



SUSAN D. FLYNN

Oncology Nursing Development Program

Who Was Susan D. Flynn?

“Susan was an extraordinary mother, a loving and devoted wife, and a widely-admired and caring friend to many. In addition to being a successful businesswoman and a Master Gardener, she was also an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer.” –Mr. Flynn



The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship is a program that was established by Fredrick Flynn in loving memory for his wife, Susan Flynn, when she lost her courageous battle to ovarian cancer in 2013. The goal of the fellowship is to enhance three Molloy nursing students clinical knowledge in Oncology Nursing. The three Flynn Fellows for the summer of 2016 were Stefanie Pia, Stephanie Jorgensen and Arita Busgith. All three ladies completed a palliative care course and an oncology basics course. They also all completed a nursing research project and presented their projects to Mr. Flynn, the team at New York Presbyterian, nursing faculty at Molloy College and their families. You can read more about their experiences on the next few pages.



Stephanie Jorgensen rotated at New York Presbyterian - Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital on a pediatric hematology/oncology floor. She believed the best part of the experience was the children that she took care of. She presented her research project about childhood cancer camps and how they improve body image in children with cancer.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity. Words cannot express how amazing this nursing fellowship was. I have learned so much and grown not only professionally but personally as well. What I loved most about this fellowship were my patients and their families. I have had patients from a few days old to 21 years old. I learned in pediatrics, you have to adapt to the age changes, learn how to get on a child's level and find out what they like to do. I bonded with so many parents as they told me about their journey and how hard their road was. I also have had patients that I will never forget. I think about every single patient I have had and I wonder every day how they are doing. I was so upset when this fellowship ended because I knew that I wouldn't be able to see how my kids are doing and how they are improving. I really appreciated when I was in the clinic because I got to see my kids, who I had on the inpatient unit, healthier, just getting their treatments and going home. One of my patients I had on the inpatient unit would always want to go to the beach but she couldn't because her counts were too low. She was discharged and I saw her again in the clinic a couple weeks later. She told me that she finally went to the beach! Seeing her so happy when she told me that she finally got to go to the beach made me want to cry. It's the little things that truly make a big difference. Working in oncology opened up my eyes that life is so precious and that we should live every moment to the fullest. This fellowship has meant the world to me and every day I thank Mr. Flynn. This opportunity has changed my life that no one will truly understand unless they have experienced it. I cannot wait to become a pediatric hematology/oncology nurse!"

-Stephanie Jorgensen (Flynn Fellow 2016)

