

The Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society:

We would be honored to nominate Ellen Scanlon, CVICU RN from Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford for the inaugural award in nursing excellence being awarded by the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society. Ellen's nursing experience dates back to 2005 where she began to develop her passion for patients with congenital heart disease. She has been in the CVICU at LPCH since 2008 where she has worked ever since. Ellen has grown as a CVICU nurse, into a nursing leader amongst her peers. Over the years we have watched as she has ushered in new graduate nurses at the bedside with respect and grace. Not only has she helped with the growth of nurses, she is also a strong educator at the bedside for all members of the team including Fellow Physicians, Advanced Practice Providers, Respiratory Therapists, and students alike.

Ellen practices at the top of her scope with specialized skills as a primer and expert in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), Ventricular Assist Devices including PediMag/CentriMag, Impella, Berlin Heart, HeartMate 3, HeartMate 2, and Syncardia. She is also skilled in Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy, Peritoneal Dialysis, and Aquapheresis.

Not only does Ellen excel in all of these skills, she also teaches her peers and colleagues. She provides direct bedside education to RNs in all the skills listed above, as well as helps provide real time education at the bedside to new CVICU Advanced Practice Providers. Ellen's additional leadership duties include Charge Nurse, Clinical Support/Buffer, ECMO support/buffer, and a VAD superuser.

Ellen has served as interim Nurse Educator and was proactive in helping promote new projects throughout the unit. She has been directly involved in rolling out projects that have aimed to reduce bedside burn out from text message notifications, CAP-D scoring education, and CLABSI/CAUTI bundle education to name a few. She is extremely reliable and dependable whether it is at the bedside, or working on quality and/or educational improvement projects.

In years past, Ellen has served as Co-Chair of the CVICU Local Improvement Team helping to improve care and reduce hospital acquired infections. Other notable institutional involvement includes; QAPI Committee, CNO Advisory Committee, and the Cardiac ICU Neurodevelopmental Team. In addition, Ellen has been nominated for two Nightingale awards for clinical excellence in nursing and received numerous bedside awards for crisis response with early recognition, teaching, and mentoring.

One example of her clinical excellence occurred when she was the nurse for the ECMO circuit on a patient who had struggled with bleeding so was off anticoagulation. Ellen recognized the early signs of circuit DIC and advocated for a circuit change despite hemodynamic stability because in her experience she knew this patient had a high likelihood of an acute event if intervention did not happen imminently. While this was being organized, she directed the less experienced patient nurse through the process of setting up for an emergency procedure including thinking through sedation, a code event and other potential complications. Even amid

an urgent clinical situation, Ellen was taking the opportunity to teach the less experienced nurse. Because of Ellen's exceptional clinical assessment skills and experience, the patient was transitioned to a new circuit without a cardiac arrest event.

Based on Ellen's excellent clinical skills, her dedication to improving our unit and patient care through education and her commitment to the patients and families, it is with honor that we recommend her for this award.

Sincerely,

Laura Presnell MSN, ACNP-BC

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