN-BC

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Shelley Burcie BSN, RN, CCRN

Children's Medical Center of Dallas

LaTasha Burns EdD, MBA-HM, RN-BC, NE-BC, CPHQ, EBP-C
Texas Woman's University

DeShon Burton BSN, RN, BS, CNOR
Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Brenda Butler MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CCRN-K
HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress

Star Butler BSN, RN, CEN
Houston Methodist Cypress Hospital

Amber Byles BSN, RN
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Hye Byun BSN, RN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Geraldine T. Cabato BSN, RN, CVRN
Houston Methodist West Hospital

Joseph O. Cabrana MSN, BSN, RN
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Mayra Cadena BSN, RN
Houston Methodist West Hospital

Vanessa Calcote BSN, RNCHI
St. Luke's Health

Heily Joy Lim Calderon MSN, RN, CCRN
Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

Jeanette Calumpang RN
Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Margarita Calvo Armijo PhD, BSN, RN
Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Marita Camacho-Pottiger BSN, MAN, CVRN
Houston Methodist Hospital

Pollyanna Campbell RN
The Rise School of Houston

Wendi Campbell RN
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Angleton

Isaac Canales BSN, RN, CMSRN, SCRNP
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Alix Cantu RN
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Marichu Carampatan RN, BSN, MSN
Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

Louly Cardona MSN, RN, CNOR
Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Melissa Careaga BSN, RNCHI
St. Luke's Health

Reba Carethers RN, MSN, CCRN, NP-BC
Harris Health System-Administration

Sarah Carlson BSN, RN
Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital

Mary Carstens MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Gary Carter MSN, RN, CEN, CVRN-BC
Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Jennifer Casso DNP, MSN, RNC-OB
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Jilliane Castillo BSN, RN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Ronan Castronuevo RN
HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake

Patricia Stella C. Cava BSN, RN
Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Sonya Cevis-Bing MSN, RN, CMSRN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Rodolfo Cezar BSN, RN, SCRNP
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Jacob Chacko BSN, RN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Julia Chapichap BSN, RN
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Bindhu Charalil MSN, PCCN, RN
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Brenda Charles DNP, APRN-BC, CCNS, PCCN
Houston Methodist Hospital

Cathy Charles BSN, RN
Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Aniano Chavez BSN, RN, CMSRN
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Gynna Chavez BSN, RN
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Princy Cherian MSN, RN, CMSRN
Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital

Sophia C. Cheruiyot BSN, RN-BC, SCRNP
Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Jessica Christensen BSN, RN, CVRN
Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Grafe Chua BSN, RN, CVRN-BC
CHI St. Luke's Health

Melanie Clark RN
Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital

Marie Clark MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Stacy Clark BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, CCRN-P
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Cheryl D. Clark BSN, RN
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Adrianna Clavijo Melton MSN, RN, FNP-C, CNOR
Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital

Diana Clement BSN, RNC-OB, RNC-EFM
HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake

Anne Cleveland BSN, MEDSURG-BC
Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Megan Clifton BSN, RN
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Aimee Cline RN, BSN, RNC-OB
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Corina Coffman BSN, RN, BMTCN
Texas Children's Hospital

Bronze Award

Charina Collantes BSN, RN, OCN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Kiwana Collins MSN, MBA

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Susan Combrink MSN, RN-BC, NPD-BC, CVRN-BC

HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement

Carlos Contreras BSN, RN

TIRR Memorial Hermann

Mireya Cordova RN, BSN

HCA Valley Regional Medical Center

Nikeeta Corey RN, CHFN, OMT-HF, CCM, MEDSURG-BC

Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Kyle Corley RN, BSN

The University of Texas Medical Branch - League City

Reyna Esperanza Cortez MSN, APRN, AGACNP

Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital

Margaret Cotlar MSN, RN, IBCLC

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Jennifer Cox MSN, RN, CMSRN

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Erika Cox MSN, RN

Texas Children's Hospital

Kristiana Craigie BSN, RN, RNC-MNN

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

LaShonda Crain BSN, RN, OCN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Mayra Cruz BSN, RN, CPN

Texas Children's Hospital - The Woodlands

John Cullum BSN, RN, CPEN

Texas Children's Hospital

Ana Curo MSN, RN, FNP, CMSRN

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Olajumoke Dada MSN, PCCN

Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Maylyn Dalaza RN, CCRN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Theresa Dam MSN, RN, CCRN-BC

Harris Health System-Administration

Lovia Dangwara BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Carl Daniel MSN, APRN, FNP-BC

