



Woman's

A year of advancing nursing excellence to improve the health of women and infants.

2025

NURSING ANNUAL REPORT



Executive Nurse Leaders

Cheri Johnson, MSN, RNC-OB, Executive Vice President of Patient Care/Chief Nursing Officer
Sophia Solomon, MSN, RN, CPHQ, NE-BC, Senior Vice President of Quality
Wendy Singleton, MSN, APRN, ANP-BC, NEA-BC, Vice President of Nursing/Associate Chief Nursing Officer

Nursing & Patient Care Directors

Tina Englade, MSN, RND-MNN, Director of Mother/Baby & Lactation
Danette Legendre, RCP, CRT-NPS, Director of Respiratory Care
Mary Beth Magee, BSN, RN, CNML, Director of Assessment Center
Alicia Plumer, MSN, RN, CPAN, Director of Perioperative Services
Amye Reeves, BSN, RNC-OB, C-ONQS, Director of Obstetrical Services & Adult ICU
Kayla Tamplain, MSN, RN, Director of Case Management
Tiffani Theriot, BSN, RN, Director of Neonatal ICU & Neonatal Transport

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF NURSING OFFICER



Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pride and sincere gratitude that I welcome you to Woman’s Hospital’s 2025 Nursing Annual Report. This year has been another meaningful reflection of the strength, compassion and excellence of our nursing team.

Throughout 2025, our nurses continued to lead with purpose, advancing the care we provide to women, infants and families across our hospital. From continued growth in perinatal mental health services and

patient experience initiatives to ongoing improvements in quality, safety and clinical outcomes, our nursing teams demonstrated their commitment to excellence in every area of care.

This year also highlighted the power of nursing leadership, shared governance and collaboration. Through our councils, committees and frontline engagement, nurses continued to have a strong voice in decisions that impact patient care, professional practice and the work environment. The continued partnership between bedside nurses, nursing leaders and hospital leadership remains one of the greatest strengths of our organization.

Nursing excellence at Woman’s was evident in the many accomplishments celebrated throughout the year. Our nurses led and contributed to quality improvement work, evidence-based practice, research, professional development and national presentations. These efforts reflect not only the expertise of our team, but also a culture of continuous learning, professional growth, and an unwavering commitment to improving care for every patient and family we serve.

Most importantly, this report represents the heart of nursing at Woman’s Hospital. It reflects the countless moments of compassion, advocacy, teamwork and dedication that happen every day—often quietly, but always with lasting impact. Each story and accomplishment belongs to the nurses who show up with skill, kindness and purpose.

I am honored to serve alongside such an exceptional nursing team. As we reflect on all that was accomplished in 2025, I hope we take time to celebrate the progress we have made and look ahead with confidence to the work still before us.

With deep appreciation,

Cheri Johnson, MSN, RNC-OB
Executive Vice President of Patient Care/Chief Nursing Officer
Woman’s Hospital



Nursing at Woman’s

Woman’s exceptional team includes nearly 900 nurses, each of whom is dedicated to improving the health of women and infants in our care and in the community. This commitment is exemplified by recognition as a Magnet organization since 2006. ANCC’s Magnet Recognition Program® honors healthcare organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence and quality patient care and is the highest honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Transformational leadership remains a cornerstone of nursing excellence, fostering a culture where nurses feel valued, empowered and supported in their professional practice. Nurse leaders play a critical role in advancing organizational goals by inspiring innovation, promoting evidence-based practice and cultivating environments that prioritize exceptional patient care. Through meaningful engagement, active listening and a commitment to professional growth, transformational leaders encourage nurses to reach their full potential and contribute to positive outcomes across the organization.

By modeling accountability, integrity and resilience, these leaders create a shared vision that motivates teams to embrace change and pursue continuous improvement. They encourage open communication, welcome diverse perspectives and address challenges with transparency and purpose. Through their influence, transformational leaders strengthen employee engagement, enhance the patient and family experience and drive the continued success of the nursing profession.



Press Ganey 2025

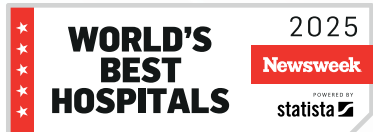
Woman's Hospital was honored with the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award® for outstanding performance in patient experience.

This prestigious national award recognizes healthcare organizations that consistently achieve exceptional results in patient experience, employee engagement, physician engagement or clinical quality.

The Guardian of Excellence Award® is presented to organizations ranking among the top 5% of Press Ganey clients nationwide for a full calendar year. This distinction reflects an unwavering commitment to delivering compassionate, high-quality care and creating exceptional experiences for patients and families.

Earning this recognition demonstrates sustained excellence in meeting the needs and expectations of those we serve while fostering a culture dedicated to quality, service and continuous improvement.

In 2025, Woman's Hospital achieved a remarkable milestone, receiving Press Ganey recognition for the 11th consecutive year. This accomplishment exemplifies the dedication of our nurses, physicians and healthcare teams whose commitment to excellence continues to distinguish Woman's Hospital as a national leader in patient-centered care.



Woman’s Hospital Recognized as World’s Best Hospital

Woman’s Hospital was named one of Newsweek’s World’s Best Hospitals, continuing a distinguished record of national and international recognition for excellence in healthcare. This honor highlights Woman’s ongoing commitment to delivering exceptional care and outstanding patient experiences in women’s health services.

The annual World’s Best Hospitals ranking serves as a trusted resource for patients seeking high-quality healthcare organizations around the globe. Hospitals are evaluated using recommendations from physicians, healthcare professionals and hospital leaders, as well as measures of patient experience, quality of care, patient safety, infection prevention and clinical outcomes.

Woman’s continued inclusion on this prestigious list reflects the dedication of its nurses, physicians and healthcare teams who consistently strive to provide safe, compassionate and evidence-based care. Recognition by Newsweek reinforces Woman’s reputation as a leader in gynecology, maternity care and patient satisfaction, while demonstrating a steadfast commitment to excellence in every patient encounter.

Woman’s Hospital Named One of the Best Places to Work for 18th Consecutive Year

Woman’s Hospital was once again recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of the Best Places to Work in Healthcare, extending an extraordinary legacy of workplace excellence. This distinction reflects the organization’s continued commitment to fostering a culture where employees feel valued, supported and empowered to thrive both personally and professionally.

As one of the nation’s most respected workplace recognition programs in healthcare, the Best Places to Work award honors organizations that demonstrate exceptional employee engagement, workplace satisfaction and organizational culture. The designation is based on comprehensive evaluations of workplace policies, practices, benefits and employee feedback.

Woman’s continued recognition exemplifies its dedication to creating an environment where team members can grow, collaborate and deliver exceptional care. By investing in its workforce and prioritizing team member well-being, Woman’s strengthens its ability to provide outstanding experiences and outcomes for the patients, families and communities it serves.

In 2025, Woman’s Hospital achieved its 18th consecutive year on Modern Healthcare’s Best Places to Work list, remaining one of Louisiana’s leading healthcare employers and the only healthcare organization in the state to be recognized every year since the program began.



Louisiana Birth Ready+ Designation

Demonstrating its continued dedication to high-quality maternal care, Woman’s Hospital achieved the Louisiana Birth Ready+ Designation for the fifth consecutive year. Awarded by the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC), this distinction recognizes birthing facilities that demonstrate a commitment to implementing

evidence-based practices that improve maternal and infant outcomes while ensuring patients and families receive safe, equitable and respectful care.

The Birth Ready+ designation is the highest level of recognition awarded by LaPQC and reflects a facility’s dedication to advancing quality, safety and health equity throughout the birthing experience. Through participation in this statewide collaborative, Woman’s continues to lead efforts aimed at improving maternal, perinatal and infant health outcomes across Louisiana.

As part of its ongoing work with LaPQC, Woman’s has implemented and sustained evidence-based practices and standards, including:

- Ongoing obstetric hemorrhage risk assessments
- Timely recognition and treatment of hypertension in pregnancy
- Health equity education and training
- Active participation in quality improvement collaboratives
- Engagement of patients and families as partners in care

To achieve Birth Ready+ designation, hospitals must demonstrate excellence in collaborative learning, health disparity reduction, patient partnership, and the measurement and improvement of clinical outcomes and processes.

This fifth consecutive designation reflects the dedication of Woman’s nurses, physicians and interdisciplinary teams who remain committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality care. Their efforts support the hospital’s mission to improve the health of women and infants while ensuring every patient is treated with dignity, respect and excellence.

America’s Best Maternity Hospitals

Woman’s Hospital was recognized by Newsweek and Statista as one of America’s Best Maternity Hospitals, earning the highest distinction of Five Ribbons for Excellence in maternity care. This prestigious recognition is awarded to hospitals that demonstrate outstanding performance in providing safe, high-quality care for mothers and newborns.

The annual ranking identifies leading maternity hospitals across the nation based on a comprehensive evaluation of patient experience, quality metrics and recommendations from healthcare professionals. Hospitals receiving the highest designation are recognized for their commitment to clinical excellence, patient safety and exceptional outcomes throughout the childbirth journey.

