Going the extra mile often goes unnoticed in the nursing profession. So when accolades and awards are given, it's unexpected.

That couldn’t be more true for Tracey Anderson who was named the 2010 Nurse Practitioner of the Year.

“I almost fell out my my chair when I got this call from Margaret Fitzgerald (a renowned leader of NP education) and she told me that I had won,” said Anderson, a critical care nurse practitioner and director of neurocritical care program development at University of Colorado Hospital (UCH).

“I was honored that I was nominated and that they considered me, but it was not anything I was expecting,” she said.

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By Joelle Moran
Staff writer

The recognition for her work came about thanks to Anderson’s colleague and friend Mary Tierney.

As a nurse practitioner in Neurovascular Interventional Radiology at UCH, Tierney works closely with Anderson and knew she wanted to nominate her friend after attending the NCNP conference a few years ago. “She is somebody who is incredible with everything...”

Victoria Erickson, PhD, PNP-BC, associate professor and MS/DNP program director at the University of Colorado College of Nursing, was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP).

“It is an honor to be selected as a Fellow by the AANP,” said Erickson.

The FAANP program was established in 2000 to recognize nurse practitioner leaders who have made outstanding contributions to health care through nurse practitioner clinical practice, research, education, or policy. Priority initiatives of FAANP are the development of leadership and mentorship programs for nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students.

Fellows of the AANP are visionaries committed to the global advancement of nursing through the development of imaginative and creative future nurse practitioner leaders, and as such, hold an annual think tank to strategize about the future of nurse practitioners and health care outside the confines of traditional thinking. A limited number of nurse practitioners are selected for this highly coveted distinction each year.

Erickson will continue the tradition of contributing to the mission of the AANP and promoting the role of the nurse practitioner.

“Dr. Erickson was recognized for her accomplishments in nursing care and education as well as for her state and national leadership in health care and policy. Vicki is clearly known for her continued excellence in nursing, primary care and mentoring others,” said Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, dean of the University of Colorado College of Nursing.

AANP was founded in 1985 and is the oldest, largest, and only full-service national professional organization for nurse practitioners.
UCH
Continued from Page 1

she does and doesn't get the recognition," said Tierney, RN, MSN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC.

Tierney recruited Anderson to Colorado 10 years ago and they worked together at Longmont United Hospital as NPs before eventually joining UCH.

In her nomination letter, Tierney wrote: "[Tracey] has a true gift for caring and exemplifies all the attributes that this award represents: clinical expertise, leadership, community service and education. She is respected by patients, families, physicians, staff, students and peers and is known as the ‘go to person’ when clinical advice or direction is needed."

When the NCNP called Tierney to ask how to contact Anderson to tell her she had won, she said she bawled.

"I really thought she should win. I was only surprised in that usually the great people don’t get recognized. I was very pleased for her," Tierney said. "She deserves it and is someone who always goes the extra mile to make sure patients and nurses are well taken care of."

One of Anderson’s biggest accomplishments was leading development of UCH’s Stroke Program. From 2006 to 2008, she was clinical director for the program which formalized a hospital-wide structure and process for stroke care.

The first year of the program, Anderson said the hospital saved about $27 million and reduced hospital stays by 496 days by creating a process to move stroke patients through the hospital more efficiently.

"It was very exciting to take something that had been started by a couple of forward-thinking physicians and develop it into a true structured program, monitoring quality measures and outcomes," she said.

Anderson also led the way for UCH’s Joint Commission Certification as a Primary Stroke Center, which recognizes the hospital’s excellence in stroke care, in 2008. The certification recognizes programs that meet standards in terms of response times, as well as a higher level of care based on intervention, rehab services and patient education. Formalizing the structure and meeting such standards can take four or five years in many cases, but Anderson said the dedicated team at UCH achieved it in less than a year.

Anderson has worked as the NP for neurosurgery at UCH for five years, seeing and managing patients and assisting in the operating room. She is also responsible for the development of the neurocritical care MD and NP fellowship programs.

In addition to her work at UCH, Anderson also works as an NP for Emergency Physicians of the Rockies at Poudre Valley Health System’s Medical Center of the Rockies (MCR) in Loveland and Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins. She is also a clinical nurse specialist at MCR, where she works on standards of care and nursing education and development, driving the clinical practice of nurses in the ER.

