

W I N T E R 2 0 2 1

the Preemie Press

Volume 29, Issue 1

2021 Board Members

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Letter From the President

Michelle Ferrant, DNP, ACCNS-N, RNC-NIC

What a year 2020 was – we anticipated celebrating you all and the Year of the Nurse throughout the whole year. As we all know, 2020 had different plans for us all. Last year brought more than we thought we could handle; we know many of you too are struggling, tired, overworked both at work and home. You are all in our thoughts, and we are in your corner rooting for each of you.

For DVANN, it meant re-imagining our events and how to support our membership. We are proud that we were able to offer several virtual education events, support virtual dinners, continue to provide for our community through our Philabundance online food drive and attend in person meal support at MANNA. We are proud to have been able to offer our financial support to organizations that align with our mission to promote diversity and work towards being an anti-racist community. We will be continuing to offer our “town hall” style advocacy lectures and group discussions.

One thing I am certain of is that we will get through this and be able to take the lessons learned from 2020 and come out even stronger. We now have the knowledge that even during extreme adversity, we were able to rely on our local, national and international neonatal nursing community and remain committed to provide the best care to our patients.

The DVANN Board & I thank each and every one of you for all that you have done, are doing and we are committed to stand beside and for you. We hope 2021 will bring us back together in person, but until that is safe again – we will continue with virtual events and strive to bring you professional development opportunities as we have always done.

Stay safe and be well, we will get through this together.

Respectfully,

Michelle Ferrant

Meet Our Newest Board Members!

Annemarie Deeley, MSN, RNC-NIC, CNL *Education Chair*

My name is Annemarie Stopyra Deeley. I am a Certified, Registered Nurse with 30 years experience in the ICN at Pennsylvania Hospital. My role in the ICN is the Charge Nurse. My MSN is from Drexel University with a Certification as a Clinical Nurse Leader. I have presented at the Poster Sessions of the 2018 and 2019 NANN Conferences. I am currently working as a NANN team member on a Safe Staffing Position Statement.



Michele Farley, MSN, RNC-NIC *Secretary*

Michele Farley, MSN, RNC-NIC, graduated from Thomas Jefferson in 2012 and joined the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia NICU team in January of 2015. She has worked at CHOP for the past 6 years as first a bedside RN and has since transitioned into various progressive leadership roles. She has remained a strong advocate for the neonatal population and their families and received her NICU Nurse certification in the summer of 2017. She currently works as a clinical supervisor in the NICU, and has supported and coached her staff, helped to rebuild the retention and navigator mentoring programs, and led improvement work for her current unit. Michele's strong passion for neonatal nursing, patient safety, shared governance, and Magnet nursing led her to serve as the role as Magnet co-champion leading Magnet work at the organizational level as well as the Peripheral Intravenous Infiltration and Extravasations (PIVIE) nursing lead for the organization's harm prevention program in Fall of 2019. Additionally, Michele has recently graduated with her Master's Degree in Nursing Leadership Executive Track from Wilmington University. In the future, Michele is looking forward to continuing to grow at CHOP and aspires to be an influential and engaging transformational nursing leader.

Michelle Sohlich-Miller, BSN, RN, BS, RNC-NIC, CBC *Treasurer*

My first degree is a BS from Chestnut Hill College. I decided to go to nursing school and graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in 2003 with my BSN. I have worked in the Intensive Care Nursery at Pennsylvania Hospital since 2002, and also in the ICN at Lankenau Hospital since 2007. I enjoy working in two different units and learning about different approaches in the medical treatment of neonates.

At PAH, I am currently the Co-Chair of the Nutrition Committee, the Women's Health Outreach Committee, and the Reunion Committee. I am also an active member of the unit Practice Council. I am a Women's Services Epic Ambassador and an NRP Instructor. I am also involved in other various projects in the ICN. I look forward to becoming more involved in DVANN in a leadership role.