This recognition reflects the dedication of Woman’s Hospital’s caregivers to advancing evidence-based maternity care and delivering safe, compassionate, and exceptional experiences for every patient and family. Through the expertise of its nurses, physicians and interdisciplinary teams, Woman’s remains a trusted leader in maternal and newborn healthcare.

In 2025, Woman’s Hospital earned this distinction for the third consecutive year, further reinforcing its reputation as one of the nation’s premier destinations for maternity care.



Best of Baton Rouge Awards

Woman’s Hospital was recognized by The Advocate’s Best of Baton Rouge Awards for excellence in healthcare services throughout the Capital Region. Selected through community voting, these awards highlight organizations that have earned the trust and confidence of the people they serve.

In the inaugural year of the Best of Baton Rouge Awards, Woman’s Hospital received the Gold Award for Best Place to Have a Baby, reflecting its longstanding reputation for exceptional maternity care and outstanding patient experiences. In addition, Woman’s

Hospital earned the Bronze Award for Best Hospital, while the Woman’s Cancer Pavilion was recognized with the Silver Award for Best Cancer Treatment Center.

These honors reflect the dedication of Woman’s nurses, physicians and healthcare teams who are committed to providing compassionate, high-quality care across every stage of life. The recognition also demonstrates the strong relationships Woman’s has built within the community and the confidence patients place in the organization for their healthcare needs.

Receiving recognition in multiple categories during the inaugural year of The Advocate’s Best of Baton Rouge Awards highlights Woman’s commitment to clinical excellence, patient-centered care and improving the health of the communities it serves.

Clinical Quality Improvement Award

Woman’s Hospital was recognized by the Louisiana Hospital Association with the 2025 Clinical Quality Improvement Award, honoring the organization’s commitment to advancing patient safety and improving clinical outcomes.

This prestigious award recognizes hospitals that demonstrate measurable improvements in key quality indicators and achieve targeted performance goals. Woman’s earned the distinction for its success in reducing infections and readmissions, reflecting the organization’s ongoing focus on evidence-based practice, interdisciplinary collaboration and continuous quality improvement.

The achievement highlights the dedication of nurses, physicians and healthcare professionals who work together to identify opportunities for improvement and implement strategies that enhance patient care. Through rigorous monitoring, data-driven decision-making and a culture of accountability, Woman’s continues to deliver high-quality care while improving outcomes for the patients and families it serves.

The award was presented during the annual meeting of the Louisiana Organization of Nurse Leaders in Lafayette. Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson, Labor and Delivery Director Amye Reeves, and AICU/HRU Manager Davina Phillips accepted the award on behalf of Woman’s Hospital, recognizing the collective efforts of teams across the organization whose commitment to excellence made this achievement possible.

This recognition further reinforces Woman’s reputation as a leader in quality and safety and reflects its unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care for women and infants.



Investing in the Future of Nursing

Woman’s Hospital continued to strengthen its commitment to nursing education and workforce development through strategic academic partnerships that support the preparation of future nurses and improve the health of the communities it serves.

In recognition of its longstanding dedication to nursing education, Woman’s Hospital received the Significant Partnership Award from Southeastern Louisiana University School of Nursing during its Honors Convocation ceremony. The award recognizes Woman’s decades-long partnership with the university and its ongoing commitment to providing exceptional clinical learning experiences for nursing students. Southeastern faculty highlighted the collaborative relationship between the organizations and the welcoming environment created by Woman’s team members, which supports student success and contributes to the recruitment of nursing graduates into the workforce. Wendy Singleton, Vice President of Nursing, accepted the award on behalf of Woman’s Hospital.

Building upon its commitment to nursing education, Woman’s announced a transformational \$5 million investment over three years to support the Southern University College of Nursing and Allied Health. This investment will help launch the J.K. Haynes Building project and strengthen educational opportunities for future healthcare professionals while supporting efforts to improve maternal and infant health outcomes across Louisiana.



The partnership with Southern University reflects Woman’s dedication to developing a strong and diverse nursing workforce. More than 140 Southern nursing students currently complete clinical rotations across multiple departments at Woman’s, including Labor & Delivery, Assessment Center, Neonatal Intensive Care, Mother/Baby, High-Risk Obstetrics and Medical-Surgical Oncology. Since 2019, Woman’s has welcomed more than 115 Southern nursing graduates to its nursing team.

Together, these partnerships demonstrate Woman’s commitment to advancing nursing education, supporting workforce development and creating pathways for future nurses to thrive. By investing in academic excellence and fostering meaningful collaborations, Woman’s is helping to ensure a strong pipeline of skilled, compassionate nurses.

Capital Region 500 Honorees

Woman’s Hospital leadership was recognized among the most influential leaders in the Capital Region when President and Chief Executive Officer Rene Ragas and Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson were named to the Capital Region 500.

Published annually by the Baton Rouge Business Report, the Capital Region 500 highlights individuals whose leadership, expertise and vision have a significant impact on the region’s business, healthcare, education and civic communities. Honorees are recognized for their ability to influence progress, drive innovation and shape the future of the Capital Region.

The inclusion of both Rene and Cheri on this distinguished list reflects their commitment to advancing healthcare excellence and improving the health of women and infants throughout the region. Their leadership continues to guide strategic growth, foster a culture of innovation and support the delivery of exceptional patient care.

This recognition not only celebrates their individual accomplishments but also reflects the dedication of the physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals whose collective efforts contribute to the ongoing success of Woman’s Hospital and its mission to provide exceptional care for every patient and family served.



RENE RAGAS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
WOMAN'S HOSPITAL

In 2022, Rene Ragas became president and CEO of Woman’s Hospital, the largest single-hospital birthing facility in Louisiana. Before Woman’s, he was a health care executive for more than 20 years, leading local hospitals and health care systems as the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System’s Northshore market president and CEO of Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa. Under Ragas’ leadership, Woman’s opened Louisiana’s first inpatient perinatal mental health unit in 2024. Woman’s was named a World’s Best Hospital by *Newsweek* and one of the Best Midsize Employers in 2024. Ragas is the chair of the Louisiana Hospital Association, an executive committee member of the Baton Rouge Health District and a member of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber board.

A MUST-READ: *First Break All the Rules*, by Marcus Buckingham. It taught me that a strong leader is pivotal in cultivating environments where employees and companies can truly excel.



CHERI JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER
WOMAN'S HOSPITAL

Cheri Johnson is an established leader and advocate for women and infants. She started working at Woman’s Hospital in 2006 and over the years has worked her way up to chief nursing officer and executive vice president. Woman’s Hospital is the largest women’s care specialty hospital in Louisiana. At Woman’s, Johnson opened a dedicated COVID-19 unit and organized staff for critical patients. She also helped open Louisiana’s first 10-bed inpatient perinatal mental health unit. Johnson has won numerous awards, including being named the Louisiana State Nurses Association’s Nurse of the Year in 2011, and serves on various task forces and committees dedicated to women and infants.

ADVICE TO YOUNGER SELF: You are more capable than you ever imagined. Don’t let yourself get in the way of accomplishing great things.

A MUST-READ: *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr. My oldest daughter is blind so this one speaks to me.

Influencing Healthcare Policy to Improve Women’s Health

Woman’s Hospital leaders continued their commitment to advancing healthcare beyond the bedside by actively supporting legislation that improves access to care and promotes better health outcomes for women and families across Louisiana.

In 2025, members of the Woman’s executive team joined Governor Jeff Landry at the Louisiana State Capitol for the signing of House Bill 357, legislation sponsored by Representative Aimee Freeman that expands access to integrative cancer treatments through insurance coverage. The bill represents an important step in improving comprehensive cancer care and ensuring patients have access to a broader range of evidence-based treatment options.

Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson remains actively engaged in legislative and advocacy efforts that support the health of women and infants, as well as initiatives that strengthen and advance the nursing profession. Through participation in policy discussions and collaboration with healthcare and community leaders, nursing leadership helps ensure that the voices of patients, families and nurses are represented in decisions that shape healthcare delivery throughout the state.

By engaging in legislative advocacy, Woman’s leaders demonstrate a commitment to influencing positive change, supporting equitable access to care and advancing policies that improve health outcomes for current and future generations.



Advocating for Maternal Mental Health

Woman’s Hospital leaders participated in Hospital Day at the Louisiana State Capitol, joining healthcare organizations from across the state to engage with legislators and highlight the critical role hospitals play in improving the health of Louisiana’s communities.

Hosted by the Louisiana Hospital Association, Hospital Day provides an opportunity for hospital leaders to connect with policymakers, share organizational priorities and advocate for issues that impact patient care and access to healthcare services. During the event, Woman’s leaders met with state lawmakers to discuss the hospital’s comprehensive services and its ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for women, infants and families.

Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson played a key role in these discussions, sharing information about Woman’s innovative Perinatal Mental Health Unit (PMHU) and its impact on maternal mental health outcomes. As the first unit of its kind in Louisiana, the PMHU provides specialized care for pregnant and postpartum patients experiencing mental health conditions, addressing a critical need for this vulnerable population. Johnson highlighted the importance of expanding access to maternal mental healthcare and the positive outcomes achieved through the program.