Anderson’s career didn’t start out in critical care. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Social Services in 1987 from Northern Illinois University and worked in that field until she went to nursing school. She earned her ADN in 1992 from Elgin Community College in Illinois and worked in critical care for 12 years before she decided to become an NP. She became board certified as a family care nurse practitioner after earning her MSN in 2001 from DePaul University in Illinois. She completed her acute care NP postmaster’s certificate from St. Louis University in 2009. She is also credentialed as a certified neuroscience registered nurse (CNRN).

When working in the ICU, Anderson said she “kind of fell into” neurosurgery by default as she ended up with a lot of patients with head injuries and was asked by several of the neurosurgeons to help manage their patients once she completed her NP program.

“I like the acuity of neurosurgery patients. It’s very challenging and you can’t always predict what they’re going to do,” she said. “I enjoy critical care, so it was a nice fit.”

Anderson said she loves working in an exciting environment in which there’s nothing the neurosurgeons won’t teach her to do, making her work challenging.

“It’s a wonderful place to be. There’s so much to learn.”

Boettcher Foundation to Match Gifts to Western States Burn Center at NCMC

The Colorado-based Boettcher Foundation has agreed to match individual’s donations to the Western States Burn Center at North Colorado Medical Center dollar-for-dollar up to $100,000.

The NCMC Foundation has until October 31, 2010 to raise $100,000 for the Burn Center and secure the same amount in matching dollars from the Boettcher Foundation.

The Western States Burn Center at NCMC is one of only three burn centers in the state of Colorado and one of only approximately 125 in the entire United States and Canada. The highly-trained medical staff members at the Western States Burn Center provide the most sophisticated treatment currently available for burn injuries.

The medical team at the Western States Burn Center cares for burn victims from an eight-state region including: northern Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota and Idaho. Burn Center staff members also travel throughout this region to teach Advanced Burn Life Support courses to professionals including physicians, midlevel providers, nurses and EMS providers. This specialized instruction provides burn victims with the most appropriate treatment prior to transport to a burn center.

In April of 2009, the WSBC moved into expanded quarters at North Colorado Medical Center. This expansion project added an additional 10,000 square feet and provides the medical team with space to treat 14 patients. The new patient rooms are acuity-adaptable, meaning that patients can stay in the same room from the critical stage until they are ready for discharge.

The NCMC Foundation raised $1.5 million to fund this important expansion project at NCMC and ongoing fundraising efforts continue to support the needs of the Western States Burn Center.

To make a donation, please make your check payable to “NCMC Foundation”, and mail to 8801 16th Street, Greeley, CO 80631, or contribute online at www.ncmcfoundation.org. In addition to matching dollars, donations of $100 or more are eligible for the Enterprise Zone tax credit. To learn more, contact John H. Smith, NCMC Foundation President, by calling (970) 356-9020 or e-mailing inquiries to ncmcfoundation@bannermhealth.com.

ERICKSON
Continued from Page 1

nurse practitioners of all specialties. With 28,000 individual members and 145 group members, AANP represents the interests of approximately 140,000 nurse practitioners around the country. AANP continually advocates for the active role of nurse practitioners as providers of high-quality, cost-effective and personalized healthcare. For more information about AANP, visit www.aanp.org.
The staff of Medical Arts Centre of Windsor invites community members to meet physicians and tour the practice during an ice cream social Wednesday, Aug. 11 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Two physicians, Jonathan Kary, M.D. and Trina Kessinger, M.D., recently began seeing patients at the clinic and will be available to visit with community members.

In addition to eating ice cream, activities include car seat safety checks by the Windsor Fire Department; face painting, jump houses and coloring and educational booths by North Colorado Med Evac, North Colorado Medical Center Spirit of Women, pharmacy, physical therapy and radiology. Guests can also make appointments for sports physicals and wellness exams.

Services provided at the Medical Arts Centre of Windsor include:

- Pharmacy
- Breastfeeding clinic
- Laboratory services
- Diagnostic radiology
- Family care, including child and family wellness
- Women's care including OB/GYN
- Sports medicine and Physical Therapy
- Orthopedics
- Endocrinology
- Gastrointestinal Care
- Internal Medicine
- Anticoagulation services
- Same-day appointments and walk-in access available.

The Medical Art Centre of Windsor is located at 1300 Main St. To make appointments, call (970) 686-5646. To learn more about the clinic, visit www.BannerHealth.com/BMG-MedicalArtsWindsor.
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Career Opportunities
University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) has announced ambitious plans to add a second inpatient tower to meet what has become an enormous demand for its services. At a cost of about $400 million, the project brings more patient beds, more emergency care and more jobs to the Anschutz Medical Campus and the state.