2020 Award Winners

To celebrate Nurses Week, we asked all of you to share your stories of why you're proud to be a nurse. We received numerous submissions, but when the DVANN board read Williette's submission, it was the clear stand-out. She received a complimentary one-year NANN & DVANN membership along with a self-care package. Congratulations Williette!



Nursing has always felt like more than a career to me. It is something that I am extremely passionate about. I use every situation to learn and grow into reaching my full potential as a NICU nurse.

When I was 15 years old, my mother passed away from breast cancer. I had spent months praying for God to save her, to heal her. The morning my Dad came to tell me that she died, I was crushed beyond belief in realizing that she had not been "saved". The very night that she died, I had a dream of her coming to tell me the reason that she was taken from us so soon. She told me it was because God needed her to take care of the children in heaven. I woke up feeling a sense of calmness that I did not have the day before. That dream would later drive me down a career path of choosing to take care of the children here on earth, while feeling connected to my Mother. She wasn't a nurse by trade, but she was a nurse at heart. She was caring, loving, compassionate, empathetic, non-judgmental, funny, and loving. She and my father had given me all the tools I needed to be successful as a nurse. I strive everyday to demonstrate those same qualities to my coworkers, my patients, and their families.

I started my career as a pediatric nurse on a neurosurgery/ neurological unit at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. I would often times go and visit the NICU because that was where my heart longed to be. I was terrified of leaving my comfort zone, so while in Atlanta, I would just get glimpses of the dim lights and star filled ceilings that housed the smallest and most fragile little babies.

Fast forward to my move back to the East Coast, I landed a job in one of the top Neonatal Intensive Care Units in the country, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. That is where I was shaped into the NICU nurse that I am today. I currently work in a level III NICU at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania. My job allows me to provide care to the smallest, most fragile, and vulnerable babies. I am able to provide education and support to a diverse group of Moms as they begin, or continue on the journey of being a parent.

People ask me all the time, how and why can you do this? My answer is always the same....I can not stop babies from being born early, or ill, I can not stop babies from dying, but what I can do is offer my heart and soul to parents going through the most challenging times. I can provide care, compassion and watch the smallest human beings remind me what strength looks like. For the babies that do not make it, I can remind myself that while I am here on earth taking care of children, I know in my heart that there are mothers like mine that will take care of them and embrace them.

I have longed to become a part of an organization like DVANN/NANN. When I saw this opportunity to describe why I wanted to be a nurse in order to have registration waived, I said no more excuses.

Williette Walker, BSN, RN, CBC

2020 Award Winners

Our 2020 Professional Development Award winner is Kira Parkin. This award recognizes and encourages professional development in neonatal nursing. She will receive a complimentary conference registration and \$500. Congratulations Kira!

Kira has been dedicated to research, education, evidence-based practice and the impact of bringing to our unit over the last year in such a strong way. As Advanced practiced education chair she has helped to explain the WHY behind so many education initiatives/changes. She has also met unit needs and continues to tweak the way information and roll-outs get to our unit to ensure it happens in an impactful way with buy-in. She has helped build the professional development week through education and a multi-modal approach. She has also helped build our certified nurses and PEAK nurses in the unit by over 5% over the last year. She has also helped to lead through preceptor work at the hospital level and top of license (TOL) work at the hospital level as well. She has helped to gather evidence-based practice, evaluate it and provide recommendations. She has helped to transform the preceptor approach and support for the role during a time we continued to hear about the challenges of this frontline leader role. She is so well spoken about the approach to education and will do wonderful things with her MSN as she moves forward as a unit-level and hospital leader! Her commitment to research, improvement & excellence is felt by all those around her and in all roles. She supports the DVANN mission by her love for education & patients. She is currently enrolled in her MSN & worked to help take the neuro NICU exam and gain awareness at the unit level. Although she did not pass the exam the first time, she is committed to this neuro education & passing this exam (then helping to get others certified as well!). Her involved in neonatal nursing as a NICU RN, Advanced Practice Education Chairperson, Preceptor, Mentor, MSN student & an educator at the hospital-level critical care orientation days are amazing! She is also eager to get even more involved in DVANN and education opportunities. This award would help her so much as she works to re-take the neuro NICU exam & complete her MSN simultaneously. We are so happy to have her on NICU East! Thank you for considering Kira Parkin for this prestigious award.

