#### **UC San Diego**

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#### Title

Message from the Chief Clinical Officer

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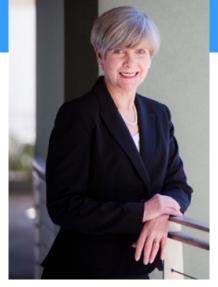
#### **Author**

Baggett, Margarita, MSN, RN

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### Message from the The Chief Clinical Officer

In the 13th issue of the UC San Diego Health nursing journal we focus on community service and outreach. As a nurse we spend most of our time sharing our medical knowledge and giving exceptional care to patients, their families and caregivers, but another very important part of our profession is striving to improve the health of the public by providing health screenings and education. UC San Diego Health Nurses and nursing students can be seen volunteering at various community events within the region as well as traveling far across the globe. While there are many local, national and International

opportunities to volunteer as a nurse our journal will focus on just a handful of these experiences from our own staff.

Reading these articles, I am reminded why I chose to be in healthcare. It is because as a nurse, or healthcare provider, we must always treat the patient with the same respect and care regardless of their background, disease, economic and social status. It is our duty to make a difference in our patient's life. By using our expansive knowledge and giving of our time to volunteer, we are assisting those less fortunate and helping to provide a better tomorrow all while touching countless lives.

Many of our own UC San Diego Nurses are volunteering their time with a multitude of organizations. This journal will showcase just a handful of these outreach activities from our staff and share what led them to get involved with organizations they are passionate about. Some examples of our staff helping within the community include assisting children and teens with physical deformities, children affected by burns, adults learning how to function after suffering from a stroke, individuals affected by AIDS or Cancer, Senior Wellness, Forensic Nursing, NICU Bereavement, cardiac screening for teens, individuals with diabetes, special needs children, as well as providing meals to impoverished communities.

Although there is no lack of community service taking place within UC San Diego, it has been a challenge to share these opportunities across the hospital. Recently the Image of Nursing Council put together a page dedicated on the nursing website where a list of volunteering needs are posted and completed projects can be shared. This allows all of these wonderful opportunities to be shared across the hospital and increase the number of staff participating. This council also initiated a community involvement challenge amongst the other councils within the hospital to see who could generate the highest number of hours of participating in community outreach events. I am happy to share the winner of this challenge is the 11 PCU Unit Based Council with an amazing 230.5 hours/points! Congratulations to the winners and all of the councils who participated in this contest!

I strongly encourage all of you to find something you are passionate about and research how to get involved. Join a council or committee and learn about the exciting things already happening in our hospital and you can dedicate a few hours a month to help improve our community and others in need across the world. We can all make a difference!

## Five Magnet Componets

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Shared Governance committee membership is a great way to become personally involved in the Magnet journey and to help shape the future of nursing at UCSD. For more information go to our nursing website at http://medinfo.ucsd.edu/nursing/committees/ to learn about committee membership opportunities.

# JOURNAL OF NURSING

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Peter Hall, BSN, MPA, RN, CCRN

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Jill Deetz BSN, RN, NE-BC
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Advisors

Design Burritt Design

Photography
Shelby Samonte, R

UC San Diego Health