“As the only academic medical center in the Rocky Mountains, our team of specialists and sub-specialists provide unique care for patients with complex health care needs,” said Bruce Schroffel, President and CEO of University of Colorado Hospital. “Expanding the hospital will allow us to provide that care to more people in Colorado and the entire Rocky Mountain region.

“University of Colorado Hospital has been working near or above capacity since moving our inpatient facilities to the Anschutz Medical Campus in 2007,” Schroffel added. “The demand for our services only promises to grow, and expanding the hospital will help us continue to serve a growing patient population.”

More space for inpatient and emergency care

The UCH expansion project will consist of a second building dedicated to inpatient and emergency care. The first inpatient building, the Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion, opened in 2004. UCH moved its remaining inpatient practices from its old site at 9th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard in Denver to the new Aurora campus in June 2007.

The newest building, slated to open in 2013, will immediately add 144 staffed inpatient beds to the hospital's current capacity of 407, and will include space to add another 120 to 144 beds to meet future demand.

The UCH expansion project brings an economic stimulus plan to the Anschutz Medical Campus and the region. The project will bring hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in material costs and tax revenue to Aurora, the Metro Area and the state of Colorado.

“This is a multi-million dollar project and while UCH and its patients will benefit from the expansion, the entire state of Colorado also will see the positive effects. We also will be bringing over a thousand jobs to our community,” said Schroffel. “And we will be able to do this without any funding from the state or federal governments.”

When it is finished, the addition will mean another 1,400 jobs at UCH with an average salary of $81,000 a year including benefits. The project also will create 600-650 jobs for those involved in the construction.

Other initiatives underway

UCH also is in the midst of a $67 million project to implement an integrated, patient-centered electronic medical record across all clinical areas. That project ultimately will bring another 150 jobs to the Anschutz Medical Campus during its three-year implementation period.

Finally, a capital campaign is underway to raise $20 million for a much-needed expansion of the hospital’s Anschutz Cancer Pavilion. The hospital’s cancer services have seen a patient increase of nearly 100 percent since opening in 2001. The University of Colorado Cancer Center, in fact, is the only National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center in the region, and one of only 40 in the United States. UCH hopes to start construction on the cancer center expansion before the end of 2010.

“Patient outcomes at the University of Colorado Cancer Center are all significantly above state and national averages, and are another reason why demand for our services has grown so dramatically,” Schroffel said.

The selection of the architect and general contractor is underway. The UCH board of directors approved the project last month.

The University of Colorado Hospital is the Rocky Mountain region’s leading academic medical center, and has been recognized as one of the United States’ best hospitals, according to U.S. News & World Report. It is best known as an innovator in patient care and often as one of the first hospitals to bring new medicine to patients’ bedside. Located at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colo., the hospital’s physicians are all affiliated with the University of Colorado School of Medicine, part of the University of Colorado system. For more information, visit the UC Denver Newsroom.
Missouri and Oklahoma do not require mandatory continued education classes for license renewal while Kansas nurses must receive at least 30 continued education hours prior to license renewal (every two years). Arkansas requires 15 contact hours every two years prior to renewal (20 if license expires) and Texas requires 20 contact hours prior to renewal.

Denver’s Nursing Star want to hear your thoughts on this subject! Please email your response, along with your name, nursing credentials, city, and contact information to news@denvernursingstar.com or fax it to 720-283-2209.

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Denver’s Nursing Star want to hear your thoughts on this subject! Please email your response, along with your name, nursing credentials, city, and contact information to news@denvernursingstar.com or fax it to 720-283-2209.

08-10-10 My original license is from a state requiring a 30 unit continuing education course before renewal. I see minimal benefit from a CE course that can be completed in a single setting. I would like to see a proctored on line renewal course for nurses that would keep us abreast of Board of Nursing changes that impact our practice, recently identified safety issues, medication errors to avoid, and it would be helpful to have a segment on current, evidenced based, best nursing practices that can be implemented. It is rare to find a healthcare institution or Technical Center that does not have online computer access of some type. Local staff could be proctors and collect exam results.

Thanks for the forum.

Patricia Snelling

07-26-10 No. It is an added expense with minimal benefit. I have friends who are RNs in states that require CEUs - one in particular who has not worked as an RN in years but obtains the CEUs to renew. She says she basically pays the expensive fees and goes through the motions to renew -- with very little useful, practical information. Continuing education should be provided by the employer so it is more tailored to the RN's actual job duties, not something completely irrelevant just to renew the license.

Nancy J. Reed, RN, BSN, MPH
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