

UCI Health

Advanced Practice Providers Program

ADVANCED PRACTICE NEWS



2023 | ISSUE 13

Advanced Practice News

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EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C
Director of Advanced Practice Providers

EDITOR

Shinida Moore, Administrative Assistant III

CONTRIBUTORS

- Anne Marie Watkins, CNE
- Susanne J. Phillips, DNP
- Pedro Portes, NP

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The UCI Health Advanced Practice Providers Program aims to be a leader in **patient-centered care, research, and “top of the license practice.”** We believe that when APPs are used to their fullest potential, the entire healthcare system benefits.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

VASCO DEON KIDD, DHSC, MPH, MS, PA-C



I am delighted to welcome you to the 13th edition advanced practice newsletter in celebration of National Nurse

Practitioner Week from November 12-18, 2023. There are more than 355,000 licensed nurse practitioners (NPs) in the United States. NPs are leading the way in providing high-quality, cost-effective care while playing a pivotal role in expanding health equity. Each year, NPs provide over 1 billion visits in a variety of health care settings.

UCI Health has a total 140 NPs involved in a myriad of activities such as clinical care, research, education, administration, and precepting. This year, the NP profession was named as the #1 Best health care job and #2 in 100 best jobs according to U.S News & World Report. Please take a moment and celebrate with our outstanding NP colleagues.

In closing, we are extremely grateful for all the compassionate care and service you ALL provide to our community and our patients. I am proud of you ALL and thank you for your steadfast dedication and perseverance in delivering and promoting patient-centered care.

Stay healthy and strong.

Best regards,

Vasco Deon Kidd

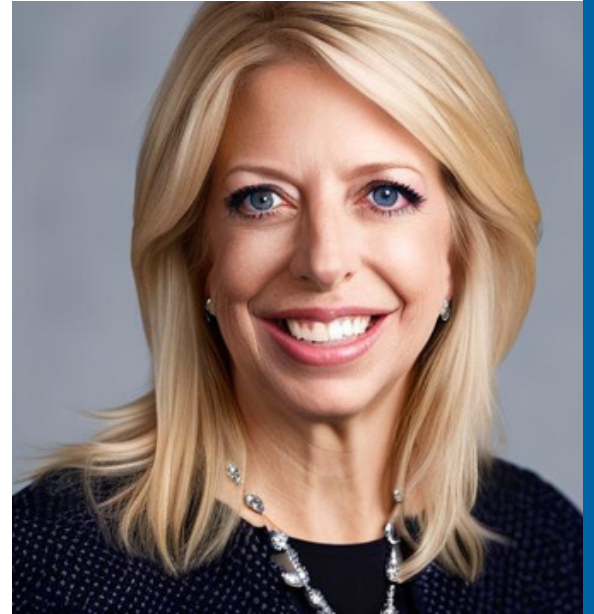
Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C
Director of Advanced Practice Providers (UCI Health)
Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
School of Medicine, University of California Irvine
vkidd@hs.uci.edu

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CNE

ANNE MARIE WATKINS, DNP, MSHCA, RN, CENP

As we mark the start of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) Week, I am reminded of the vast contributions and invaluable impact of our Nurse Practitioners. Today, and every day, we celebrate the extraordinary dedication, expertise, and compassion demonstrated by our NPs.

Nurse Practitioners, with their unique blend of clinical expertise, patient advocacy, and holistic care, are instrumental pillars in our healthcare system. From primary care to specialized medicine, their patient-centered approach ensures that our community receives comprehensive and compassionate care.



Anne Marie Watkins, DNP, MSHCA, RN, CENP

UCI Health benefits immensely from the depth of knowledge and research-driven care that NPs bring to the table. They play a critical role in translating evidence-based research into clinical practice, mentoring the next generation, and collaborating across disciplines to advance patient care.

As we face the evolving challenges of modern medicine, it is the adaptability, resilience, and unyielding commitment of our Nurse Practitioners that propel us forward. They serve as trusted voices for their patients, as innovators in practice, and as leaders in healthcare transformation.

To all of our Nurse Practitioners: Thank you for the profound difference you make every day. Your unwavering commitment to excellence and compassionate care has indelibly shaped our healthcare community and the lives of countless individuals.

