

'Take a Chance to Make a Change in Your Patients' Lives'

AACN CSI Academy leadership and innovation program guides nurses to take a chance.

In the May issue, six nurses who participated in AACN Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy — a national leadership and innovation training program — shared how they positively impacted patient and fiscal outcomes. This month, they describe how their CSI projects reached beyond their hospital unit.

Focusing on reduction of patient falls, Tori Hamilton-Kelly, patient care coordinator at Franciscan St. Francis, Indianapolis, says, "Our project impacted other units and areas of the hospital when the 'No Fall Zone' patient and family contracts, signs and

other new processes were put into place throughout our organization. Because of this, our hospital's overall fall rate was decreased."

Her colleague Dawn Back, staff nurse, says, "Our entire project has been shared with our hospital-wide fall prevention team, and some aspects are now being utilized to assist other units in communicating safety expectations to patients and families."

Erica Edwards, attending nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Boston, says her team's project — using the ABCDE bundle to facilitate earlier extubation — has received wider acceptance at MGH.

"The director of the MGH Department of Critical Care has launched an initiative to implement the ABCDE bundle focusing on the SICU and MICU," she says. "We introduced him to our initiative because it dovetails very well in setting the stage for this initiative."

What advice would CSI Academy nurses give to colleagues contemplating change initiatives at their hospital?


Norine O'Malley-Simmler, staff nurse at MGH, says, "Improvement projects can be challenging and require a significant time commitment. But the final outcome of better-quality patient care is



rewarding and well worth the effort."

Jennifer LeBlanc, CNIII at Duke Raleigh Hospital, Raleigh, N.C., agrees. "It is our responsibility as nurses to advocate for patients by being part of the solution, so take on whatever project you can to help with change. Be part of a team for change, even lead a team and don't stop looking for opportunities to improve."

Her colleague at Duke Raleigh, Kerrie Klepfer, adds, "Find something you are passionate about," she says, "and take a chance to make a change in your patients' lives. You'll be amazed where it can lead you and the impact you can make on someone's life!"

Learn more about nurse-driven initiatives in the CSI Academy Innovation Database, at www.aacn.org/csi. 

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Our new mobile app offers 10 free Practice Alerts and 10 Pocket References, adapted from AACN's bestselling laminated pocket cards, for 99 cents each, accessible via smartphones and tablets.

New AACN Bedside app offers Practice Alerts and Pocket References.

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specific patient populations.

"So many nurses have mobile devices, and a growing number of healthcare facilities allow them to be used at the bedside," says Mary Pat Aust, AACN clinical practice specialist. "This allows AACN to make clinical resources instantly accessible for on-the-spot bedside reference without needing Internet access. AACN Bedside makes it convenient for clinicians to stay up-to-date in the rapidly changing world of patient care."

Available from iTunes and Google Play Store, AACN Bedside also can be downloaded at www.aacn.org/bedsideapp. 