

Young Scientists now called Nursing Research Apprentices

Christiana Care's Young Scientist program is now called the Nursing Research Apprentice program.

The program offers experienced bedside nurses an opportunity to work with an accomplished research nurse to evaluate current nursing practice and design and implement a research study to address a patient care problem.

"The new name better reflects what the program is all about, which is having Christiana Care nurses in direct patient care work with a research mentor to learn the research process. This involves designing and conducting a study and ultimately publishing the results," says Linda Bucher, RN, DNSc, coordinator of the program. "We are thrilled to offer this wonderful opportunity to our seasoned nurses for a second year."

Sophomore group begins

The inaugural group, which began work almost 14 months ago, has nearly completed the research process and is expected to begin analyzing and disseminating their data soon. The new duo of nursing research apprentices began their journey on April 5, eager to follow in their predecessor's footsteps.

"I feel very fortunate to have an opportunity to conduct research under the guidance of an experienced nurse researcher," says Brenda Ewen, BSN, MSN, an admissions nurse at the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA)

and one of the two nurses selected for the program. "It will allow me to understand the research process from a nursing perspective so that I can apply it to my practice." Ewen first discovered research while studying for her masters in nursing, which she completed May 6.

Amy Cowperthwait, BSN, a staff nurse in the Wilmington Hospital Emergency Department with 18 years' nursing experience, was also selected. "I believe research is necessary to move forward. Participating in this program is one way I can contribute to nursing research and improve my clinical practice," she says. Cowperthwait is thinking about studying issues surrounding both pre-hospital and emergency nursing.

"Both candidates have a solid clinical background, they are passionate about learning and they have strong management support. We welcome them both," says Bucher.

Program receives funding

In addition to this new group of nurses starting, the Nursing Research Apprentice program has partnered with the University of Delaware Beta Xi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Society, whose mission is to support nursing research efforts through education, grants and conferences. The Beta Xi chapter recently donated \$1,000 to support the research efforts of Christiana Care nurses currently enrolled in the program. 



Amy Cowperthwait, BSN



Brenda Ewen, BSN, MSN