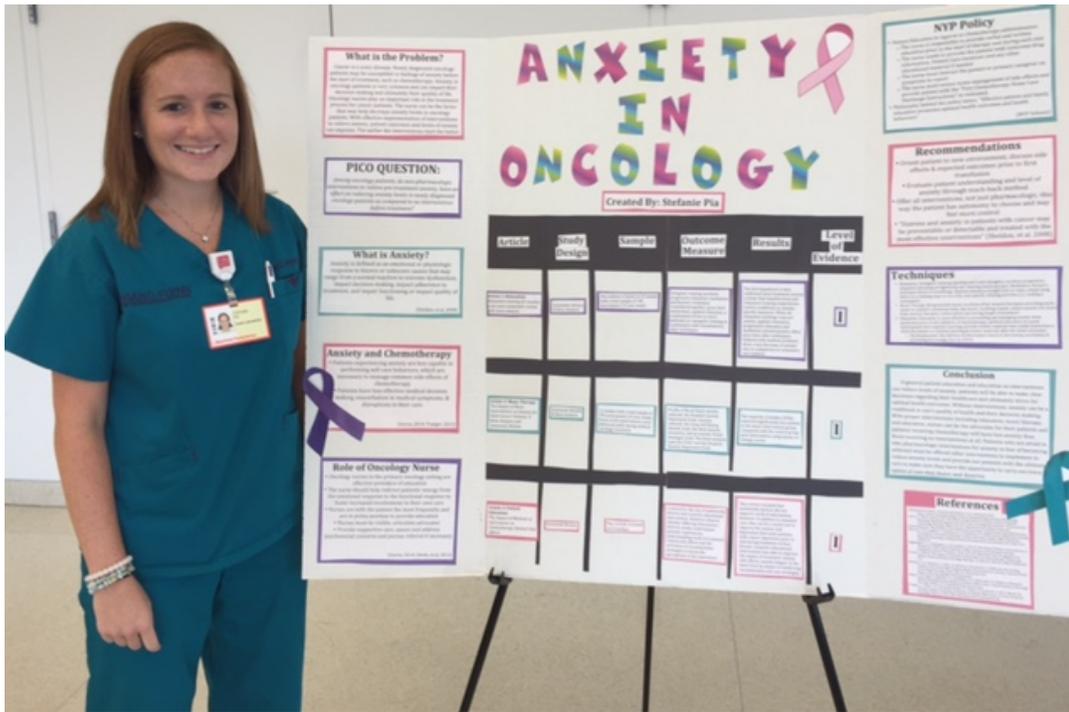


Arita Busgith was placed on 6 Hudson North, an adult oncology unit, at New York Presbyterian the Columbia Campus. The most memorable part for her was the patients she took care of. She presented her research project about palliative care in oncology patients and how important it is for oncology patients to receive palliative care.

“When I started this internship I had no idea what I wanted to specialize in as a nurse and I was a little intimidated by the fact that I would be interning on an oncology unit. However, after the first week of being on the unit these feelings changed. Thanks to my preceptors, many other nurses on 6 Hudson North at NYP/Columbia and Mr. Fred Flynn I learned so much and was afforded the opportunity to really get hands on with my skills. Every day that I worked there I felt like a real nurse and that I was doing something meaningful. This feeling is one that I will use to motivate me as I begin my senior year and begin the pathway towards becoming an oncology nurse.”

“The most memorable thing about this fellowship for me was the many patients I interacted with and couldn’t help taking home with me. I know they say you shouldn’t take your work home with you but I couldn’t help but do that; these were people that I spent time getting to know, laughing with and struggling with. It was just a more solidifying fact as to why I want to be a nurse.”

-Arita Busgith (Flynn Fellow 2016)



Stefanie Pia rotated oncology units at New York Presbyterian the Weill-Cornell Campus. Her favorite unit she rotated on was Bone Marrow Transplant. Stefanie presented her research project about anxiety in oncology patients and how non-pharmacological management reduced anxiety levels.

“I am honored to say that I was one of the Flynn Fellows selected for the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Fellowship this past summer. This fellowship was a once in a lifetime opportunity. The experiences you encounter as a Nurse Extern shadowing oncology nurses for 8 weeks are unbelievable. Oncology nursing is not easy; however, if you feel you have a passion for oncology nursing then this fellowship is the best thing you can apply for. As a nurse extern, I experienced so many impactful moments in the 8 weeks I was rotating on the oncology units at New York Presbyterian Weill- Cornell. I have encountered happy times, where the patient was receiving their final chemotherapy treatment. On the other hand, I have too been with patients who were nearing the end of their battles. All of these experiences have made me 100% confident that I want to be an oncology nurse in the future. I want to be the nurse to help cancer patients fight their battles and make any impact I can in doing so. The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Fellowship is an amazing opportunity for nursing students. Anyone who is interested in oncology nursing must apply. It was such an honor to be part of this fellowship. The people I have met along my 8-week journey I will never forget. This fellowship has changed my life. I will never forget it!”

- Stefanie Pia (Flynn Fellow 2016)

Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship 2015



Lauren Henry, Patricia Mele, Kelly Murphy, Kristen Ponticelli were the four young ladies that were selected and completed the 2015 Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship. This fellowship has impacted their lives in a way they will never forget!