Participation in Hospital Day reflects Woman’s commitment to advocacy and collaboration beyond the hospital setting. By engaging with legislators and healthcare leaders, Woman’s helps advance policies and initiatives that support high-quality care, improve access to essential services and strengthen the health of women, infants and families throughout Louisiana.



Celebrating 400,000 Babies

In 2025, Woman’s Hospital reached a historic milestone with the delivery of its 400,000th baby, a remarkable achievement reflecting decades of dedication to providing exceptional care for women, infants and families across Louisiana and beyond.

In anticipation of this milestone, Woman’s launched the Labor of Love campaign, inviting former patients and families to share where their Woman’s babies are today. Through an interactive map, families were encouraged to mark their current locations, creating a visual representation of the generations of lives touched by Woman’s. As submissions poured in, the campaign revealed the far-reaching impact of the hospital, with Woman’s babies represented not only throughout Louisiana but across numerous states throughout the country. The campaign generated excitement throughout the community as the hospital counted down to the birth of its 400,000th baby and celebrated the families who have made Woman’s part of their story.

Nursing leadership played a key role in promoting the campaign and engaging the community. Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson and Associate Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Nursing Wendy Singleton participated in local media interviews, sharing details about the countdown to the milestone delivery and encouraging community participation in the Labor of Love campaign.

Following the delivery of the hospital’s 400,000th baby on March 15, 2025, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry, joined by state legislators, representatives from the Louisiana Department of Health and hospital leadership, proclaimed May 19 as Woman’s Hospital Day in Louisiana. The proclamation recognized the hospital’s extraordinary contribution to maternal and infant health and celebrated its lasting impact on families across the state.

This milestone serves as a testament to the dedication of the nurses, physicians and healthcare professionals whose compassion, expertise and commitment to excellence have helped make Woman’s a trusted leader in maternal and newborn care.



CNO Advisory Committee

Since its establishment in 2018, the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Advisory Committee has served as an important forum for communication, collaboration and shared decision-making between clinical nurses and nursing leadership. The committee provides frontline nurses with direct access to Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson and Associate Chief Nursing Officer Wendy Singleton, creating opportunities to discuss organizational priorities, share feedback and gain insight into strategic initiatives that influence nursing practice.

Representing departments across the hospital, committee members meet monthly with nursing leadership to discuss opportunities, challenges and emerging issues affecting patient care and the work environment. Through these discussions, nurses are empowered to bring forward ideas and concerns from their units while serving as ambassadors who communicate key updates and decisions back to their colleagues.

In 2025, the committee continued to strengthen engagement between nursing staff and leadership by facilitating meaningful dialogue around organizational initiatives, patient care priorities and workforce needs. Discussions focused on topics such as nursing quality outcomes, employee engagement, patient experience, shared governance initiatives, workforce development and strategic planning efforts. Members also provided valuable feedback regarding operational processes, practice environment improvements and opportunities to enhance communication across the organization.

The committee remains a vital mechanism for ensuring the voices of clinical nurses are heard and incorporated into decision-making processes. By fostering transparency, collaboration and mutual respect, the CNO Advisory Committee supports a culture where nurses are empowered to influence change, advance professional practice and contribute to the continued success of Woman’s Hospital.

CNO Advisory Council Members

Chelsea Bradford, BSN, RN (AICU)
Stacie Crawford, BSN, RN (LSU OB/GYN Clinic)
Janelle Simmons, BSN, RNC-OB, LCCE (Labor & Delivery)
Brittany Hebert, BSN, RN (Infusion Center)
Samantha Bowman, RN (Mother/Baby)
Kim Centanni, RN (NICU)
Adrienne McVea, BSN, RN (Pre-Surgery Center)
Meredith Gaudet, RN, C-EFM (High-Risk Unit)

Julie Prejean, BSN, RN (Surgical Care Unit)
Kristy Simmons, MSN, CNOR (Surgery)
Michelle Leerkes, BSN, RN, MS, CHPN (Cancer Pavilion)
Celeste Lessard, BSN, RN, (Assessment Center)
Stephanie C. Powers, BSN, RN (NICU)
Jessica Salassi, RN (Metabolic Center)

STRUCTURAL
EMPOWERMENT



Structural empowerment is reflected in a culture where nurses are encouraged and supported to influence decisions impacting patient care, professional practice and the healthcare environment. Through shared governance, professional development opportunities and active participation in organizational initiatives, nurses are empowered to contribute their expertise, advocate for positive change and help shape the future of nursing at Woman’s Hospital.

Nurses extend their influence beyond the organization through involvement in professional associations, community partnerships, academic collaborations and legislative advocacy. These activities strengthen the nursing profession, support organizational priorities and advance the health and well-being of the communities served by Woman’s.

By fostering leadership, lifelong learning and professional engagement at every level, Woman’s creates opportunities for nurses to grow, lead and make meaningful contributions that improve outcomes for patients, families and the nursing profession.

Shared Governance: Nursing Practice Councils

Shared governance remains a cornerstone of professional nursing practice at Woman’s Hospital, empowering clinical nurses to actively participate in decisions that influence patient care, nursing practice and the work environment. Through a collaborative decision-making structure, nurses from across the organization contribute their expertise, identify opportunities for improvement and help shape initiatives that support nursing excellence and organizational goals.

The shared governance model is comprised of clinical nurse representatives from all departments who serve on councils focused on key aspects of professional practice, quality, safety, education, research and patient care. In addition to the organization-wide councils, nurses actively participate in unit-based councils and a dedicated Night Shift Council, ensuring perspectives from day and night shift team members are represented in decision-making. These councils provide frontline nurses with opportunities to address unit-specific challenges, develop solutions and implement changes that directly impact the care they provide and the practice environment in which they work.

Council representatives convene monthly on Senate Day to share updates, collaborate across practice areas and present recommendations to the Nurse Executive Council for review and approval. Once approved, initiatives are implemented and monitored by the respective councils to ensure successful execution and sustained outcomes.

The engagement and commitment of council members are instrumental to the success of shared governance at Woman’s. Through their leadership, collaboration and willingness to champion change, nurses help drive improvements in patient care, professional practice and operational effectiveness throughout the organization.

By fostering collaboration, accountability and nurse-led decision-making, shared governance strengthens professional autonomy, enhances engagement and ensures that the voices of frontline nurses remain integral to the advancement of nursing practice at Woman’s Hospital.



2025 Nurses Week: Celebrating Nurses Who Make a Difference Every Patient, Every Day

Woman’s Hospital celebrated Nurses Week with a week dedicated to honoring the compassion, dedication, and extraordinary contributions of our nursing team. Centered around the theme “*Making a Difference: Every Patient, Every Day*,” the celebration recognized the meaningful impact nurses have on patients, families, and one another. Throughout the week, nurses enjoyed opportunities for connection, reflection, and appreciation. A Gratitude Wall encouraged team members and visitors to share messages of encouragement, while events such as the Cinco de Mayo Nacho Bar and Tea & Talk brought colleagues together for moments of fun and fellowship. The Memorial Walk provided a meaningful opportunity to honor and remember nurses and colleagues who have passed away. Recognizing the importance of nurse well-being, the week also featured activities focused on resilience and renewal, including the Resilience Room, Blessing of the Hands, and the Resilience Cart, which brought encouragement and refreshments to night shift teams. Special animal experiences, including visits from adoptable pets and wildlife ambassadors, brought joy and smiles to all team members throughout the week. The celebration concluded with the Nursing Awards Ceremony, where exceptional nurses were recognized for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to delivering outstanding patient care. Nurses Week 2025 was a meaningful celebration of the nurses who make a difference each day through their compassion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to the patients and families we serve.



Preparing for a Fifth Magnet® Designation

Wendy Singleton, MSN, APRN, ANP-BC, NEA-BC, Vice President of Nursing/Associate Chief Nursing Officer, and Linda Kaye Wingfield, MSN, RN, CPXP, Manager of Nursing Professional Practice and Magnet® Program Director, attended the 2025 ANCC National Magnet Conference® to gain insights, share best practices, and stay current on the latest advancements in the Magnet Recognition Program®. The conference provided valuable opportunities to learn from nationally recognized nursing leaders, explore innovations in professional nursing practice, and connect with Magnet® organizations from across the world. Woman’s Hospital has proudly maintained Magnet® designation since 2006, demonstrating a sustained commitment to nursing excellence, exceptional patient care, and positive outcomes for women, infants, and families. Participation in the ANCC National Magnet Conference® reflects Woman’s ongoing commitment to advancing nursing excellence and ensuring continued readiness for its fifth Magnet® designation.



