

# Krembil Neuroscience News

## June Nursing Issue

*In recognition of Nursing Week 2009, this issue of the newsletter is dedicated to celebrating and highlighting some of the achievements of the Krembil Neuroscience nursing staff.*

### **Agnes Marshall-Walker Research Grant Award**

Dr. Sonia Sarkissian (Clinician Scientist, Nursing; Krembil Neuroscience Centre) was awarded the prestigious Agnes Marshall-Walker Research Grant Award, at the 10th Quadrennial Congress of the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN), which this year was held in Toronto.

This award is provided by the WFNN Board of Directors to acknowledge "neuroscience nurses in their scientific pursuits of scholarly inquiry into patient care and management".

Agnes Marshall-Walker is a living legacy for neuroscience nurses. She is the founder of the WFNN and the co-founded the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses in 1968.

One year later, she orchestrated organized meetings with the neuroscience nursing leaders worldwide and the WFNN was created.

From May 24 – 27 2009, nurses from around the world gathered at York University to exchange ideas, discuss innovations, successes and challenges in neuroscience nursing in an effort to inspire and provide insight to each other.

With the research grant award, Dr. Sarkissian will be embarking on a research study called, "Determinants of health promoting behaviours and quality of life in individuals with epilepsy: A pilot project".



*Sonia Sarkissian and Agnes Marshall-Walker*

### **European Operating Room Nurses Association Conference**

In April, four operating room nurses from the Krembil Neuroscience Centre had the opportunity to represent Canadian nurses at the European Operating Room Nurses Association Conference in Denmark. OR nurses Irene Bancel, Gita Foldes, Sandy Pereira and Rowena Santos were among 1,878 participants from 40 different countries networking and building bridges for the future development in Perioperative Nursing and Care. The KNC nurses were selected to attend the conference after submitting abstracts detailing their work at KNC. During the scientific portion of the conference the KNC nurses presented on the perioperative aspects of neurosurgery. The topics of their presentations included the surgical safety checklist, endoscopic neurosurgery, outpatient awake craniotomy, and deep brain stimulation and depression.

"This was a great way to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of OR nurses," said Irene Bancel. "Much of the work we do is behind the scenes, but our role in patient care is very much at the forefront."

The presentation on the surgical safety checklist was received with much enthusiasm, as the University Health Network was one of only eight hospitals around the world to be part of the WHO pilot project. Many nurses looked to the TWH submission for information on this new element of patient safety.

Congrats to all for highlighting the great work at KNC!



## **Krembil's Own Florence Nightingale**

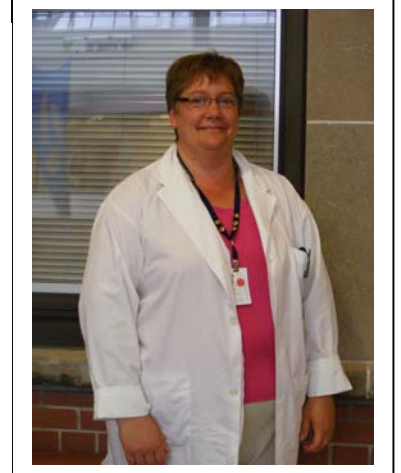
Each year the Toronto Star solicits nominations for the Nightingale Award. This annual award is presented to an Ontario nurse nominated for recognition by their patients or peers. This year, Angela Sarro, Nurse Practitioner - Spine was among the distinguished nominees.

Angela, a nurse practitioner in the KNC Spine Program, was nominated by the family of one of her patients. In the nomination letter, Angela was described as professional, compassionate, and caring. The family was incredibly grateful for Angela's medical guidance as well her timely response to all of their questions even after their daughter was discharged from the hospital.

"It is always gratifying to know that you touch the lives of your patients and their families in a positive way," said Angela. "

Angela has been a nurse with Toronto Western Hospital for 15 years and been practising as a NP in the KNC Spine Program since 2006.

Her nomination letter concluded with the following statement: "We truly believe that Florence Nightingale must be happy and proud that Ms. Sarro is in the nursing profession."



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## **Krembil Nursing Awards**

As part of Nursing Week celebrations, the Krembil Nursing Awards were given out at TWH. The awards went to 14 nursing groups comprising of nursing leaders and staff nurses. Each group submitted proposals about a quality initiative that supported TWH's goal to create a culture of safety. The teams were supported by a Nursing Research mentor and included at least one staff nurse, creating an opportunity for staff nurses to more fully develop a spirit of enquiry and enhance TWH's capacity for nursing research.



The research projects ranged from falls prevention to evaluation of prune juice cocktail as bowel routine for spinal patients, and the exploration of an alternative to present "Green Towel", method for drain site coverage in neurosurgery. According to Dawn Tymianski, one of the mentors for the quality improvement projects, these awards allow nurses to gain experience in the area of conducting research, which leads to improved care for patients through evidence-based practice. "These research projects ensure that nurses are able to take a lead role in determining the best care for patients," said Dawn.

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## **2009 Nursing Scholarship, Fellowship and Awards**

Congratulations to the following neuroscience nursing staff who received the following fellowships and scholarships.

Jack Connell Neurosurgical  
Scholarship  
**Ashley Andrews, RN- NCCU**

Gilbert Scholarship  
**Sylvia Lindsay, RN - 5BF**

Gilbert Scholarship  
**Patience Obasuyi, RN - NCCU**

Frank "Chippy" Gross Scholarship -  
**Marleine Elkhouri, APN E - 5A/BF**

McLean Foundation Graduate  
Fellowship  
**Jemini Abraham, Nurse Clinical -  
Stroke Program**

McLean Foundation Graduate  
Fellowship  
**Nerissa Maxwell, Nurse Manager  
- 5BF**

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