Houston Methodist Hospital

Tiffany B. Daniel DNP, MBA, RN-BC, CEN, SCRNP

Houston Methodist Hospital

David Daniel RN, BSN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Lizzy Daniel BSN, RNC, MNN, IBCLC

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Joseph Dark RN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Stephanie Davenport MSN, CRNA

Texas Children's Hospital

Aubrey Davey RN, BSN

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Jeremiah Davis RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Macaela Davis BSN, RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Kerry Davis MSN, BSN, RN, CRRN, CBIS

TIRR Memorial Hermann

Maria Rosana De Juan RNC-OB

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Claire De Leon BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Eloisa B. Delacruz BSN, RN, PCCN

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Lourdes Deleon BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Roman Demissie BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Cynthia C. Desengano BSN, RN, CNOR

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Charmay De Vera BSN, RN

HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball

Simoona Dholasnia RN, AMB-BC, CCM

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Matthew Diaz MHA, BSN, RN, CEN, LP

Houston Methodist Cypress Hospital

Reyna Diaz BSN, RNC-NIC, IBCLC

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Tess Diaz RN, BSN, CVRN

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Maria Diaz RN, CEN, TCRN

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Alfred "Trey" Dietrich RN

The Woman's Hospital of Texas

Ikechukwu Felix Dike BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC

Harris Health System-Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

Disrilli Dimaunahan BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Amber DiMuro BSN, RNC-OB

Houston Methodist West Hospital

Fatou Diouf BSN, RN

Harris Health System-Ambulatory Care Services

Keasha Dixon BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Kendra Dock-Robertson RN

Houston Methodist Hospital

Gavarae Dokun BSN, BS, RHC, RN

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

Lochris Faylette H. Dolley BSN RN CAPA

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Theresa Dominguez BSN, RN, IBCLC

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

John Donkor RN, BSN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Elizabeth Doriety RN

Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital

Natalia Dorokhova BSN, RN

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Angela Douglas MSN, RN, OCN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Allison Dowty BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center

Juliet Dsouza BSN, RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Karen Dudas BSN, MSN, RN-BC, NE-BC

HCA Corpus Christi Medical Center

Christa Duffy BSN, RN, RNC-NICU

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

Deanna Duggan DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, AQH

Texas Children's Hospital - The Woodlands

Minaz Dungor MSN, RN, NP-BC, RNC-MNN

HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement

Pilar Duias MSN, RN, VA-BC

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Holly Dusang BSN, RN

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Imelda Duterte BSN, NP

Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

Sini Vinod Eapen DNP, MSN, APRN, ACNPC-AG, AGACNP-BC, CLSSBB, CCRN

Harris Health System-Ben Taub Hospital

Reiley Eccher BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC

HCA Corpus Christi Medical Center

Michelle Edmond MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC

Harris Health System-Ambulatory Care Services

Lovely Lou Edwards BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Tana Elliott MHA, BSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, CA-SANE

Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital

Christine Ellis BSN, RNC-OB

The Woman's Hospital of Texas

Ashley Ellison BSN, RN

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Bronze Award

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Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Sarah Miller BSN, RN

HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood

Bronze Award

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CHI St. Luke's Health

Lesley Mills RN, BSN

Texas Children's Hospital

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LouAnne Wischer BSN, RN, IBCLC

Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

Silvia Wise BSN, RN, RNC-MNN

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

Matthew Wisniewski DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC

Texas Children's Hospital

Cassidy Wolfer BSN, RN, CVRN-BC

CHI St. Luke's Health

Karema Wyche-Johnson BSN, RN, CMSRN

HCA Healthcare Center for Clinical Advancement

Emily Yarbrough MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC

Texas Children's Hospital

Haley Yohn BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

Pach Yongque BSN RN, CVRN-BC

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Kimberly Nicole Young DNP, RN, CVRN II-BC

The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Sunimol Zacharia BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Shafaq Zafar MSN, CMSRN, RN

HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast

Laura Zamarron MSN, RN, CNOR, ONC

Houston Methodist Hospital

Maria Luisa Zapanta BSN, RN, CRRN

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital

Dianjun Zou BSN, RN

Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center

Mariann Zukowski BSN, RN, NTMC

Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital



Good Samaritan Foundation

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Jackie Ward, DNP, RN, NEA-BC



EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS

Gold Medalists

LARGE HOSPITAL

- 2024 Lori Long, DrNPc, MFS, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, AFN-BC**
Memorial Hermann - Texas Medical Center
- 2023 Valentina Briceño-Marmol, BSN, RN, CNOR**
Texas Children's Hospital
- 2022 Jesse Derek Pellizzari, BSN, RN**
Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
- 2021 Jennifer Steenburg BSN, RN, CCRN**
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital
- 2020 Souby George MSN, RNC-MNN, CKC, PMH-C**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2019 Annie Hyde BSN, RN**
Texas Children's Hospital
- 2018 Dalvir (Debbie) Kaur RN, BA**
Houston Methodist Hospital
- 2017 Honeychile Benitez BSN, RN-C**
Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital
- 2016 Mark Barr BSN, RN, CCRN**
Ben Taub General Hospital
- 2015 Cori Kopecky MSN, RN, OCN**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2014 Jennifer Price BSN, RN, OCN**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2013 Haley Hoskinson BSN, RN, CCRN**
Houston Methodist Hospital
- 2012 Omana Simon DNP, RN, FNP-BC**
Michael E. DeBaakey VA Medical Center
- 2011 Alice Neycheril DNP, RN, CRRN, ANP-C**
Michael E. DeBaakey VA Medical Center
- 2010 Stephanie Garee MSN, RN, CEN**
The Methodist Hospital

- 2009 Olinda Pruitt Johnson RNC, MSN, CNS**
*Harris County Hospital District
Lyndon Baines Johnson General Hospital*
- 2008 Goldie J. Brown RN, MA**
The Methodist Hospital
- 2007 Stella Dike* RN**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2006 Helen Currier RN**
Texas Children's Hospital

SMALL HOSPITAL

- 2024 Leanne M. Buffaloe, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC, CCRN**
UTMB Health Clear Lake Campus
- 2023 Laelen Yao, BSN, RN, CCRN, CVRN, SCRn, OCN, WCC**
Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital
- 2022 Jose Angeles, RN**
HCA Healthcare
- 2021 Lauren Ivanhoe MSN, RN, NPd-BC**
Texas Children's Hospital - West Campus
- 2020 Andrea Cressy BSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A**
Houston Methodist West Hospital
- 2019 Maryanne Strobel RN, MSN, CDE**
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
- 2018 Ronald Malit BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA**
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- 2017 Rebecca Davidson RN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2016 Allison Damron MSN, RN, ACNP-BC**
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- 2015 Deborah Lee MSN, RN, CPON, CNML**
Texas Children's Hospital
- 2014 David Kimball RN, BSN**
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

- 2013 Robin Howe MSN, RN, RNC-OB**
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
- 2012 Pam Mengo MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN**
Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- 2011 Ann Kingrey RN, IBCLC**
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital
- 2010 Veronica Jenkins* RN**
Harris County Hospital District
Lyndon Baines Johnson General Hospital
- 2009 Heather Sharp BS, RN**
Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital
- 2008 Noel Kowis-Green RNC, NTN**
Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital
- 2007 Susan Tarantino* RN**
Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital
- 2006 May Bossier-Bearden RN, MBA**
Harris County Hospital District
Lyndon Baines Johnson General Hospital

NON-HOSPITAL BASED CARE

- 2024 Alyssa Barnhill, BSN, RN**
Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital
- 2023 Julie Brunson, RN, BSN**
Presbyterian School of Houston
- 2022 Mili Vakharia, BSN, MSN, FNP**
Texas Children's Hospital - West Campus
- 2021 Alvin Mena Cantero CEO, DNP, FNP-C, MSN, APRN**
Alvin Clinica Familiar, Inc.
- 2020 Francis Luna MSN, RN, NCSN**
Garland Independent School District
- 2019 Sara Dean DNP, APRN, RNFA, WHNP-BC**
Texas Children's Hospital Pavilion for Women
- 2018 Norma Sheridan-Leos RN, MSN, APN, AOCN, CPHQ, CPPS**
Houston Methodist Hospital Physicians Alliance for Quality
- 2017 Ingrid Hansen FNP**
Thomas Street Health Center, Harris Health System
- 2016 Amy Sebastian-Deutsch DNP, RN, CNS, AOCNS**
Memorial Hermann Cancer Center
- 2015 Kimberly Fields RN, MSN, FNP**
Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services
- 2014 Lilian Sweeney RN, BSN, OCN, CBCN**
Memorial Hermann Breast Center-Southwest
- 2013 Adrian McKinney RN, BSN, RNC-LRN**
Texas Children's Health Plan
- 2012 Linda Brixey RN**
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- 2011 Loanne Tran CARN**
Memorial Hermann Prevention and Recovery Center
- 2010 Wyona M. Freysteinson MN**
Memorial Hermann Hospice and Home Health

