

VCU NEWS



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Nurse at VCU Medical Center is one of five to win prestigious national award

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A Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center nurse whose research has changed clinical practices both here and at more than 1,100 hospitals in the U.S. and 10 other countries has received the American Nurses Credentialing Center's National Magnet Nurse of the Year® award for 2013.

Tod Brindle, certified wound ostomy continence nurse at the VCU Medical Center, is one of five nurses nationwide to receive the award, which recognizes outstanding contributions of clinical nurses for innovation, consultation, leadership and professional risk-taking. Brindle was chosen in the Exemplary Professional Practice category for his contributions of transformative ways to improve patient care quality. "This award was such an honor to receive, particularly as I think of the thousands of nurses across this country who provide such excellent care daily," Brindle said. "What this award really represents is that, as a nurse, when you're supported in an environment such as at VCU – a Magnet® facility – your ideas can become the key to improved patient outcomes and serve to educate the interprofessional medical community."

Brindle's research led to a hospital-wide practice change to prevent pressure ulcers, or bed sores, in the Intensive Care Unit, resulting in a reduction of Healthcare Acquired Pressure Ulcer (HAPU) rates from 8 percent to 2.4 percent; an evidence-based intervention for patients with hemodynamic instability, the body's inability to maintain blood pressure or adequate heart function; and groundbreaking techniques to enhance care of patients with fistula, an abnormal connection between two organs or an open abdominal wound.



Photo courtesy of ANCC.

"We are thrilled that Tod's contributions in the specialized field of skin integrity have been recognized and he has been named a National Magnet Nurse of the Year[®]", said Deb Zimmermann, DNP, chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care services at VCU Medical Center. "Nurses are an integral component of the patient care team, and Tod's exceptional work as a clinician and a researcher have raised the standard of care and reduced hospital acquired pressure ulcers throughout the nation."

Brindle has presented his work across the country in venues ranging from national conferences to major academic medical centers, and he was recently appointed to an international panel of experts to create guidelines for the use of dressings in pressure ulcer prevention. He is a registered nurse with board certification as a wound ostomy continence nurse and holds a master's degree in nursing administration and leadership from the VCU School of Nursing.

In addition to Brindle, four other recipients also were recognized for their achievements during the ANCC National Magnet Conference[®] from Oct. 2-4 in Orlando, Fla. Recipients of the four remaining Magnet[®] Model categories included Transformational Leadership: Lisa Hartkopf Smith, Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, Ohio; Structural Empowerment: Debra S. Holbrook, Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Md.; New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements: Samantha L. Weimer, University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, Colo.; and Empirical Outcomes: Elizabeth Bradshaw-Mikula, Children's National Medical Center's Heart Institute, Washington, D.C.

About VCU and the VCU Medical Center

Virginia Commonwealth University is a major, urban public research university with national and international rankings in sponsored research. Located in downtown Richmond, VCU enrolls nearly 31,000 students in 223 degree and certificate programs in the arts, sciences and humanities. Sixty-eight of the programs are unique in Virginia, many of them crossing the disciplines of VCU's 13 schools and one college. MCV Hospitals and the health sciences schools of Virginia Commonwealth University comprise the VCU Medical Center, one of the nation's leading academic medical centers. For more, see www.vcu.edu.

About the Magnet Recognition Program[®]

ANCC's Magnet Recognition Program[®] is the most prestigious distinction a healthcare organization can receive for nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes. Organizations that achieve Magnet recognition are part of an esteemed group that demonstrates superior nursing practices and outcomes. Recognizing quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice, the Magnet Recognition Program provides consumers with the ultimate benchmark to measure the quality of care that they can expect to receive. U.S. News & World Report uses Magnet designation as a primary competence indicator in its assessment of almost 5,000 hospitals in order to rank and report the best medical centers in 16 specialties. In 2013, 15 of the 18 medical centers on the U.S. News Best Hospitals in America Honor Roll are ANCC Magnet-recognized organizations. In the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, the nation's oldest survey comparing hospital performance in safety, quality, and efficiency, Magnet designation automatically earns full credit for Safe Practice #9 Nursing Workforce. This section of the survey scores hospitals on their commitment to staffing with highly trained nurses and putting nurses in leadership positions that afford them substantial input on patient safety issues.

About ANCC

ANCC is the world's largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization. The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. It recognizes healthcare organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes, while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. It also offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials. ANCC is the first and only healthcare certification organization in the United States to have successfully achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification. www.nursecredentialing.org.

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