Supporting Professional Nursing Engagement

Woman’s Hospital proudly hosted the 2025 Louisiana Association of Perianesthesia Nurses (LAPAN) Annual State Conference on January 25, bringing together perianesthesia nurses from across the state for a day of education, professional development and networking. The conference was led by Toni Dantonio, MSN, RN, CAPA, who has served as President of LAPAN since 2023. Under her leadership, the event provided attendees with valuable educational opportunities focused on leadership development, medication safety and current issues impacting perianesthesia nursing practice. Several members of Woman’s perioperative nursing team attended the conference alongside colleagues from across Louisiana, furthering their professional knowledge and engagement within the specialty. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from nationally recognized speaker Toni Zito, MSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA, FASPAN, of the Cleveland Clinic. As Director of Education for the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN), Zito shared her expertise and insights on topics relevant to advancing safe, high-quality patient care. Hosting the annual conference reflects Woman’s commitment to supporting professional nursing organizations and encouraging lifelong learning among its nursing staff. Through active involvement in professional associations such as LAPAN, Woman’s nurses contribute to the advancement of specialty nursing practice while strengthening connections with colleagues across the state and nation.



Advancing Critical Care Excellence Through Professional Development

Woman’s Hospital continues to support the professional growth of its nurses through participation in leading specialty education opportunities. Holly Maynard, RN (AICU) and Elizabeth Digirolamo, BSN, RN (AICU) represented Woman’s at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition (NTI), held in New Orleans.

NTI is a nationally recognized conference that brings together critical care nurses and healthcare professionals for advanced education, collaboration and innovation in critical care practice. The event provides opportunities for attendees to learn from experts in the field, explore emerging evidence-based practices and connect with peers from across the country.

Through their participation, Maynard and Digirolamo gained valuable knowledge and resources related to critical care nursing, patient outcomes, professional development and the evolving needs of critically ill patients. The insights gained from NTI support continued excellence in practice and can be shared with colleagues across Woman’s Hospital.

Participation in professional conferences such as NTI reflects Woman’s commitment to empowering nurses, encouraging lifelong learning and advancing high-quality, evidence-based care for patients and families.



Continuing the Momentum at the 2025 AWHONN Louisiana Annual Conference

Building on the knowledge and professional connections gained at the national convention, Woman’s Hospital nurses continued their commitment to lifelong learning by participating in the 2025 Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Louisiana Annual Conference. The conference was thoughtfully planned and led by two Woman’s Hospital nurse leaders who serve in state AWHONN leadership roles, demonstrating the organization’s commitment to advancing nursing excellence and professional leadership at both the state and local levels. These leaders include Louisiana AWHONN Section Chair Tina Englade, MSN, RNC-LRN, and Louisiana AWHONN Section Secretary-Treasurer Kathleen Melancon, MSN, MBA, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS.

Held at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge, the conference brought together nurses and healthcare professionals from across the state for education, collaboration, and networking focused on improving outcomes for women and newborns. Sessions addressed topics including bullying and incivility in the workplace, maternal-fetal medicine, perinatal and neonatal loss, RSV prevention, endometriosis, and other emerging issues impacting women’s and neonatal health. Sponsorship partners from across the country shared their innovative tools and products with attendees allowing great engagement with bedside nurses and leadership alike.

Several Woman’s nurses attended the conference, gaining valuable knowledge and evidence-based strategies to strengthen clinical practice and enhance patient care. Woman’s leaders also contributed to the educational program. Dr. R. Clifton Moore, Chief Medical Officer and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Physician, presented on intrauterine fetal growth restriction, while Palliative Care Coordinators Megan Haley, MSN, APRN-PMHNP, RNC-OB, CPLC, PMH-C, and Amy Crochet, BCN, RNC-CPLC, shared their expertise on perinatal and neonatal loss.

Participation in both the national and state AWHONN conferences reflects Woman’s ongoing commitment to professional engagement, continuing education, and excellence in maternal and newborn care. By remaining active within specialty nursing organizations, Woman’s nurses continue to advance evidence-based, compassionate care for women, infants, and families.

Learning, Leading, and Connecting at the 2025 AWHONN Convention

The 2025 Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Convention, held in Orlando, Florida, brought together perinatal and neonatal nurses from across the country for four days of education, collaboration, and innovation. Woman’s Hospital nurses participated in educational sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on the latest evidence-based practices, emerging clinical trends, and advocacy efforts to improve care for women, newborns, and families.

The national convention provided attendees with valuable opportunities to expand their knowledge, connect with colleagues from across the country, and bring new ideas and best practices back to Woman’s Hospital. The photos below capture highlights from the conference and the shared commitment to advancing perinatal nursing.



Advancing Nursing Professional Development Through Collaboration

In September 2025, five Woman’s Hospital Clinical Educators joined more than 70 nursing professional development colleagues from across the state at the South Louisiana Association for Nursing Professional Development (SLANPD) Summit. SLANPD, the local chapter of the Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD), provides opportunities for nursing professional development specialists to connect, collaborate, and advance the practice of nursing education.

The summit offered valuable opportunities to share best practices, explore innovative approaches, and learn strategies to strengthen nursing education programs. Sessions focused on key areas including nurse onboarding, competency development, inclusion, and preceptor training. Participation in professional development events such as the SLANPD Summit supports Woman’s commitment to lifelong learning and ensures our educators continue to bring current, evidence-based practices back to the organization to support the growth and success of our nursing team.

Clinical Educators who attended the summit:

Kelli Dixon, MSN, RN (NICU)
Skylar Luther, BSN, RNC-NIC (NICU)
Joanie Durgapersad, BSN, RN (AICU)
Lauren Holmes, BSN, RNC-OB (Labor & Delivery)
Marissa Holden, MSN, RN, CNOR (Perioperative Services)



Nursing Leadership Focused on Excellence in Perinatal Care

Tina Englade, MSN, RNC-MNN – Director, Mother/Baby & Lactation, Amy McCurdy, MSN, RN – Manager, Mother/Baby & Lactation, and Davina Phillips, MBS, BSN, RNC-OB – Manager, AICU, High-Risk Unit, & Infusion Therapy Center, represented Woman’s Hospital at the 2025 Perinatal Leadership Forum in Tucson, Arizona. The forum brought together perinatal leaders and clinicians from across the country to share innovative strategies, best practices, and emerging trends focused on improving maternal and newborn outcomes.

Through education, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas, attendees explored opportunities to strengthen care across the perinatal continuum. Participation in this forum reflects Woman’s commitment to continuous learning, professional growth, and advancing safe, high-quality care for women and infants.



Woman’s Hospital Auxiliary Awards Scholarships to Future Healthcare Professionals

Woman’s Hospital Auxiliary continues its long-standing tradition of investing in the next generation of healthcare professionals through its annual scholarship program. Since 1998, the Auxiliary has awarded more than \$190,000 in scholarships to students pursuing a wide range of academic and professional careers.

In 2025, the Auxiliary awarded scholarships to outstanding students who are employed by or volunteer at Woman’s Hospital, or who are children of Woman’s staff members. Among this year’s scholarship recipients were several students pursuing careers in healthcare, including several members of the nursing team who are advancing their nursing education. This year’s healthcare scholarship recipients include:

- **Madison Bailey** – Nursing/Fran U
- **Kylie Brown** – Nursing/Fran U
- **Charlotte Caringal** – Nursing/Fran U
- **Madelyn Edwards** – Nursing/Southeastern Louisiana University
- **Carli Loflin** – Master of Health Administration/LSU Shreveport
- **Madison Searcy** – Master of Health Administration/LSU Shreveport
- **Ericka Seidemann** – Doctorate in Public Health/Tulane
- **LaKendra Thomas** – Nursing/Baton Rouge Community College

The Woman’s Hospital Auxiliary is proud to invest in these promising individuals as they pursue meaningful careers in healthcare. Their dedication and service to Woman’s reflect a bright future for patient care and community support.



Nursing Compassion Shines During Historic 2025 Louisiana Snowstorm

In early 2025, an unprecedented winter storm brought record snowfall and extreme conditions to South Louisiana, creating challenges across the Baton Rouge community. As Woman’s Hospital prepared for the arctic blast, nursing teams demonstrated exceptional teamwork, flexibility, and resilience to ensure patients continued to receive safe, compassionate care.

During the storm, NICU nurses found a meaningful way to bring joy to patients and families who were unable to be together. Understanding that many parents would miss experiencing the rare snowfall with their hospitalized infants, NICU nurse Emily Esch and the team introduced “Steve,” a miniature snowman, to NICU patients. The snowman made rounds throughout the unit, giving babies their first experience with snow and allowing parents who were unable to travel to participate virtually through FaceTime.

Beyond providing a moment of joy during an extraordinary event, the response highlighted the dedication and creativity of Woman’s nurses. Staff worked together to navigate staffing needs, support one another, and maintain the high level of care families depend on, demonstrating the compassion and commitment that define the nursing team at Woman’s Hospital.