- 2009 Lucinda (Cindy) Welch RN, BSN**
Houston Hospice
- 2008 Andrew J. Rolniak RN, A/GNP-BC**
Geriatric Associates of America
- 2007 Ruth Kainer RN**
Houston Hospice
- 2006 Kristie Collum* RN**
Houston Hospice

CLINICAL EDUCATOR

- 2024 Jessica Sennett, DNP, RN, MEDSURG-BC, NP-BC**
Harris Health System
- 2023 Rosemary Pine, PhD, RN, NP-BC**
Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
- 2022 Lisa Elizabeth Pali, BSN, RN, CPN**
Texas Children's Hospital - The Woodlands
- 2021 Daphny Grace M. Peneza, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM**
Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
- 2020 Stephanie Jeansonne MSN, RN, CNRN, CCRN-K, SCRNP**
Houston Methodist Hospital
- 2019 Jennifer Luna MBA, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, CVRN-BC, RN-BC**
Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital
- 2018 Dora Kuntz MS, RN-BC**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2017 Lynn O'Dowd Bell MSN, RN, CNOR**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2016 Odette Comeau DNP, RN, CCRN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2015 Millie Toth MS, RN, AOCN**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2014 Christella Whitcher MBA, BS, OCN, RN-BC**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2013 Wendi Froedge RN, MSN, CCRN**
Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
- 2012 Marlene Walden PhD, RN, NNP-BC, CCNS**
Texas Children's Hospital
- 2011 Catherine Ivash MSN, CNS, RN-BC**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2010 Margaret (Maggi) Rachal Dodds RN, MS, CPNP**
Baylor College of Medicine & Texas Children's Hospital

NURSING EDUCATION: FACULTY

- 2024 Gloria M. Rose, PhD, NP-C, FNP-BC**
Prairie View A&M University, College of Nursing
- 2023 Sabrina Pickens, PhD, RN, APN-BC, GNP-BC**
Texas Woman's University
- 2022 Ming (Huey-Ming) Tzeng, PhD, RN, FAAN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

- 2021 Sharron Forest DNP, APRN, NNP-BC**
The University of Texas Medical Branch
- 2020 Rebecca Krepper PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC**
Texas Woman's University
- 2019 Myron Arnaud DNP, CRNA**
UTHealth School of Nursing
- 2018 Mary Ellen Trail Ross DrPH, MSN, RN, GCNS-BC**
Cizik School of Nursing at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- 2017 Anne Young Ed.D., RN**
Texas Woman's University
- 2016 Carolyn A. Phillips PhD, RN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch
- 2015 Thomas B. Mendez RN, PhD**
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston
- 2014 Linda Rounds PhD, RN, FNP, FAANP, FAAN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston
- 2013 Brenda Binder PhD, APRN, PNP**
Nelda C. Stark College of Nursing – Texas Woman's University
- 2012 Jessica Peck RN, MSN, CPNP, CNE**
The University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing
- 2011 Alice Hill RN, PhD, FAAN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2010 Nancy Bergstrom PhD, RN, FAAN**
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing
- 2009 Huberta Corazon (Bette) iam Cozart RN, MS**
Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing
- 2008 JoAnn Blake PhD, RN**
Prairie View A&M College of Nursing
- 2007 Peggy Landrum RN, MS, PhD**
*Texas Woman's University
Nelda C. Stark College of Nursing Houston*
- 2006 Reane Schumann RN, MSN, PhD**
The University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing at Houston
- 2019 Charyl Bell-Gordon DNP, RN, FNP-C, CEN, NEA-BC**
Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital
- 2018 Emmanuel Javaluyas MSN, RN-C, NP-C, NE-BC**
Houston Methodist Hospital
- 2017 Alice Kohler MSN, RN, CCRN, CPAN, NE-BC**
Ben Taub General Hospital
- 2016 Elizabeth Gonzales DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN**
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- 2015 Roxanne Blackburn MS, RN, OCN**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2014 Jamie Heffernan RN, BSN, CCRN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2013 Leanne LeDeux RN, BSN**
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston
- 2012 P. Ann Colman RN, EdD, MPA, MSN, NI-BC**
The University of St. Thomas School of Nursing
- 2011 Linda M. Keenan RN-BC, BSN, MPA, NMCC, CPUR**
Harris County Hospital District
- 2010 Jean Dols PhD, FACHE, RN, NEA-BC**
CHRISTUS Health System

