

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Chantell Gignac for the Inaugural Bedside Nursing Excellence Award. Chantell embodies what a nursing professional should be! She is an astute clinician, capable, intelligent, and technically gifted. Moreover, she approaches each patient with a level of care, compassion and attention that is exemplary and a model for everyone around her. Chantell completes her work quietly, calmly and without fuss. In all the years I've known her, I have never seen her lose her cool, her composure, or break stride even in the most stressful situations. Chantell began her career at SickKids on 4D cardiology in January 2000 and transitioned to the Cardiac Critical Care Unit in 2004. Chantell has distinguished herself as a clinical leader, patient advocate and teacher/mentor to junior colleagues.

Chantell embodies the adaptability and excellence of a cardiac critical care nurse expert. She efficiently and empathetically can transition between all the relevant nursing roles in our unit and fully inhabit each one. She is an accomplished and calm charge nurse, clinical support nurse or expert bedside nurse depending on her role on any given day and in each of these roles is a passionate nurse advocate for her patients and colleagues and a mentor to her junior colleagues. Experienced physicians realize that the nurse providing care at the bedside outperforms the best early warning system, artificial intelligence algorithms, and practice guidelines available. After over a decade practising alongside Chantell, there is no one who I would prefer to see at the bedside caring for the sickest children in our unit. I trust her assessments implicitly and am guided by her input. Steve Schwartz shared "the moments that stand out for me are more than one occasion where I've raced in to put a patient on ECMO and she's there, having organized everyone and everything. She's holding people accountable for proper PPE and sterile technique while making sure that all the nurses are supported, and the parents are in the loop. Probably the highest compliment I can give is that even though I have 25 years of experience as an attending myself, I'm always happy to see she's there, especially in those types of situations". Another clinician shared a situation with an ECMO patient with cannula disruption and exsanguination and resuscitation. Chantell not only performed exceptionally as the charge nurse in the code, but following, she took the time to check in on the staff physician who was relatively junior to give her space to express emotions, check if she needed a debrief, suggest self-care, and used her trademark humour to connect and provide some emotional relief. As a nurse Chantell is present, dedicated, skilled and caring. Since the beginning her approach has been to go above and beyond.

It is impossible to narrow Chantell's nursing career to a single episode that encapsulates her excellence as a cardiac ICU nurse, and perhaps a more meaningful approach is to offer insights into what she would undoubtedly proclaim as "that's just doing my job." Chantell's excellence is evident in how she calmly and expertly supports new fellows and even new attendings as they work through problems. As an example, Michael-Alice Moga remembered a time as a trainee when her ECMO patient lost their central line containing continuous infusions, and it was Chantell that pointed out how they could temporarily use the ECMO circuit to deliver the drugs while they placed a new line. Her excellence is also evident in how she always connects with the families at the bedside, supporting them while their child is critically ill, learning about their family as a whole and how their child is a part of the family unit. It is evident in how she always ensures families have sleep rooms and accommodations while their child is in the CCCU. It is

evident in how she always invites fellows to her home for holidays when they cannot travel home to see their own families. It is evident in how both junior and senior nursing staff seek her out when they need assistance. It is evident in how she works to encourage her team and lead by example in terms of excellent and meticulous nursing practice. It is my pleasure to nominate her for this auspicious award without hesitation or reservation, as I can see no one more deserving.