**NURSING
RECOGNITION**



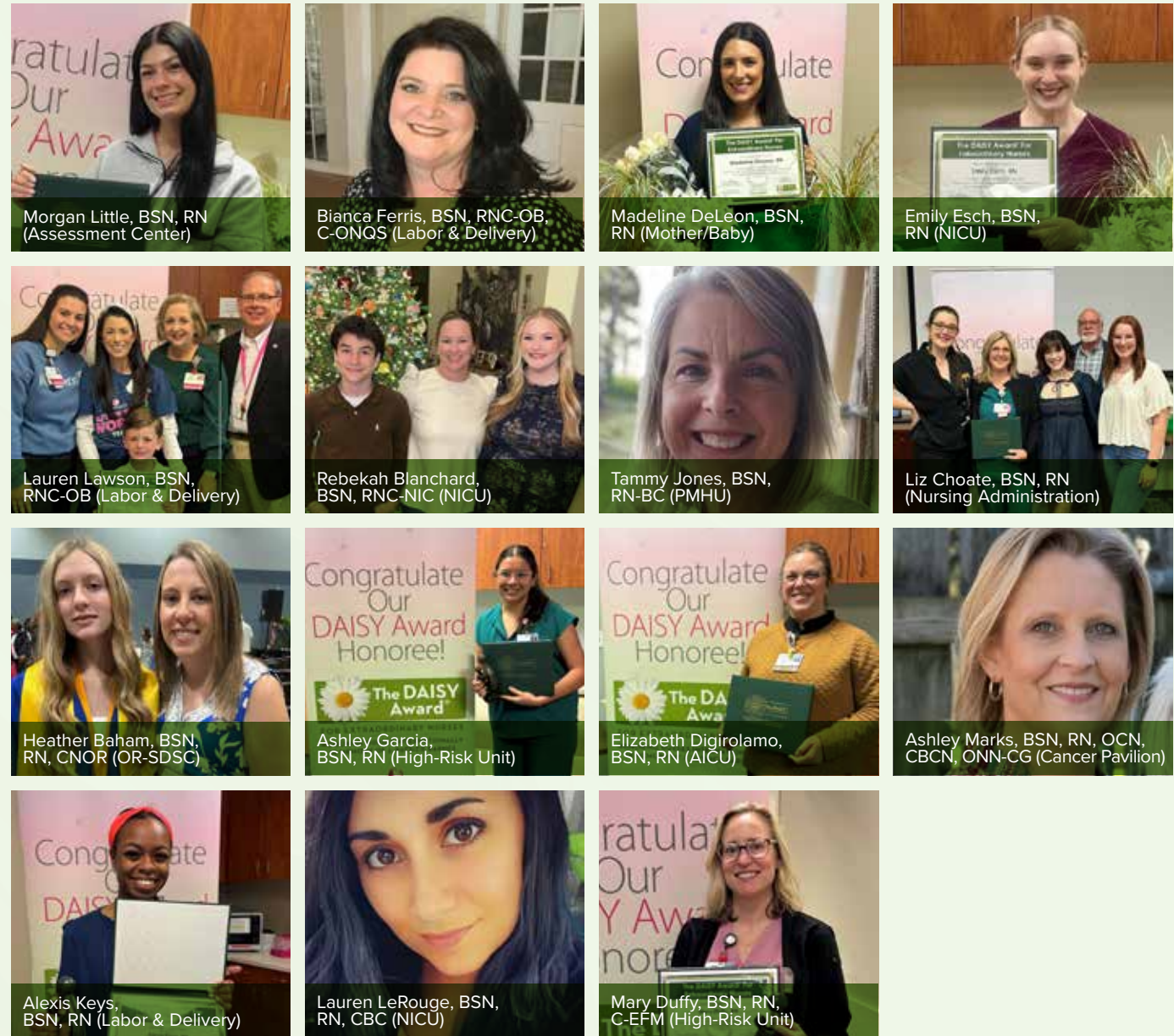
The DAISY Award® recognizes nurses whose clinical excellence, compassion, and extraordinary care leave a lasting impact on patients, families, and colleagues. Through nominations submitted by those who have personally experienced exceptional nursing care, the award celebrates nurses who consistently go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference.

Each recipient is honored with a surprise celebration on their unit, where colleagues and leaders gather to recognize their achievement. Awardees receive a DAISY Award certificate, commemorative pin, and the hand carved *A Healer's Touch* sculpture, a symbol of gratitude presented by the DAISY Foundation.

At Woman's Hospital, the DAISY Award reflects our commitment to recognizing nurses who exemplify excellence in practice and embody the compassion, professionalism, and dedication that define exceptional nursing care.



2025 DAISY Award Recipients



Celebrating Nursing Excellence

The Baton Rouge District Nurses Association (BRDNA) Celebrate Nursing Awards recognize nurses who exemplify excellence in clinical practice, leadership, education, advocacy, and service to the nursing profession. Each year, these awards honor nurses whose dedication and compassion make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients, families, colleagues, and the communities they serve.

Woman's Hospital is proud to have multiple nurses recognized through this distinguished program. Their nominations and award selections reflect the exceptional talent, professionalism, and commitment to excellence demonstrated by our nursing team every day. These honors celebrate not only individual achievements but also the collective culture of excellence that defines nursing at Woman's Hospital.

Congratulations to all of our nurses who were nominated and to those selected as 2025 BRDNA Celebrate Nursing Award recipients. Your dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to advancing the nursing profession continue to inspire those around you.

BRDNA Celebrate Nursing Nominations:

Erin Ferguson, BSN, RN, C-EFM (High-Risk Unit)
Haylee Munson, RN (NICU)
Laci Upton, BSN, RN (High-Risk Unit)
Cari Bradley-Waid, BSN, RN, (NICU)

BRDNA Celebrate Nursing Award Recipients:



National Recognition for Patient Advocacy

Congratulations to Leslie Townsend, BSN, RN, CPAN – Manager of PACU/Bariatric Surgery, on being nominated for the ABPANC Advocacy Award, a national recognition presented by the American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC). This prestigious award honors CPAN® and CAPA® certified nurses who demonstrate exceptional leadership, compassionate patient advocacy, and excellence in perianesthesia nursing.

Being nominated for this distinguished award reflects her dedication to providing safe, patient-centered care and making a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and their families.



AORN 40 Under 40

The Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Emerging Leaders Under 40 program recognizes perioperative nurses under the age of 40 who demonstrate exceptional leadership, innovation, and a commitment to advancing the perioperative nursing profession. The program honors emerging leaders who are making a significant impact early in their careers while helping shape the future of perioperative nursing.

Congratulations to Marissa Holden, MSN, RN, CNOR – Clinical Educator for Perioperative Services, on being selected for this prestigious national recognition. Her leadership, dedication to professional development, and commitment to excellence exemplify the future of perioperative nursing.

Marissa was also nominated for the AORN Outstanding Achievement in Education, which recognizes nurse educators who demonstrate excellence in clinical education, mentorship, and advancing perioperative practice. This national nomination reflects Marissa’s dedication to developing nurses, fostering professional growth, and promoting excellence in patient care.



National Recognition for Evidence-Based Practice

Morgan Raiford, BSN, RN, CNOR received the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Award, a national honor recognizing perioperative nurses who demonstrate excellence in integrating evidence-based practice to improve patient care and advance the nursing profession.

This prestigious award celebrates Morgan’s commitment to translating evidence into practice, promoting quality and safety, and advancing clinical excellence in the perioperative setting. Her dedication to improving patient outcomes through evidence-based care reflects Woman’s Hospital’s commitment to innovation and excellence in nursing.



Recognized for Excellence in Mentorship

Jessica LeJeune, BSN, RNC-OB – Manager, Obstetrics, was nominated for the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) RN Mentor of the Year Award, recognizing registered nurses who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to mentoring, supporting, and developing the next generation of nurses.

This nomination reflects Jessica’s dedication to fostering professional growth, sharing her knowledge and expertise, and creating a supportive learning environment that strengthens both nursing practice and patient care.



Recognized as a Future Nursing Leader

Congratulations to Heather Baham, BSN, RN, CNOR, on being nominated for the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) 40 Under 40 program. This statewide recognition honors outstanding nurse leaders who are 40 years of age and younger and exemplify dedication to the nursing profession, exceptional leadership, and a commitment to advancing healthcare.

This nomination reflects Heather’s commitment to professional excellence, leadership, and the future of nursing in Louisiana.



Recognized as a Nightingale Rookie of the Year Nominee

Congratulations to Kailyn Kendrick, BSN, RN, C-EFM, on being nominated for the Nightingale Rookie of the Year Award. This recognition honors nurses who have demonstrated exceptional promise early in their careers through compassionate patient care, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence.

Kailyn’s nomination reflects her dedication to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care and the positive impact she’s had on her patients, colleagues, and the nursing profession.



Recognized for Excellence in NICU Nursing

Stefanie Jackson, BSN, RNC-NIC, and Skylar Luther, BSN, RNC-NIC, were each recognized with the March of Dimes Excellence in NICU Nursing Award for their outstanding contributions to neonatal nursing. This prestigious recognition honors neonatal intensive care nurses who demonstrate exceptional clinical expertise, compassionate care, and an unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for newborns and their families.

Their dedication to providing outstanding, family-centered care and supporting the most vulnerable patients reflects the highest standards of neonatal nursing and exemplifies Woman’s Hospital’s commitment to excellence.