NURSING ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

- 2024 Petra Grami, DNP, RN, CCRN-K, CEN, NE-BC**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2023 Mila Sprouse, EdD, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, NE-BC**
CHI St. Luke's Health
- 2022 Aimee Jackson, DNP, MSN, BSN, RNC-OB, CNOR-E, RDMS-OB, WHNP-BC**
Texas Children's Hospital Pavilion for Women
- 2021 Ninotchka Brydges PhD, DNP, APRN, MBA, ACNP-BC, FNAP**
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 2020 Patricia Lewis PhD, NEA-BC, CNML**
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital



Clinical Practice in a Large Hospital

Jessy Sabu Philip, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, CWCN

Nurse Practitioner, Geriatrics

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Dr. Jessy Philip's parents instilled in her the importance of hard work, compassion, and caring, which led to her decision to become a nurse. "When I was 15, my mom was sick with diabetes and recovering from a stroke, so I took care of her in addition to my other family responsibilities and my studies," she says. "The experience inspired me to choose nursing as a career."

A nurse for 35 years, Dr. Philip has practiced in units that span the life cycle, from labor and delivery to pediatrics to her current role as a geriatric nurse practitioner who, with her team, manages a Community Living Center (CLC) unit with 30 patients at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. She worked at the bedside for 17 years before transitioning to the role of geriatric nurse practitioner 18 years ago. She has served at Houston's VA medical center for the last five years.



"Our geriatric population has complex and challenging issues that can include multiple chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and geriatric syndrome, which may manifest as dementia, depression, delirium, and polypharmacy," she says. "Many veterans also have PTSD. Caring for them is a great opportunity to improve their quality of life and lead them to healthy aging. Serving those who have served our country gives me great joy. These people are resilient and have stories to tell, and we see the impact of our work daily through our outcomes. Many of our discharged patients keep our faces in their minds. They come back to say hello because they're grateful for the care we provide."

Dr. Philip is an active participant in two quality-improvement projects: medication management to reduce polypharmacy and prevent complications caused by multiple medications and vaccinating the CLC's long-term care patients for pneumococcal pneumonia and influenza within seven days of their admission. Both efforts have been successful.

"A certified wound care nurse, Dr. Philip treats patients and their families like her own family members. What sets her apart is not just her clinical expertise but her ability to form meaningful relationships with patients and families," wrote her nominator Tinsy Binoy, AGACNP, APRN, GSC. "She takes the time to explain complex medical diseases and procedures in an easy-to-understand way, ensuring that patients feel informed about their care. Her colleagues praise her frequently for her teamwork, mentorship, and her willingness to assist others whenever needed. Her unwavering professionalism, dedication to patient-centered care, and her ability to remain calm under pressure make her an exemplary nurse."

Dr. Philip considers nursing both a profession and a calling. "Our empathy and patience mean a lot to patients and families," she says. "It's important to maintain integrity and practice based on your moral principles. Be committed and accountable, and be an advocate for yourself, your coworkers, and your patients. Treat your patients with dignity. The 2010 Institute of Medicine Report addresses the future of nursing from 2020 to 2030, saying that nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training and pursue higher education, build partnerships to improve the health care system, and participate in collaborative efforts to build a better infrastructure. That's always my advice to new nurses."





Clinical Practice in a Small Hospital

Grace Dompseh, MHA, BSN, RN, CWON, CLSSYB
*Wound Program Manager, Medical-Surgical Administration
Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital*

As a child, Grace Dompseh's brother would say he wanted to be a doctor, and she would say she wanted to be a nurse. "Then a very nice nurse unknowingly encouraged me," she recalls. "I had a minor procedure done and had to go to the physician's office every morning for dressing changes, and she was a great cheerleader and very comforting. I thought I'd like to be the person who comforts people during difficult times."

Her desire to be an ostomy nurse came out of nowhere. "I was about six months pregnant and saw an ad and told my husband I wanted to go back to school to learn wound care. That was 25 years ago and at the time there weren't many hospitals with wound, ostomy, and continence (WOC) nurses," she says. "My husband was a great encourager, so I went back to school."



When the couple moved to Houston, she saw an ad for the wound, ostomy, and continence nursing program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. "I thought this is my time to get into it, and I applied," she says. "And I love it! I love our ability to make such a huge difference in the lives of our patients."