Our 2020 REACH award winner is Allie Kleinschmidt. The goal of this award is to recognize and encourage nurses who reach further to touch lives in one of five categories: Research, Education, Advancing bedside nursing, Community interest, or Humanitarianism. She will receive a one-year complimentary NANN/DVANN membership and a complimentary DVANN conference registration. Congratulations Allie!

As the world navigates COVID-19, nurses and other healthcare workers are obviously still reporting to work, Allie took it upon herself to go above and beyond during this stressful and unpredictable time to advocate for her fellow nurses in the NICU. She reached out to a coffee company to inquire about providing coffee to the nurses who are working through this pandemic. She helped to provide coffee to all NICU staff in the form of k-cups, coffee bags and gift cards. She is championing humanitarianism through the retention/recognition of the hard-working neonatal work. She is the Supporting Practice Management Chairperson for NICU East at CHOP & has helped to start/lead the first ever scheduling committee and recognition/retention committee on the unit. The work of these committees under her guidance has helped to build an innovative professional educational approach to nurses week, a new innovative scheduling process & celebration for the unit's employees milestones/achievement. Her work is always aligned to improve morale. And as we know, engaged/happy employees provide great care to patients/families. The families can feel this recognition of our staff and feel that pride/care when provided to them. Allie always leads by example by being positive and happy at work, regardless of the circumstances. Her optimistic and upbeat attitude puts families at ease, even in the most trying times of their lives. When her teammates are having a difficult or busy shift, she is always there to lend a hand or send a bravo. Allie is a great role model at CHOP and she deserves to know how much we appreciate her! I look forward to her continued involvement in DVANN/NANN & I know she will use this award/recognition to continue to grow, support staff & find endless ways to value nurse resilience in trying times.

Podcast Update

Jennifer Hart, MSN, RNC-NIC, CBC

- ❖ 3 years going strong!
- ❖ 5 stars on iTunes (out of 5 star ratings) Subscribed members world-wide in over 15 countries
- ❖ Partnership with PENN physician group: Baby Doctor Mamas in 2019 (collaboration podcast posted on our site)
- ❖ Over 6,200 listens to date
- ❖ Over 5,800 listens in Philadelphia since April 2017
- ❖ 2020 achievements:
 - First partner panel
 - Virtual podcast recording completed!



Needed:

- Experts
- Hosts
- Topic Contributors
- **Interested in helping with the podcast and/or becoming a podcast board mentee?**
- **Email:** Hartjenn21@gmail.com

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/dvanns-baby-buzz/id1229940517?mt=2&i=1000384745590>

Community Outreach Update

Joy Fleming, MSN, RNC-NIC

What a crazy year 2020 was for us all! Unfortunately, many of our events had to be held virtually. We miss our friends at Mothers Home- a residential home for expectant and new mothers. We are hoping to resume our monthly visits in 2021, but until then, you can always access their Facebook page to donate or learn more.

<https://www.facebook.com/mothershomeshelter>

In lieu of our annual Philabundance trip, we have partnered with them to hold a virtual food drive. Please consider contributing if you have the means to do so.



https://secure.philabundance.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=2684&pg=team&fr_id=1060



In October we were able to volunteer in person at MANNA to assist with meal prep. MANNA is an organization that prepares and delivers meals for medically needed individuals. Please also contact us at events@dvann.org if you have any ideas or suggestions for community service. **We love to hear from our members!**

Save the Date!



Annual Virtual Winter Dinner
Tuesday March 23, 2021

May 22, 2021
Stay tuned for more information!



SEE YOU IN DENVER

37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE | SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2021 | DENVER, COLORADO



DVANN Annual Fall Conference
Tuesday November 16, 2021