Nursing Excellence Recognized During Healthcare Quality Week

During National Healthcare Quality Week, Woman’s Hospital celebrated team members whose dedication to quality and patient safety has made a meaningful impact across the organization. Among this year’s Healthcare Quality Champions were three outstanding nurses: Angela Loving, MSN, RN, CIC (Infection Prevention); Katie Pourciau, BSN, RN, C-ONQS (Labor & Delivery); and Joanie Durgapersad, BSN, RN (AICU).

Recognized through peer nominations, these nurses exemplify a commitment to continuous improvement, patient-centered care, and a culture of safety. Their leadership, clinical expertise, and dedication to quality initiatives help advance exceptional outcomes for the patients and families we serve.

This recognition reflects the vital role nurses play in driving quality improvement and fostering a culture of excellence throughout Woman’s Hospital.

Recognizing Our Nursing Patient Experience Champions

Throughout the year, our nurses demonstrate an unwavering commitment to providing compassionate, patient-centered care. During Patient Experience Week, several nurses were recognized as Patient Experience Champions for their exceptional dedication to creating positive experiences for patients and families. We proudly congratulate these outstanding nurses for exemplifying excellence in every interaction.

- Stevie Hess, BSN, RN, C-EFM, INPTOB (Assessment Center)
- Alycia “Mo” Diez Seybold, BSN, RNC-OB (Labor & Delivery)
- Ann Marie Arceneaux, BSN, RN, C-EFM (Labor & Delivery)
- Jessica LeJeune, BSN, RNC-OB (Labor & Delivery)
- Michelle Leerkes, BSN, RN, MS, CHPN (Cancer Pavilion)
- Robyn Lambert, BSN, RN (SCU)
- Lauren Caillais, BSN, RN (Mother/Baby)
- Mary Fralick, BSN, RN (NICU)
- Jenny Silbernagel, BSN, RN (NICU)



Cheri Johnson Honored with March of Dimes Louisiana Excellence Award

Woman’s Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Cheri Johnson was recognized with the 2025 March of Dimes Louisiana Excellence Award at the March of Dimes Louisiana Baton Rouge Luncheon. This honor recognizes leaders who demonstrate a commitment to improving the health of mothers and babies and advancing maternal and infant health across Louisiana.

Throughout her career, Cheri has championed nursing excellence, quality improvement, and compassionate, patient-centered care. Her leadership reflects Woman’s Hospital’s mission to improve the health of women and infants through innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to exceptional outcomes.

The recognition celebrates not only Cheri’s contributions as a nursing leader but also the dedication of the Woman’s nursing team, whose expertise and advocacy continue to make a difference for patients, families, and the communities we serve.



EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE



Exemplary Professional Practice represents the foundation of nursing excellence within Magnet-designated organizations and reflects the dedication, expertise, and compassion of our nursing team. At Woman’s, nurses continue to demonstrate a commitment to delivering exceptional care through clinical expertise, evidence-based practice, professional development, and meaningful collaboration across disciplines.

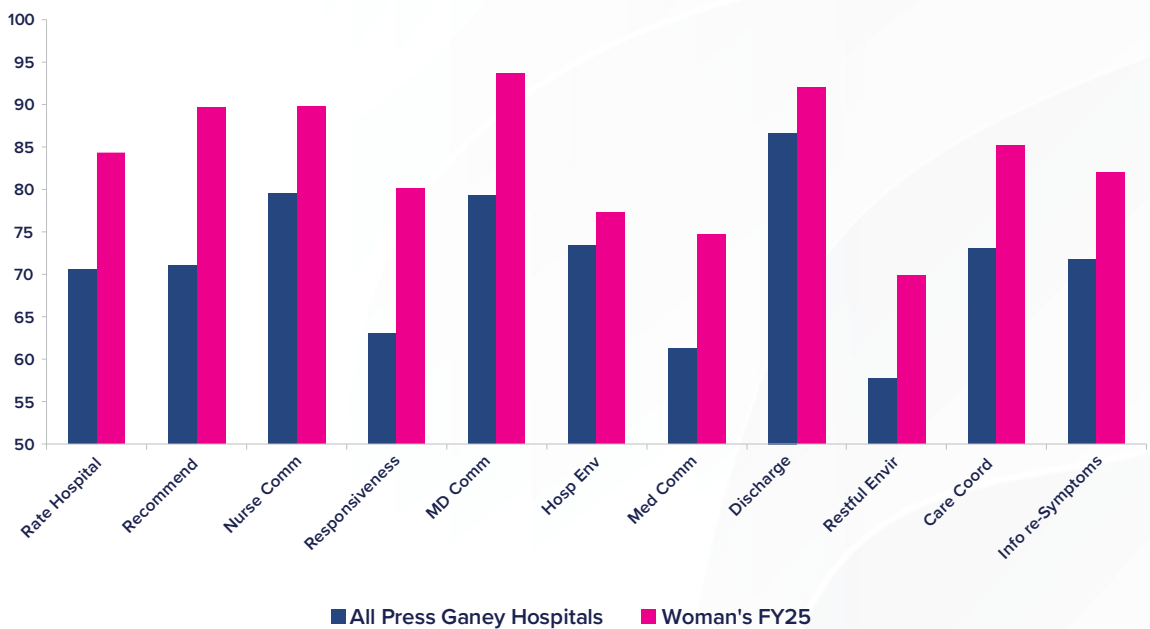
Throughout 2025, our nurses advanced patient care through innovation, leadership, and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for the patients and families we serve. Their dedication to excellence strengthens our culture of caring and reflects the impact of nursing every day at Woman’s Hospital.

HCAHPS: Patient Experience Results

HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) is a nationally standardized survey that measures patients’ perspectives of their hospital experience. The survey evaluates key aspects of care, including communication with nurses and physicians, staff responsiveness, pain management, communication about medications, discharge information, care transitions, and patients’ overall rating of the hospital. Results are publicly reported, allowing comparisons with state and national benchmarks as well as peer organizations.

Performance is commonly evaluated using Top Box scores, which represent the percentage of patients who selected the most positive response available for each survey question. Top Box scores provide a rigorous measure of consistently excellent patient experiences and are widely used to evaluate organizational performance and identify opportunities for improvement.

FY25 Inpatient Satisfaction: HCAHPS



A Journey of Hope: NICU Team Helps Baby Brooks Go Home

After spending seven months receiving care in the Woman’s Hospital NICU, baby Brooks finally went home with his parents, Amber and Dustin. Their inspiring journey, which highlighted the strength and perseverance of their family, was recently featured on *Good Morning America*.

Throughout Brooks’ extended NICU stay, the dedicated NICU team provided exceptional clinical care, compassion, and support to Brooks and his family. Nurses partnered closely with his parents, guiding them through the challenges of a prolonged hospitalization while creating moments of encouragement and hope along the way.

Reflecting on their experience, Dustin shared a message of encouragement for other NICU families: “Don’t look for the light at the end of the tunnel. Let the light at the end of the tunnel find you.” Brooks’ journey home is a testament to the expertise, resilience, and family-centered care provided by the Woman’s NICU team and the lasting impact nurses have on the lives of the patients and families they serve.



Light to Remember: Honoring Families During Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness

On October 15, Woman’s Hospital hosted the annual *Light to Remember* event in recognition of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for families to gather in remembrance, find connection, and honor the lives of their babies.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness offers grieving families validation, support, and a sense of community while helping bring comfort and understanding to an experience that can often feel isolating. Through shared stories, reflection, and compassionate remembrance, families are reminded they are not alone on their journey.

Hundreds of families participated in a reflective walk along the Harris Walking Trail, followed by a candlelight memorial ceremony. The event was thoughtfully coordinated by teams from Marketing, Social Services, and Nursing, demonstrating Woman’s continued commitment to providing compassionate, family-centered support during some of life’s most difficult moments.



Cultivating Nursing Excellence Through Lifelong Learning

At Woman’s Hospital, nursing professional development remains a priority and a key component of our commitment to excellence in patient care. Through ongoing education, nurses have access to a variety of learning opportunities designed to strengthen clinical expertise, enhance leadership skills, and support professional growth.

Annual nursing needs assessments help identify educational priorities and guide the development of programs that address the evolving needs of our nursing team. These assessments ensure that education offerings are relevant, evidence-based, and aligned with organizational goals and patient care priorities.

Throughout 2025, nurses participated in a wide range of professional development, leadership, continuing education, and simulation-based learning opportunities. Programs included S.M.A.R.T. Goal Setting, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, Navigating Difficult Conversations, and the Art of Adaptability for Leaders. Clinical education opportunities included TeamSTEPPS® training to enhance teamwork and patient safety, Patient Safety Risk Reduction education, and simulation-based learning such as the Laerdal Accelerate Amniotic Fluid Embolism Simulation.

Through these intentional learning opportunities, Woman’s nurses continue to build knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and advance the skills needed to provide safe, high-quality, compassionate care to the patients and families we serve.