A move to the Harris Health System allowed Grace to grow in her role. In her new position, she learned how to incorporate quality management and quality outcomes into patient safety initiatives, all of which piqued her interest. "It allowed me to marry an important aspect of care into what I was doing to develop skin care champions," she says. "We learned a lot from working with our quality team, including root cause analysis and how to track our trends and patient outcomes. It's been quite fulfilling."

In the words of her nominator Ama K. Acheampong, MSN, APRN, CWON-AP, RN-BC, "Grace was the author and lead reviewer of our pressure injury prevention policy that led to a more comprehensive and up-to-date evidence-based policy for our organization. In 2023, with the acknowledgement of the challenges of darker skin tone assessment, she led the project for better skin tone assessment with grand rounds, staff education, and EMR optimization. By developing and promoting this method, she ensured that wound care assessments are accurate and equitable, leading to a hospital-wide decrease in the pressure injury rate from 1.06 to 0.52 per 1,000 patient days. She also spearheaded the development of the HAPI Tool Kit, which has become an essential resource for nurses, streamlining the process of identifying and preventing pressure injuries. To bridge gap for patients with low income or lack of insurance, she created the Wound Ostomy Community Resources List, which connects patients and caregivers with additional care options, education, and resources vital for long-term management of wound care. Audits she developed have led to a thorough and continuous evaluation of care practices, helping to identify areas for improvement and ensuring that best practices are being followed consistently across our institution. She also created a comprehensive range of reference materials across service lines, which provide clinicians with easy access to evidence-based guidelines."

"At Harris Health, we don't work in siloes," says Grace, who has been a nurse for 33 years. "We're encouraged to work with other departments to develop a better understanding of providing care. I know I'm where I am because of others who poured their knowledge into me. I wanted the chance to do that for other nurses, so that when I move on, they can step in and do the work."





Nursing Education: Faculty

Morgan Cangelosi, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CCRN

Assistant Professor

The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston



Morgan Cangelosi became a nurse to make a difference. "I find nursing to be an incredibly rewarding profession," she says. "It's an opportunity to come home after work and know that you've made a difference in someone's life, and that's the greatest feeling. I love having the opportunity to share my passion for nursing with students, so that they are prepared to be our future."

An Apple Distinguished Educator, Morgan believes that innovation is important in nursing. "Technology is changing our profession at a pace we've never seen before. Nobody goes into nursing saying I want to be a tech guru," she says. "We are nurses because we want to take care of people. But it's important to prepare students to deal with this rapid evolution."

UTMB is an Apple Distinguished School, an innovative designation granted by invitation only, a recognition that the institution uses technology to excel in education and foster creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking in its students. "All our students have iPads, which helps them be better prepared when they walk into clinical," she says. "We've worked hard to ensure that our labs are focused on critical thinking and our students are well prepared for practice."

In the words of her nominator Linda Rounds, PhD, APRN-FNP, FAANP, FAAN, "Morgan is proud to be a nurse and firmly believes it is the best profession anyone could choose. As an educator, she is always focused on the real world of nursing. Her goal is to share her passion for nursing and inspire a new generation of nurses dedicated to improving patient care and health outcomes. Knowing that she has made a difference in her students' learning, which translates to practice, is the reward for her efforts. She is one of the most creative educators I know, constantly seeking new ways to present material that is meaningful and applicable in the real world of nursing. Her innovations are designed to meet students where they are, enabling them to learn, achieve competence, and apply their learning to practice. She integrates technology into her teaching methods, allowing her to address different learning styles, acknowledge generational differences in learning, and inject some fun into the process. She is adept at helping students become comfortable with health care technology and has participated in developing and implementing the school's rural telehealth certificate program, creating content and simulations to introduce baccalaureate students to this new and sometimes challenging method of patient care."

"Telehealth is here to stay," Morgan says. "Patients like it for its convenience. We have had students who have gone on mission trips using telehealth, and they are in demand. We created a telehealth clinic as an opportunity for students to learn how to do a good examination remotely."

Outside the classroom, she serves as an advisor to UTMB's Student Nurses Association, encouraging aspiring nurses to take responsibility for SNA activities and assume leadership roles. "Her enthusiasm for her role as an educator is genuine," Dr. Rounds wrote. "She is constantly learning from their experiences and challenges, which ensures that she meets people where they are."

"I really appreciate the opportunity to help move nursing forward," Morgan says. "I want all our students to be successful. I listen to their concerns and encourage them to aspire to excellence. I want them to reach for the stars."





