

UCI Health

Advanced Practice Providers Program

ADVANCED PRACTICE NEWS



SPRING 2021 ISSUE 4

Advanced Practice News

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"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP"

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OUR VISION STATEMENT

The UCI Health Advanced Practice Providers Program aims to be a leader in **patient-centered care, research, and "top of the license practice."** We believe that when APPs are used to their fullest potential, the entire healthcare system benefits.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

VASCO DEON KIDD, DHSC, MPH, MS, PA-C



I would like to personally welcome you to the fourth edition of the APP quarterly newsletter. As we head into summer season, I wanted to thank you ALL for your extraordinary example of hard work, dedication, compassion, and solidarity. Your efforts have helped us combat the coronavirus pandemic while at the same time creating a safe space for our patients to receive whole person care. Moreover, some of you have played an essential role in

helping to provide vaccines to vulnerable groups and communities.

As the economy continues to open up and we begin to adjust to the new normal, there will be tremendous opportunity to optimize our ecosystem to improve ambulatory capacity, patient progression, and throughput. This will be achieved by redesigning and enhancing the care team compliment and clinical workflows through innovation, cognitive diversity, and top-of-license best practice.

Additionally, APPs are essential in expanding our footprint in Orange County to meet the growing population of medically complex patients. As I close, I wanted to say a special thank you to ALL of our gifted, talented, compassionate, and dedicated nurses in celebration of National Nurses week from May 6 to May 12th. Thank you for all that you do. Stay safe and healthy!

Best Regards,

Vasco Deon Kidd

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: NP

CYNTHIA COURTNEY, NP

1) Tell us about your journey to becoming an NP.

I started my nursing career in the pediatric ICU, which I chose because I absolutely love children and like the challenge of caring for high acuity patients. After a few years of working in the PICU, I decided that I needed more of a challenge and wanted more autonomy. So I chose to enroll in the family nurse practitioner program at Ball State University in Indiana, my home state. During this time, I took a travel nursing position, which brought me to LA, where I continued working in the PICU while completing my studies. After graduating from the FNP program, I decided to specialize in hematology/oncology, and have had many amazing mentors along the way over the past 9 years.



2) Why did you choose your specialty?

I take care of patients with hematologic malignancies here at UCI, and while it can be challenging, it is fulfilling and deeply meaningful to connect with patients at one of the most difficult times in their lives.

3) Tell us about your day-to-day on the job.

A typical day at work consists of morning rounds as a team (attending MDs, fellows, NPs, residents, students) on hem-onc inpatients admitted for chemotherapy, stem cell transplant, or acute illness. After rounds, we write notes, collaborate with nursing staff and other specialists, and perform procedures including bone marrow biopsy and lumbar puncture. We also attend tumor board, care conferences, and attend other educational or care planning meetings. Generally, we round on patients in the early evening, and we sign out to the nocturnist covering our patients overnight. There is never a dull moment here.

4) What advice would you give an aspiring NP?

Working with oncology patients can be a very rewarding and intellectually stimulating experience. Also, make friends with your pharmacist. In 2019, oncology drugs received the most FDA approvals (11 out of 48 total).

5) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

I was once a world-ranked pinball player.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

WILLIAM TO, PA

1) Tell us about your journey to becoming a PA.

After watching the show Emergency! as a child, I achieved a childhood dream of becoming a Paramedic and worked in both San Diego and LA County for many years. During my paramedic training, I had the opportunity to work with a PA in the ER who would plant a seed that would grow into my career today. I attended Western University in Pomona and graduated in 2011. I started my career in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology and joined the UCI Department of Surgery as a Hepatobiliary PA in 2014.



2) Tell us about your day-to-day on the job.

My daily routine starts around 7 am, rounding on in-patients alongside surgical residents and students. After in-patient duties, I have outpatient clinic with various attending physicians three times weekly and have my own PA/NP clinic once a week. I facilitate multidisciplinary Hepatobiliary Tumor Board and attend M&M Conference and Surgical Grand Rounds weekly. My interactions with our medical assistants, nurses and patients change on a daily basis.

3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A rewarding part of my job is providing care to the families and patients dealing with hepatobiliary cancers. I share in their joys/triumphs and provide comfort/guidance when there are setbacks. I enjoy the collaborative nature of work at UCI and am grateful to be able to teach and guide our future doctors and PAs.

4) What advice would you give an aspiring PA?

Provide good direct patient care but also oversee the whole practice. Work with medical assistants and nurses to make the practice run smoother. Always try to remember to work smarter, not harder and to play to people's strengths, not weaknesses.

5) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

I am an avid Disneyland fan, having been an annual passholder since 1995. I've have enjoyed Mickey Treats at 4 of 6 Disney parks and unfortunately, COVID has delayed my "Grand Slam" to visit all the parks.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: CRNA

JULIET WILLIAMS, CRNA

1) Tell us about your journey to becoming a CRNA.

I was motivated to become a nurse because my mother was a nurse, and my father was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis which gave me reason to study the disease and care for him. As a nurse, I was inspired by an anesthesiologist who seemed to easily stabilize critical patients in her unit. I learned the lifestyle and knowledge gained from the profession matched what I wanted from my career. I was an RN for 4 years before graduating with a master's degree from Texas Wesleyan University and have been a CRNA for five years.



2) Why did you choose this specialty?

My mother worked in Labor and Delivery, so naturally I grew up around the unit. I was drawn to obstetrics because of the daily miracles of birth but also the unpredictability and how anesthesia is different from the typical operating room. I was assigned to the obstetric anesthesia team because of my strong desire to work in the specialty.

3) Tell us about your day-to-day on the job.

A common 12-hour shift includes arriving at 1900 and receiving report from the anesthesia provider leaving. Next, I will check the operating rooms and epidural carts to make sure they're set up and stocked. An obstetric huddle occurs at 2000 to discuss every patient on the floor. After that, I will round on patients and be ready for anything (difficult IVs, epidurals, and emergent cesareans) throughout the night.



4) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Being there for the mother, father, assisting with deliveries, and watching life begin is most rewarding. "It's a miracle of life." Admittedly, on a rare occasion I have cried from the pure enjoyment.

5) What advice would you give an aspiring CRNA?

Keep showing up every day. Some days are hard, but most days are happy and rewarding. Continue to learn and stay knowledgeable.

6) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

I was adopted at birth. At age 12, I had the chance to meet my biological mother and even today I continue to visit with my biological mother.

APP AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

We are excited to report that we will be implementing a new APP awards program in FY2022. This will ensure equity and transparency within the system and recognize the many achievements of individual APPs from diverse professional backgrounds. A nomination process along with specific criteria has been developed.

There will be three awards given this year which will include:

- **CRNA of the Year Award**
- **NP of the Year Award**
- **PA of the Year Award**

The awards will be determined by a panel of diverse APPs (3 CRNAs, 3 NPs and 3 PAs).



If you wish to volunteer to be part of the awards panel, please email Deon Kidd (vkidd@hs.uci.edu) or Mei Deng (meiweid@hs.uci.edu) for more information. We hope to seat the APP awards committee by no later than July 1, 2021.

More information regarding the award nomination process is available online at:

<https://app.health.uci.edu/app-awards/>

NEW APPS FY2021

We are pleased to welcome the new advanced practice providers to our team in FY2021.

Anesthesiology & Perioperative Care

- Brett M. Clement, CRNA
- Laurence B. Murillo, CRNA
- Keke Zheng, CRNA
- Lindsey A. Gorman, CRNA

Family Medicine

- An T. Pham, NP
- Ronald Soelimto, NP

Neurology

- Erica O. Castillo, NP

Medicine: Hematology/Oncology

- Hangama Abassi, NP
- Anna T. Dyer, NP

Medicine: Cardiology

- Carmina D. Inductivo, NP

Medicine: General Internal Medicine

- Karen M. Deck, NP

Surgery: Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care

- Amanda C. Tapp, NP



SPOTLIGHT ON APP ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY-MAY 2021



The purpose of this section is to recognize any achievements of the APP workforce during the months of February to May 2021. Future newsletters will continue to highlight APP awards, research publications, book chapters, poster presentations, and leadership nominations in your professional associations or at UCI Health. We firmly believe in giving spotlight to our amazing and dedicated APP workforce.

Valerie George, PA-C

- **Valerie George, PA-C** is involved in a study called CRAFT Healing at Home which was developed to work with the ED and Geriatrics to help offset the hospital admissions and treat people at home using home health, as well as help with the surge of COVID patients. In this ongoing feasibility study, Valerie George helped with enrolling patients, working alongside geriatricians with follow-throughs, and setting up administration pieces and protocols.

Jeffrey D. Vu, MS, RN, PHN, FNP-BC

- On May 25, 2021, **Jeffrey D. Vu, MS, RN, PHN, FNP-BC** will be graduating from Johns Hopkins University with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) and Masters in Business Administration (MBA) Dual Degree.

Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C

- **Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C** published a new research article titled "A National Survey of postgraduate physician assistant fellowship and residency programs" in BMC Medical Education. Open access publication can be read online at:
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-021-02613-y>
- **Kidd, V. D.** (2021, May). Physician Assistant Postgraduate Fellowship Expansion accepted poster presentation. Poster presented at the 2021 AAMC Group on Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) & Health Workforce Research Joint Conference virtual event.
<https://web.cvent.com/event/9bdacf8e-6732-4803-b2c3-89b5ee020faa/websitePage:645d57e4-75eb-4769-b2c0-f201a0bfc6ce>

APP GRAND ROUNDS

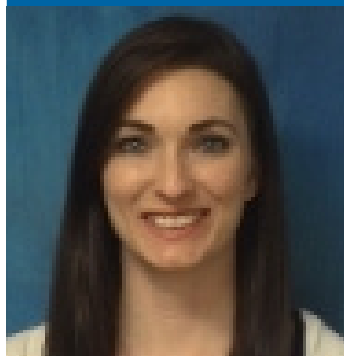
APP Grand Rounds is off to a wonderful start in 2021! Our compliance expert, Kathy LaPierre, CPC-CPMA, CEDC, CEMC provided us with billing and coding updates that affect APP practice, Dr. Sunil Verma, MD, MBA educated us on the continuum of tracheostomy care, and Dr. Miriam Bender, PhD, RN led us through a comprehensive discussion on implementation science. We've had notable participation in this educational series and look forward to having more APPs, physicians, and nursing colleagues join us in the future.

The next Grand Rounds sessions will be led by three of our Advanced Practice Providers. We are excited to hear Nilu Patel, DNAP, APRN, CRNA speak on "Local Anesthetics and Lipid Therapy," Kristen Ko, PHN, FNP-BC, CCTC present "Kidney and Pancreas Transplant," and Janette Villalon, PA-C discuss "Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)." These are sure to be exceptional presentations with broadly applicable principles for our dynamic provider team. We hope you can join us!

Of note, APP Grand Rounds is not yet CME eligible, however, our APP Grand Rounds Subcommittee is actively working on the CME application. Stay tuned for updates!

APP Grand Rounds is hosted on the second Monday of each month from 12:00pm-1:00pm via Zoom. Meeting links are sent out via email a week prior to the event. Please contact Mei Deng (meiweid@hs.uci.edu) if you need assistance in obtaining the Zoom information. All sessions are recorded and posted on our APP website at <https://app.health.uci.edu/grandrounds>.

Kristen Ko,
PHN, FNP-BC, CCTC



NP, Clinical Transplant
Coordinator

Kidney/Pancreas Transplant

Monday, June 14, 2021
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Janette Villalon,
PA-C



Physician Assistant

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

Monday, July 12, 2021
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Arielle Bivas,
MS, RN, AGPCNP-BC



Nurse Practitioner

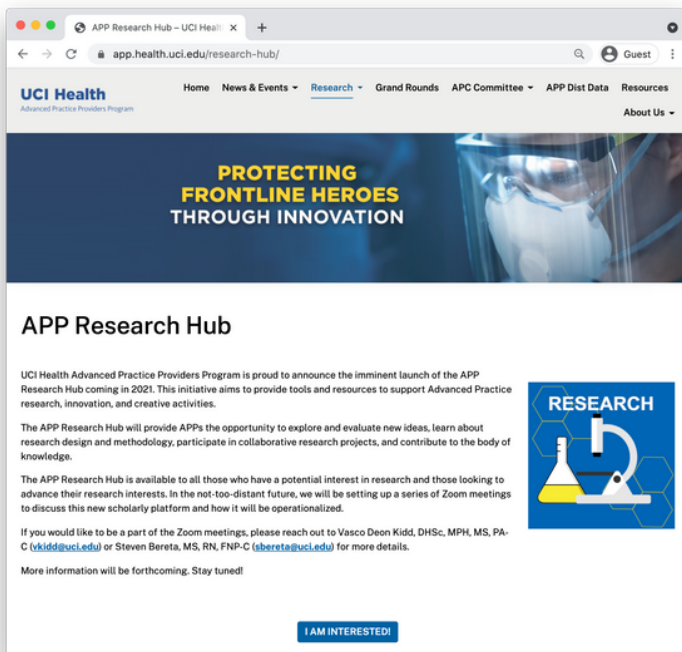
Erectile Dysfunction

Monday, August 9, 2021
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

APP RESEARCH HUB: MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We will be hosting our quarterly APP research hub virtual meeting in the next several weeks. An email will be sent out to ALL APPs regarding the hub meeting date/time. Additionally, we are in the process of inviting a guest speaker from the clinical research data consultation service to discuss the concept of “honest broker” and how it could assist you in the utilization of UCI Health data warehouse and the research toolkit.

If you wish to join the research hub, please email to Deon Kidd (vkidd@hs.uci.edu) for more information.



As a reminder, visit our website to learn more and access the UCI APP Research Hub at:

<https://app.health.uci.edu/research-hub>