

## **UC San Diego**

### **Spring 2017 - UC San Diego Health Journal of Nursing: The Unique Power of Nursing**

#### **Title**

A Nurse Says Goodbye

#### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3f72z2qj>

#### **Journal**

UC San Diego Health Journal of Nursing, 10(1)

#### **Author**

Chiappe, Sal, RN Case Manager

#### **Publication Date**

2017-04-01

Peer reviewed

# A Nurse says Goodbye

By: Sal Chiappe, RN Case Manager, OCN

Every July approximately 2000 employees retire from the UC system, this July I will be joining the exodus after 25 plus successful years at UCSD.

My decision to enter the Nursing profession was not one I even considered when I was in High School, in fact you could say that my journey to becoming a Nurse was a rather circuitous one. Before nursing became my chosen profession I worked for a credit firm on Wall Street and did everything imaginable in the food service industry including dishwasher, cook, busboy, waiter, host, pizza maker and bartender. This wealth of experience gave me a varied background that served me well when I decided to enter Nursing School I did this at the suggestion of My Sister in Law, now a retired UCSD RN. I feel that all these different jobs strengthened my people skills which enriched me, as I entered the nursing profession with a broad perspective on dealing with people.

As a Nurse I have been a court-side observer of the human condition, feeling the angst and the joy of many patients; taking care of both the young and the old and the rich and the poor. As an Oncology RN I have celebrated with patients who have survived the rigors and depths of cancer and sat with families recalling the life of a loved one who succumbed to its ferocity. When I was working in Pediatrics in Hillcrest in the 90's I wrote a poem for a family of a 3 year old boy I had helped take care of who died of Leukemia, his family choked me up when they told me that they were going to etch that poem on

his headstone at the cemetery. We sometimes forget how close we get to patients and their families, a closeness that is hard to find in almost any other profession; a patient in illness is often stripped of all pretenses and normalcy when they see us in clinic or in the hospital.

Support from the UC San Diego Department of Nursing has improved my lot in life dramatically, it has given me many opportunities such as being an Editor and contributor to the UC San Diego Journal of Nursing. This is our 14th edition and something that will live on as I move on in life. The Journal has afforded the nursing community across the UC San Diego Health spectrum the forum to showcase what they do, how they do it and where they do it. The Journal illustrates how diverse the nurses here at UC San Diego are in their practice and where the future of nursing is going. This issue on Advanced Practice Nursing is a perfect illustration of where nursing is going, it was only a few years ago that the Moore's Cancer Center had just a few Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants and now we are approaching almost 30 Advanced Practice Providers. In my own personal experience I have had the opportunity as an RN Case Manager working with Dr. Sonia Ramamoorthy on the Colorectal team to work with Karrie Driscoll NP who works in collaboration with 3 surgeons and also has her own clinics where I work alongside her; this is what collaborative medicine is all about and illustrates how complex patient care has become. Patient care has come a long way from bedside nursing, nursing is a constantly



**Sal Chiappe, RN Case Manager, OCN** is a Clinical Nurse III at the Multispecialty Unit at the UCSD Moore's Cancer Center in La Jolla. He has worked for over 25 years at UCSD and will be retiring in July, most of those 25 years were spent working in Pediatrics and Adult Oncology. Currently he works on the GI Oncology Disease team with Dr. Michael Bouvet, Dr. Sonia Ramamoorthy and NP Karrie Driscoll. He received his RN degree from San Diego City College in 1986. In retirement he plans to enjoy spending more time with his family, traveling and enjoying his hobbies which include writing, astronomy and playing music.

evolving profession that mirrors the advances in technology that we have seen over the last 25 years. We must remember that no matter how technological our profession has become that technology can never supplant the human condition, staying close to and in touch with our patients emotions and concerns all comes down to simple listening.

As I say goodbye to the practice of professional nursing I would like to say just a few important things:

- You must love what you do when you work, if that work does not bring you joy then figure out how to find that joy and bring it to work when you do.

- To those of you who are my age (undisclosed), don't stay working beyond your peak efficiency too long, go when you feel good to do the things you enjoy in life when you can have more time to do them.

- To those of you who are as young as my children, the future is yours and yours to shape; make us baby boomers proud and take good care of us when we are in your care.

- Last but not least, I would like to say that I have worked with an incredible bunch of nurses here at UCSD, dedicated professionals who have served our profession well and made me proud that I chose nursing as a career, a career well spent.

As I tell all my friends around here who know me well "See you at Costco"

## We proudly recognize.....

**Samantha Gambles-Farr, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN, RNFA** was awarded the 2017 NAACP Salute To Women of Color Distinguished Woman Award by the North San Diego County NAACP. She is also the treasurer for California Association for Nurse Practitioners: North County Chapter and serving as the Member-At-Large for Society of Critical Care Medicine on the Nursing Steering Committee.

**Rebecca Garrett-Brown, CNM** is the President of the California Nurse-Midwives Association and began her term in November 2016.

**Karen Perdion, CNM, MSN** is Chair of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Benchmarking project, a quality improvement program for ACNM.

**Rhonda K. Martin, RN, MS, CCRN, MLT (ASCP), CCE, CNS/ACNP** is the author of the chapter on Liver Dysfunction and Failure for the textbook *Advanced Critical Care Nursing*. It was published by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses in April 2017.



### In Memory of **BETH MANDERSON RN Case Manager** **1955-2016**

On September 19th, 2016 our beloved friend and colleague Beth Manderson passed away after a long and spirited battle with cancer. As a nurse for 41 years Beth exemplified the best of what it means to be a nurse, her caring cheerful demeanor during her 11 year career at the UCSD Moore's Cancer Center will be greatly missed, we know that up in heaven her broad smile is raised unto its light. Beth Manderson, we will always remember you and we are happy to have known you.