Non-Hospital Based Care

Richel C. Aliboso, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, AGACNP-BC
Nurse Practitioner and ALS Multidisciplinary Clinic Coordinator
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center



In her role as coordinator of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Multidisciplinary Clinic, Richel Aliboso is part of the VA's core mission to provide the best care for American veterans and their families. She supports veterans who have ALS by assessing their care needs, providing education, and making sure their families have the resources they need to provide care at home. She also serves as a link between the multidisciplinary providers who care for patients at the clinic.

"I work with a team of experts and hard-working clinicians who inspire me to do my best every day," Richel says. "These are our nation's heroes, and it's deeply meaningful to me to serve them. People with a history of active-duty military service are 1.5 times more likely to develop ALS than the general population, which is why the VA is so supportive of veterans with the condition."

Over the years, she has come to understand how fragile life is. "From symptom onset, our patients have two to five years to live," she says. "One day they come to the clinic and are up and walking, and the next time they come, they've lost function and are in a wheelchair. They've taught me to appreciate every single moment of life. Some say, 'Richel, I just want to live a few more months so that I can see my grandchild graduate from kindergarten.' Those are the milestones we share with our patients every day."

A nurse for 30 years, Richel began caring for veterans at the VA Memphis Healthcare System and moved to Michael E. DeBakey in 2012. Ten years later, she joined James Orengo, MD, PhD, her nominator and an associate professor of neurology at Baylor College of Medicine, to start a new multidisciplinary clinic for ALS patients in Houston. "We needed someone hard working, driven by compassion to help patients, a problem-solver always looking for how we can get to 'yes,' and someone with institutional experience at the VA," Dr. Orengo wrote. "Before we started this clinic, veterans were going out to the community for ALS care. They often had a long wait to diagnosis, and by the time they came back to the VA, their disease had progressed so far that they were bed bound. They lost time and access to the resources the VA can provide for ALS, such as adaptive equipment, medications, and breathing devices."

The clinic uses a model endorsed by the ALS Association. The patient comes in for four hours and sees a multidisciplinary team that includes a neurologist, pulmonologist, psychiatrist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist, nutritionist, social worker, and others as needed. "Ms. Aliboso is the glue that holds the team together," he wrote. "She interfaces with the patient during and between visits. Within a year of starting the clinic, we were honored with the very prestigious designation of center of excellence by the ALS Association."

Dr. Orengo cites an example of her care for veterans. "In July 2024, we found out the weekend before landfall that Beryl would be a direct hit to Houston. Richel drove from her home to the VA on a Sunday to call our ALS patients on ventilators to make sure they had a backup plan in case they lost power," he wrote. "The hurricane was worse than expected, and our clinic was closed the entire week. She helped reschedule all these patients so I could see them virtually and checked on them again later in the week. I could list several dozen other examples of her tireless commitment. Our ALS veterans often tell me that Richel is the best part of coming to our clinic."





Clinical Educator

Joycelyn Westbrook, MPH, BSN, RN-BC

Clinical Nurse Educator

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center



Joycelyn Westbrook has been an integral part of the Veterans Administration for more than 42 years, practicing at three different facilities. "I've enjoyed taking care of America's heroes. They are the best patients ever!" she says. "My dad was a veteran. I owe the VA for their care for him in his last days, so I am so proud and happy that I've been able to fulfill my dream of giving back."

When she moved to Houston and transitioned into education, she found her niche. "I love training the next generation of nurses because we have some of the brightest and best nurses in the world at our facility," she says. "That's why I keep showing up."

Joycelyn plays a pivotal role in the Texas Medical Center's Collaborative Medical/Surgical Certification Review Course, bringing together a network of institutions, including The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston Methodist Hospital,

St. Joseph Medical Center, Park Plaza Hospital, Harris Health System, the UTHealth Houston Cizik School of Nursing, and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. As chair of the planning committee, she takes the lead in organizing this two-day virtual course offering 14 continuing education credits for more than 250 participants.

She collaborates annually with the Zeta Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi sorority, a professional nursing organization, to plan and execute "Love Pink on the Lot," an inspiring celebration honoring breast cancer survivors. During the event, survivors share their stories of resilience, serving as reminders of hope.

Each year, she spearheads community initiatives for the Star of Hope Mission, which serves individuals experiencing homelessness. Partnering with nursing organizations, she orchestrates sessions that provide essential services to women residing in the shelter. By donating makeup and skin care products, she creates opportunities for these women to reclaim their self-worth as they work to rebuild their lives.