Woman’s Nurses Making a Difference Beyond the Hospital Walls

Woman’s nurses continued to demonstrate their commitment to improving the health and well-being of the community by participating in local charity walks and awareness events throughout 2025. These events provided opportunities for nurses to support important health initiatives, promote awareness, and stand alongside patients, families, and community members.

Nurses participated in events including the Geaux Teal Ovarian Cancer Awareness Walk, the Capital Area Heart Walk, and March of Dimes and Breast Cancer Awareness events. Through their involvement, nurses helped raise awareness for conditions that impact the patients and families we serve while showing their dedication to advocacy, prevention, and community health.

These efforts reflect the compassion and commitment of Woman’s nurses—not only as healthcare professionals but as community partners who continue to make a difference every day.



Enhancing Emergency Response Through Nursing Feedback

In 2025, nursing feedback led to improvements in the Rauland Nurse Call System Code Blue buttons to enhance location identification when an emergency response is activated. This update supports more efficient communication and helps ensure the Code Team can quickly identify the exact location requiring assistance.

The revised Code Blue buttons were tested to support a smooth implementation, with advance communication provided to the Code Team and staff. This improvement highlights the impact of nurse-driven feedback and shared problem-solving in strengthening processes, enhancing patient safety, and supporting reliable emergency response.

Compassionate Care Through an Unexpected Journey

When Mary Claire discovered a lump during the third trimester of her pregnancy, what should have been a joyful time became an unexpected challenge. At 30 weeks pregnant, she was diagnosed with triple-negative invasive ductal carcinoma, an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Throughout her journey, the Woman’s Hospital nursing team provided expert, compassionate, and family-centered care, supporting Mary Claire through diagnosis, treatment, and the birth of her baby. Nurses served as trusted advocates and sources of encouragement, helping her navigate both the physical and emotional challenges of her experience.

As Mary Claire received treatment, oncology nurses provided clinical expertise and reassurance, helping her feel supported every step of the way. At 35 weeks, she welcomed her baby, Charlie, and continued her journey with the support of her family and care team.

Mary Claire’s story reflects the impact of nursing excellence at Woman’s—where knowledge, compassion, and connection come together to make a difference for every patient and family.



Equipping Nurses Through Workplace Safety

In 2025, nursing teams participated in workplace safety and security drills designed to strengthen preparedness and support a safe environment for patients, families, and staff. These unit-based educational simulations provided nurses with the opportunity to practice responding to realistic workplace violence scenarios in a safe, collaborative setting.

The Assessment Center coordinated a Workplace Safety/Security drill that brought together 108 staff members from across nursing units. Led by Stevie Hess, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, AC Clinical Nurse Leader, the interactive learning sessions focused on communication, response strategies, and teamwork during potential safety events.

Through hands-on practice and interdisciplinary collaboration, these drills empowered nurses with the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively, protect themselves and others, and continue providing safe, compassionate care. The initiative reflects Woman’s ongoing commitment to a culture of safety, continuous learning, and nursing excellence.



Celebrating Certified Nurses

Certified Nurses Day, recognized annually on March 19, honors nurses who demonstrate commitment to professional excellence through specialty certification. Certification reflects advanced knowledge, dedication to lifelong learning, and a commitment to providing the highest quality care.

Woman’s Hospital proudly recognizes our certified nurses for their expertise, leadership, and ongoing contributions to improving patient outcomes. Through their commitment to professional growth and evidence-based practice, our certified nurses continue to elevate the standard of care for the patients and families we serve every day.



Strengthening Nursing Practice Through Simulation and Skills

Woman's nurses continued to advance exemplary professional practice in 2025 through ongoing simulation-based learning and hands-on skills drills designed to strengthen clinical knowledge, build confidence, and support safe patient care. These unit-based learning opportunities provide nurses with a collaborative environment to practice skills, discuss clinical scenarios, and identify opportunities for improvement.

Throughout the year, nursing teams participated in a variety of focused drills addressing patient safety, clinical skills, emergency response, and specialty-specific care. Activities included simulations involving deteriorating patients, fall prevention, vascular access, airway management, end-of-life care, maternal and newborn assessments, lactation support, and specialized treatments. Innovative learning approaches, such as interactive scenario-based exercises, created engaging opportunities for nurses to apply knowledge and strengthen decision-making.

These ongoing practice opportunities reflect Woman's commitment to professional growth, evidence-based care, and a culture of continuous improvement. By regularly reinforcing skills and encouraging interdisciplinary learning, nurses are prepared to respond effectively and provide exceptional care to every patient and family.



Enhancing Fall Prevention on the Mother/Baby Unit

In 2025, the Mother/Baby Unit implemented a comprehensive fall prevention initiative to enhance patient safety and reduce the risk of maternal falls. Nursing leaders collaborated with the Education Department to update the fall prevention information provided to expectant mothers attending prenatal classes, helping prepare patients and families before admission. The team also revised staff education to reinforce evidence-based practices for identifying and managing patients at increased risk for falls.

Key improvements included implementing a standardized process for applying fall risk bracelets to postpartum patients following epidural anesthesia, providing targeted education on risk factors such as narcotic pain medications, magnesium sulfate therapy, heavy bleeding, and physical limitations, and reinforcing appropriate criteria for safe ambulation. Staff also received education on the importance of consistent hourly rounding and accurate documentation to support proactive fall prevention.

To further strengthen these efforts, the unit participated in a fall prevention best practices seminar and collaborated with the Epic team to incorporate hourly rounding documentation into the electronic health record. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, patient education, and standardized nursing practices, the Mother/Baby Unit continues to advance a culture of safety and reduce the risk of patient falls during the postpartum hospitalization.

Advancing Maternal Care Through Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative Initiatives

Throughout 2025, Woman's Hospital continued its commitment to improving maternal outcomes through active participation in the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC). Nursing leaders and interdisciplinary team members collaborated to implement evidence-based initiatives that strengthen patient safety, enhance care coordination, and improve the patient experience across the perinatal continuum.

A significant achievement during the year was earning Birth Ready+ redesignation, recognizing the organization's continued commitment to providing safe, high-quality maternity care. In support of statewide quality initiatives, the team implemented universal screening for substance use disorder (SUD) ensuring consistent identification of patients who may benefit from additional support and resources.

To improve care for patients identified as at risk, the organization implemented a standardized naloxone distribution process. Registered nurses now provide naloxone and patient education prior to discharge for qualifying patients with positive SUD screenings. The team also developed a standardized process to ensure postpartum follow-up appointments are scheduled before discharge, promoting continuity of care and supporting improved maternal health outcomes.

Recognizing the importance of patient and family engagement, the LaPQC team welcomed a patient and family partner to its monthly meetings and expanded participation to include representatives from the NICU and Quality departments. Members of the obstetric services and Mother/Baby teams also participated in the statewide LaPQC meeting in Alexandria, sharing knowledge and collaborating with colleagues across Louisiana to advance best practices in perinatal care.

The organization further strengthened emergency preparedness through an annual multidisciplinary obstetric simulation drill and participation in the statewide Step-Up Collaborative, reinforcing coordinated responses to maternal emergencies through collaboration with the Birth Center and local emergency medical services.

These accomplishments were made possible through the collaborative efforts of Labor and Delivery, the High-Risk Unit, Adult ICU, Mother/Baby, the Assessment Center, Social Services, Pharmacy, Epic analysts, report writers, and numerous interdisciplinary partners. Together, these teams continue to advance Woman's Hospital's commitment to delivering safe, evidence-based, and patient-centered care for mothers and newborns.



Advancing Neurodevelopmental Care Through the Vermont Oxford Network Collaborative

As a participating member of the Vermont Oxford Network (VON), an international collaborative dedicated to improving the quality and safety of neonatal care, Woman's Hospital continued to advance evidence-based practices that support optimal outcomes for vulnerable infants.

During 2025, the NICU participated in VON's quality improvement collaborative focused on Optimizing Neurodevelopment of the Infant with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) through the "All Care is Brain Care" initiative. The multidisciplinary team completed two Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles to develop and refine a standardized care bundle for infants born before 32 weeks' gestation who remained on supplemental oxygen at 36 weeks' postmenstrual age.

The team monitored compliance with the care bundle, evaluated parent participation throughout the infant's hospitalization, and assessed developmental outcomes using the Test of Infant Motor Performance (TIMP), a standardized assessment of early motor development. These measures helped evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention while guiding ongoing improvements in care delivery.

The collaborative will continue through 2026 with an additional PDSA cycle focused on increasing parent engagement, reinforcing Woman's commitment to continuous quality improvement and evidence-based neurodevelopmental care for high-risk infants.

KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS



Advancing Timely Care Through Ultrasound-Guided IV Access

Obtaining peripheral intravenous (PIV) access can be challenging for patients with difficult venous access, often resulting in multiple attempts, treatment delays, and increased patient anxiety. Nurses at Woman's Hospital's assessment center recognized this opportunity to improve care and led the implementation of an ultrasound-guided PIV initiative.