With utmost respect and gratitude,

Anne Marie Watkins, DNP, MSHCA, RN, CENP
Chief Nursing Executive/Assistant Dean of Nursing Education
UCI Health

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: NP

Susanne J. Phillips, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Professor

1) Tell us about your path to become a NP.

My journey to become an NP began in college here in Irvine. I had a PCP who was a nurse practitioner from FHP (one of the first HMOs), whom I established a good relationship with. I was contemplating medicine as a career option, but when I spoke with her about the holistic blend of advanced nursing practice with additional skills in medical arts, I realized it was the perfect fit for me. I was admitted to UCI at the time, however, they did not have a nursing program so I declined my admission and started prerequisite coursework at Irvine Valley College. I was working as an emergency medical technician, the first woman hired at the company I worked for, and had great experience.



SUSANNE J. PHILLIPS, DNP

From there, I worked as an EMT at Hoag Hospital ECU and then later as an RN until I completed my MSN/FNP at California State University, Long Beach. My initial NP positions were at the Laguna Beach Community Clinic and Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties. In 1999, I opened a practice called Pacific Family Wellness Center with another NP, where we provided primary care - primarily wellness visits and primary prevention services.

2) Tell us about your day-to-day.

Although I started as a lecturer in 1998, I was appointed Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine (FM) in 2004. I maintained my faculty appointment in FM until 2010, when I transferred to the newly opened program in nursing science. At that time, I was the Co-Director of the MS/Family Nurse Practitioner program and in 2014 I was promoted to full professor. In July 2023, I was appointed as Senior Associate Dean in the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing. My day-to-day role includes oversight of our academic programs (BS, MS, DNP, PhD), student affairs, and clinical affairs, in addition to teaching, service, and scholarship activity. As an expert in health policy and scope and standards of nursing practice, I teach the Health Politics and Policy course and Professional Issues in APRN care in our DNP program, and I regularly lecture in the prelicensure programs on legal issues in nursing, scope and standards of RN practice, and healthcare leadership. Clinically, I oversee our NP faculty practice, where we have seven additional family nurse practitioner faculty who educate students in our doctoral and prelicensure programs, as well as provide primary care throughout UCI. One faculty member works in the UCIMC Emergency Department, four faculty members provide primary care at the UCI Student Health Center, and two faculty members provide primary care at FHC Anaheim, Gottschalk Medical Center, Share Our Selves at El Sol Science and Arts Academy, and started the UCI COVID-19 Testing sites in 2020.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: NP

Susanne J. Phillips, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Professor

3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

That is easy...the most rewarding part of my job is working with amazing nurses and providers who have dedicated their careers to educating future nurses, providing the highest quality of primary and specialty care and working tirelessly to ensure UCI SON maintains the highest standards of education. I LOVE being a nurse. It has provided me such rich opportunity to explore practice, education, and nursing scholarship, and I absolutely believe the nursing profession provides the foundation of health in this country and we make a difference in people's lives and in our communities. While my professional life has gone from the ED, to education, to primary care, to administration (and mostly all at once), I have never wanted to pursue another profession or leave nursing - even with the innumerable pressures and challenges we face. There is always a new path forward in nursing.

4) What advice would you give an aspiring NP?

The advice I would give an aspiring NP is not complicated. Compassion for humanity is the foundation of our profession, be resolute and proud of your decision to be an advanced practice nurse, and be a leader in whatever setting your work leads you. The path to becoming an NP is extremely challenging, but the service mission of what we do is beyond rewarding. Become involved, maintain your thirst for knowledge, and seek respite when you need it. There are so many seasoned nurse practitioners who stand ready to be a mentor - just reach out and ask.

5) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

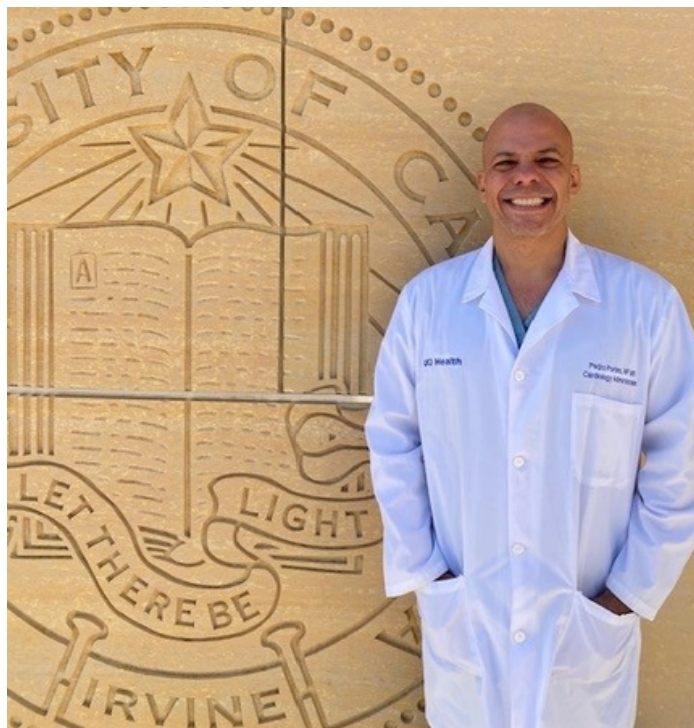
The one fun fact that people don't know about me is my favorite movie/television genre is Political Thrillers and CIA/Espionage themes 😊.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: NP

Pedro Portes, NP

1) Tell us about your path to become a NP.

I became a Nurse Practitioner later in my life. I had worked for many years with Psychiatric Crisis Response around Boston, MA. The patients had many co-morbidities, and I became interested in the medical aspects of their lives. I ended up applying to a GEP program at UMass Medical as I did not have a nursing background. I took the critical care / acute care route and started working with Hospital Medicine at UMass Memorial after graduation. It was a great way to start as I got to solidify my general medicine foundation. Since then, I have worked over the course of 10 years with Pulmonary Critical Care, Cardiac Surgery, Trauma and General Surgery. The common denominator among all those disciplines was critical care. I guess I could say I learned how to deliver critical care from all those vantage points.



PEDRO PORTES, NP

2) Tell us about your day-to-day on the job.

I moved from UC Davis to UCI in order to start the LVAD and Advanced HF program. It took a lot of work to develop and implement the processes and procedures that make our workflow 24/7. We are still a consult team. We manage a broad array of pathologies, ranging from your run of the mill Heart failure to cardiogenic shock requiring mechanical circulatory support. In fact, we have become a referral center for patients in Cardiogenic Shock. My day starts with reviewing the clinical data on Epic, assessing the patients and formulating a plan that will eventually be discussed with my attending and the teams with which we co-manage patients. Usually, half of our patient panel is comprised of critically ill patients. We tend to get consults throughout the day and take care of them as they come.

3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Particularly for me is the level of acuity of our patients and the critical thinking necessary to solve complex clinical problems.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: NP

Pedro Portes, NP

4) What advice would you give an aspiring NP?

Sometimes you just have to put your head down and keep working. If you accept that the path to success is not perfect and can be full of small failures, you will be more likely to have a good time on that endeavor.

5) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

I used to be in a band in high school. We ended up playing in different venues, it was a lot of fun. I still play the guitar.

SPOTLIGHT ON APP ACHIEVEMENTS FOR WINTER 2023



The purpose of this section is to recognize any achievements of the APP workforce during the Winter of 2023. Future newsletters will continue to highlight APP awards, research publications, book chapters, poster presentations, and leadership nominations in your professional associations or at UCI Health. We firmly believe in giving spotlight to our amazing and dedicated APP workforce.

Francis Baltazar, NP

Congratulations to Francis Baltazar, NP for being selected as the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year. During National Nurses Week in 2023, Francis was nominated and selected as the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year. Congratulations to Francis on this monumental accomplishment.



Geraldina Douglas, NP

Dina Douglas, NP is the organizational founder and has undertaken some the formational work needed to create this new organization at UCI called Samahang Pilipino. It is an organization highlighting awareness of the Filipino American culture as well as the contributions of the Filipino American staff working at UCI.

Although, the organization is in its preliminary stages of developing its mission and goals. The group had its very first groundbreaking activity on October 24, 2023 held at the UCI Medical Center Healing Garden to commemorate October as Filipino American Heritage Awareness month. Staff members stopped by for a quick meet and greet and the group handed out Filipino "Star bread" as part of their cultural awareness and community outreach. The table also featured historical facts about the Filipino American culture as well as displayed Filipino traditional dress wear.