"Mrs. Westbrook has established an extraordinary nursing career characterized by remarkable leadership, an unwavering commitment to serving our veterans, and a deep-rooted passion for enhancing our community's wellbeing," wrote her nominator JoAnn Bonds, MSN, CRRN. "She is deeply engaged in community activities that benefit military families by providing critical infant and child CPR training through the Women's Health Initiative of the Veterans Health Administration. Beyond her contributions to nursing education, Mrs. Westbrook is a passionate advocate for female veterans. Her commitment to education extends to her involvement in community service events aimed at teaching children about physical health and promoting healthy eating habits, ensuring that the importance of wellness is instilled in the younger generation."

"Mrs. Westbrook is also a fearless advocate for federal employees' rights," JoAnn wrote. "In 2024, she testified before Congress on behalf of 75,000 Title 38 employees, who include nurses, physician assistants, physicians, dentists, and other health care professionals. In February 2025, she participated in a significant rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, voicing her concerns about the injustices faced by federal employees. Her dedication and advocacy were evident in her meetings with key lawmakers, where she passionately articulated the pressing needs of federal public servants and advocated for legislative support. Mrs. Westbrook embodies positivity, infectious enthusiasm, and exceptional unity among her peers."

"Going to Congress, oh my goodness, that was so exciting and nerve wracking," Joycelyn says. "I gave my testimony and felt a sense of something so much larger than myself. Nurses are the backbone of this country and I'm super proud to be part of this group of men and women who give their best every day. I know I'll be leaving our profession in good hands."



Nursing Administration and Leadership

Shelby R. Boone, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC, CPN

Director for Advanced Practice Providers

Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital

Shelby Boone vividly remembers her first days as a new nurse and then later, as a new nurse practitioner. "Being able to walk a new nurse practitioner through the experience is incredibly rewarding. Seeing them on day one and watching them grow into very strong, confident providers is really fulfilling."

Shelby was recruited to Texas Children's Hospital to create a new inpatient service line of advanced practice providers. "It's been a joy to watch the team grow," she says.

She remembers her first day at Texas Children's. "I walked across one of our skybridges and saw a Frozen dance party in progress. Some kids were bald, some were in wheelchairs, some had feeding tubes, but all these Frozen characters were dancing with kids with IV poles and their parents, and I thought what an incredible place to be part of," she says.



At the age of 12, Shelby was treated for bone cancer. "I always wanted to work with people who are in a similar situation to be able to say, 'I understand. Things will be okay. You're going to get past this, and someday it will be in your rearview mirror.'"

In the words of her nominator Brandi Runnels, MMS, MS, PA-C, "Shelby is highly regarded by her colleagues for her excellent patient care, leadership skills, and dedication to her patients as well as her team. She has received multiple clinical awards, including the Baylor College of Medicine Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, the Marilyn Hockenberry Award for Advanced Practice Provider Excellence, the Brown Foundation Award for Excellence in Oncology Nursing, the James Ragan Award for Dedication to Children with Cancer, and the Oncology Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award. Since assuming leadership of our hematology-oncology APP team, Shelby has served as a mentor for this group, growing it by more than 200%. She established an orientation program that caters both to experienced and newly graduated APPs and includes didactic and clinical training in multiple modalities. She helped develop an APP lecture series in which experts in the field give weekly lectures. She is extremely dedicated to the mission of providing the best experience and highest level of care for our patients. With this goal in mind, she serves on more than 30 division and hospital-wide committees."

"We all come into nursing with a bit of imposter syndrome," Shelby says. "We may feel like everyone knows more than we do or that we have nothing to offer. I remind new nurses and nurse practitioners that they bring something to the table regardless of their level of experience."

She recalls a young patient she cared for early in her career. "She was my bright spot, my reason for getting out of bed in the morning. She was my favorite patient, even though we're not supposed to have favorites. She posted a picture of the two of us on social media before she passed away and wrote, 'When you're sad, you're really not sad. You're blind to the good things in your life. There's always a crack of light in the darkness. Find it.' Patients are our cracks of light and our bright spots even as we are the cracks of light for them."

"Kids are always kids and that's my favorite thing about pediatrics. Our patients have very serious, life-threatening diagnoses and yet they still want to go to the art studio and color, play with the dogs, and do all those things a kid wants to do. Seeing that reminds us to look for the joy, no matter what we're going through."



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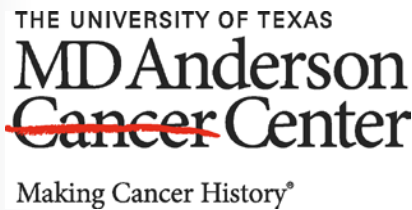
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