EDUCATION

Kristen Ponticelli

Kristen Ponticelli was a Molloy Nursing Student who graduated in May of 2016. She completed the 2015 Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship. Along with being a Registered Nurse, Kristen writes for nurse.com where she talks about her experiences in nursing school and as a new grad. She offers great advice for your journey through nursing school. In her article below she wrote about the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship and how that Fellowship has played an impact

On her decision to become an Oncology Nurse. For more information and articles in her blog you can visit <https://www.nurse.com/blog/author/kpontiecelli/>

Congratulations Kristen for your wonderful achievements!

Summer Plans Should Include an Invaluable Internship

AUTHOR: KRISTEN PONTICELLI

We have come to mid-semester, and I am sure most of us, myself included, are thinking ahead to a much needed summer vacation after another intense semester of nursing school. But what we really should be doing is searching for summer internships. I could not stress enough how important it is to get your foot in the door.

From my experience — and from what I have heard from my peers — internships give you something that we just don't get in nursing school. For the most part, the faculty likes having you there, and it can give you one-on-one experience not only with the nurses, but with the patients that we, as nursing students, can never get enough of.

I was honored to be accepted into the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Fellowship Program last summer where I was able to work for eight weeks on an oncology unit at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. It was a wonderful experience that taught me a lot. Here are five reasons you should aim for a summer internship:

1. You're able to work side by side with nurses

Most of the staff at an internship site is very receptive to summer interns, and you can be open for basically any learning experience they can offer. If you are able to find a nurse who loves to teach, you will learn more than you could have ever imagined. They may allow you to watch procedures you may never have seen, such as the insertion of a central line. Also, just getting to work side by side with nurses for the extent of their shift is a lesson in itself. You will see how they organize their day and how they deal with problems as they arise. Yes, you may be helping to maintain the personal hygiene of patients, but you can learn so much from this. You learn to talk to patients and comfort them in a time of need, and nothing beats that connection.

2. You'll learn how to be a team player

During your internship, there will be tasks you are allowed to do and others you cannot do. But you can always lend a hand. You can be there to help a busy CNA with bathing a patient or assist a nurse who needs help turning a patient. The staff on a unit is a team. They help each other when they have an extra minute. If you can learn this now, the staff will notice and may want to invite you back.

3. It helps you decide on a specialty

I always wanted to be an oncology nurse, but at my school we don't do our clinical rotations on oncology units. Although I thought this is what I want to specialize in when I become an RN, I was never 100% positive. But now I know for sure I want to become an oncology nurse, and I owe that decision to my internship. It is important to go after what you want. Search the Internet and ask around your school for internships offered in a specialty unit in which you are interested.

4. It allows you networking opportunities

Getting an internship gets your feet in the door. You can create professional relationships with the staff and show them what kind of nurse you will be. And by keeping in touch with the nurse manager and others, you allow yourself to build your professional network.

5. You may find your first nursing job

You may not think so because you are "just an intern," but staff and nursing administrators will notice if you are friendly, hard-working, team player. They may even ask you to come back as either a CNA or even an RN once you pass the NCLEX.

More Information About The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship

Due to the expanding Susan D. Flynn Oncology Developmental Program at Molloy College, the three 2016 Flynn Fellows have been named Student Ambassadors of the program. As student ambassadors, Stephanie Jorgensen, Arita Busgith and Stefanie Pia are resources that Molloy nursing students can contact if they have any questions or would like more information regarding the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship.

You may contact them by email:

Stephanie Jorgensen – sjorgensen@lions.molloy.edu

Arita Busgith – abusgith@lions.molloy.edu

Stefanie Pia – spia@lions.molloy.edu

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Supporting The Fighters
Admiring The Survivors
Honoring The Taken
and Never, Ever Giving Up
Hope



In this picture are Arita Busgith, Stephanie Jorgensen and Stefanie Pia receiving their diplomas at graduation ceremony from the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship. Also in the picture are Dr. Muldoon, Dr. Schecter, Rosemary Sullivan, and Mr. Flynn.