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Dawn Bounds PhD, PMHNP-BC, FAAN, Assistant Professor, Director, Centering Youth & Families for Empowerment and Resilience (CYFER) Lab

Jones-Patten, A., Shin, S. S., **Bounds, D. T.**, & Nyamathi, A. (2023). Discrimination, Mental Health, and Readiness to Quit Smoking. *Clinical Nursing Research*, 32(8), 1081-1091.

Rodrigues, S. M., **Bounds, D. T.**, Terry, J., Pinto, M. D., Shin, S., & Burton, C. W. (2023). Application of Trauma-Informed Care Principles to Care Needs Identified by Mothers of NICU-Hospitalized Children. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 1-10.

Bounds, D., Woo, M. A., Nyamathi, A., Kehoe, P., Roy, B., Yadav, K., ... & Kumar, R. (2023). Brain Changes Linked to Cognitive Symptomatology in Homeless Youth. *Clinical Nursing Research*, 32(6), 932-946.

Bounds, D. T., Rodrigues, S. M., Balsam, D., Lennan, N., Rodriguez, K. R., & Milburn, N. G. (2023). Creating Space for Adolescents and Families With Lived Experience of Homelessness to Build Familial Empathy, Communication, and Emotional Regulation: A Qualitative Study of Facilitators of Implementation. *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services*, 1-9.

Bounds, D. T., Rodrigues, S. M., & Milburn, N. G. (2023). Strengthening Families to Disrupt Intergenerational Health Inequities With Adolescents at Risk for Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Substance Use, and HIV. *American Journal of Public Health*, 113(S2), S124-S128.

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Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C. | Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Director of Advanced Practice Providers

Congratulations to Vasco Deon Kidd for being elected as Vice President of the California Physician Assistant Board starting January 1, 2024.

Kidd, VD, Invited Speaker: The Boundless Career Trajectory of a PA: A Panel on PAs in Non-clinical and Clinical Leadership Roles. CAPACON conference, Anaheim CA.

Kidd, VD, Invited Speaker: Demystifying credentialing, privileging, and onboarding: What every PA should know. CAPACON conference, Anaheim CA.

Kidd, VD, Invited Speaker: Creating a Return on Investment for Advanced Practice Providers: Opportunities/Challenges. University of California San Francisco, (UCSF) leadership institute (LEAP) program.

Chi Nguyen, NP

Chi Nguyen was recently elected to serve as secretary for the Nursing Image Council.

Jeffrey Vu, DNP, MBA, RN, FNP-BC

Jeffrey Vu was recognized as the 2023 Lauds & Laurels recipient on behalf the University of California, Irvine- Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing. This award is given to distinguished UCI community members for their exemplary service to the community, professional excellence and campus involvement.

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**Candice Whealon, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor,
Advanced Practice Clinical Assistant Director, Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing**

Whealon, C. (2023). Mpox Masquerading as Secondary Syphilis. *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal* 45(2), 109-118. DOI: 10.1097/TME.000000000000458. Accessed for free from the *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal* [Mpox Masquerading as Secondary Syphilis : Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal \(lww.com\)](https://www.lww.com)

NP Clinical Ladder

CLINICAL LADDER SUBMISSION PROCESS

Hello colleagues,

To address questions related to submitting packets for the new clinical ladder for Nurse Practitioners II to Nurse Practitioner III program, please see the following flowchart diagram below. As a friendly reminder, only activities after November 19th, 2022, are eligible for points in the clinical ladder. Should you have any questions regarding the flowchart, please reach out to me directly. Additionally, we have an open forum for questions related to the clinical ladder every second Monday of each month starting at 5:00 PM. If you would like an invite to this virtual meeting, please reach out to me. Lastly, I am available to meet 1:1 to answer any questions related to the clinical ladder.



New APP Hires

We are pleased to welcome new advanced practice providers to our team in FY2024

Department

Anesthesiology

Justin Hefley, CRNA
Gordon Snow, CRNA

Hospital Medicine

Angela Park, NP

Integrative Health

Megan Hormazdl, NP

Urology

Kristin Kim, NP