Using the nursing process and evidence-based practice, assessment center nurses developed and implemented facility-approved guidelines that allow qualified registered nurses to independently perform ultrasound-guided PIV placement within their full scope of practice. Nurses assess each patient's clinical presentation, history of difficult IV access, and previous unsuccessful attempts to determine when ultrasound guidance is appropriate, enabling timely and individualized care.

Since implementation, the initiative has reduced unsuccessful IV attempts while improving the patient experience by decreasing discomfort and anxiety associated with repeated venipuncture. Nurses are empowered to use ultrasound guidance as the initial approach for patients with known difficult venous access, a history of failed IV placements, or acute dehydration. When difficult access is identified after an initial attempt, nurses independently transition to ultrasound guidance to achieve successful vascular access more efficiently.

This initiative exemplifies nursing autonomy, clinical judgment, and accountability while improving patient outcomes through evidence-based practice. By integrating advanced technology with the nursing process, assessment center nurses continue to enhance the quality, safety, and efficiency of patient care.

Supporting Nurse Well-Being Through a Resiliency Initiative

Recognizing the impact of burnout on staff well-being and retention, the Assessment Center nursing team launched a resiliency initiative to better support nurses during challenging shifts. After new-hire turnover reached 52% in late 2024, Clinical Nurse Leader Megan McNemar, MSN, RNC-OB, partnered with Assessment Center leadership to better understand the factors contributing to staff dissatisfaction and intent to leave.

The team reviewed turnover data, surveyed nursing staff, and examined current evidence on emergency nursing burnout. Findings from the staff survey revealed that 43% of respondents felt they did not have adequate time or resources to decompress after difficult patient encounters, highlighting an opportunity to better support caregiver well-being.

In response, Megan secured grant funding to create a dedicated resiliency resource for staff. A cabinet in the Assessment Center consult room was transformed into a calming space stocked with wellness items, including essential oils, a handheld massager, Bluetooth headphones for relaxation, and a journal. Additional activities, such as a collaborative coloring mural in the staff lounge, encouraged team connection and stress relief throughout the workday.

Staff were invited to use the resiliency resources and provide feedback on their experience. Follow-up surveys demonstrated positive utilization of the initiative, with nurses reporting that the resources helped reduce stress after difficult situations. During the same period, new-hire turnover improved substantially, decreasing from approximately 50% early in the year to 18% by August 2025.

This nurse-led initiative reflects Woman's Hospital's commitment to fostering a healthy work environment by listening to staff, applying evidence-based strategies, and investing in the well-being of the nursing workforce.

Partnering with Families to Enhance the NICU Experience

At Woman's Hospital, patients and families are valued partners in improving care. Through the NICU Family Advisory Council (FAC), parents of NICU graduates collaborate with nurses, physicians, and leaders to provide meaningful feedback that shapes the patient and family experience.

In 2025, the council identified an opportunity to improve how essential information is shared with families during their infant's NICU stay. Guided by recommendations from parent advisors, the team developed the Family Pass Code & Visitation Card – a concise, easy-to-reference resource containing important information about visitation, communication, physician updates, and unit contacts.

Working together, parent advisors, nursing leaders, and the hospital's Marketing team designed and refined the card before incorporating it into every NICU admission binder in November 2025. This standardized, parent-informed resource ensures families receive consistent, accessible information from the beginning of their NICU journey.

This initiative demonstrates Woman's Hospital's commitment to family-centered care by empowering patients and families to co-design meaningful improvements. Through the ongoing partnership of the NICU Family Advisory Council, family voices continue to influence care delivery, strengthen communication, and enhance the experience of every NICU family.

Improving Quality of Life for Oncology Patients Through Research

Nurses and interdisciplinary team members at Woman's Hospital continue to advance evidence-based care through innovative research that improves patient outcomes. In 2025, a team from the Woman's Cancer Pavilion conducted a study evaluating the use of Enterade® Advanced Oncology Formula to help manage gastrointestinal side effects experienced by patients undergoing treatment for breast and gynecologic cancers.

The nurse-led study enrolled 35 patients receiving chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation therapy, or combination treatments. Participants completed pre- and post-treatment surveys to evaluate symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, decreased appetite, reflux, dehydration, mouth sores, and weight loss while using the nutritional intervention.

Results demonstrated meaningful improvements in symptom burden, with participants reporting fewer gastrointestinal side effects, reduced need for supportive medications, and significantly less weight loss during treatment. More than half of participants were able to decrease at least one supportive medication previously used to manage treatment-related symptoms. This research highlights Woman's Hospital's commitment to advancing oncology care through clinical inquiry and evidence-based practice. By exploring innovative supportive therapies, nurses are helping improve patients' comfort, nutritional status, and overall quality of life throughout their cancer journey.

Clinical Nurse-Led Practice Improvement Initiative

Sarah Blankenship, BSN, RN, led an evidence-based practice initiative in the Assessment Center to revise the gestational age at which fetal heart tones (FHTs) are attempted during triage. The proposal recommended changing the practice from obtaining FHTs at 10 weeks gestation to 12 weeks gestation.

The initiative was supported by current evidence indicating that fetal heart tones are generally more reliably detected by Doppler at 10–12 weeks and that the uterus becomes palpable above the pubic symphysis around 12 weeks, making assessment more feasible. Assessment Center nurses also provided feedback describing the difficulty of obtaining FHTs at earlier gestations and the anxiety this can create for patients, particularly those presenting for an initial prenatal evaluation.

Based on the evidence review and frontline nursing input, the revised order set now directs staff to attempt fetal heart tones beginning at 12 weeks gestation. This change promotes a more patient-centered approach, reduces unnecessary stress for patients, and aligns Assessment Center practice with evidence-based obstetric assessment standards.

Reducing CLABSI Through Evidence-Based Practice

Nurses in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) demonstrated their commitment to quality and patient safety by leading an evidence-based initiative to reduce Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI). After the NICU Quality Team identified an increase in CLABSI rates during routine quality monitoring, the team conducted a comprehensive review of current evidence and collaborated with neonatal experts through the Vermont Oxford Network to identify additional prevention strategies.

Based on the literature, the team implemented the use of medical-grade surgical glue to enhance stabilization of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs), creating a more secure barrier against infection. Clinical nurse leaders developed and delivered education to NICU nurses on the new procedure, with 90% of the nursing staff completing hands-on training before implementation.

This nurse-led initiative strengthened central line maintenance practices and reinforced the use of evidence-based interventions to improve patient safety. Through collaboration, education, and innovation, the NICU team successfully reduced CLABSI rates, advancing the quality of care provided to the hospital's most vulnerable patients.

Reducing Pain in the NICU Through Interdisciplinary Collaboration

A collaborative team of nurses, respiratory therapists, and neonatologists at Woman's Hospital published their quality improvement work in *Neonatal Intensive Care*, highlighting an innovative approach to reducing pain for the hospital's smallest patients. The team implemented evidence-based use of transcutaneous carbon dioxide (tcPCO₂) monitoring, allowing continuous, noninvasive assessment of critically ill infants while reducing the need for painful blood gas draws.

Clinical nurses partnered with respiratory therapists and providers to develop standardized protocols, provide staff education, and integrate the technology into routine practice. As a result, the NICU achieved more than a 50% reduction in blood draws among premature infants requiring respiratory support, decreasing painful procedures while maintaining safe, high-quality care.

This published work demonstrates the power of interdisciplinary collaboration and nursing leadership in advancing evidence-based practice, improving patient outcomes, and enhancing the care experience for the most vulnerable neonatal patients.

Advancing Postpartum Hemorrhage Research Through Nursing Collaboration

In December 2025, Woman's Hospital launched the Oli Study, an innovative research initiative evaluating the ability of the non-invasive Oli device to identify patients at risk for abnormal postpartum uterine bleeding, including postpartum hemorrhage. Laboring patients on the Labor & Delivery unit were invited to participate in the study, providing an opportunity to advance research aimed at improving maternal outcomes.

Nurses on the Labor & Delivery unit played a critical role in the successful implementation of the study. Staff attended educational sessions to become familiar with the Oli device and study protocol, helped identify patients who may be interested in participating, assisted with device removal following delivery, and communicated promptly with the research team when device concerns or malfunctions were identified. Their engagement and collaboration were essential to the study's early success.

Celebrating Research and Collaboration

Woman’s Hospital’s annual Research Day highlights innovative research and quality improvement initiatives that advance patient care across the organization. Woman’s nurses collaborated on several interdisciplinary research projects featured during the event. We are proud of the contributions our nursing team continues to make in advancing evidence-based practice, fostering collaboration, and improving outcomes for the patients and families we serve.

- Introduction of Complementary Foods in Infants Younger Than 6 Months Old in a Louisiana Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic
- Effectiveness of Scholarly Activity Point System for Research Productivity in Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency
- Strategies for Recruiting and Enrolling Minority Populations in Perinatal Research: A Comparative Effectiveness Study
- Evaluation of Medications Associated with Extravasation in a Single-Center Hospital
- Effectiveness of Abdominal Circumference Alone Compared to Estimated Fetal Weight in the Diagnosis of Fetal Growth Restriction
- Use of Enterade® Advanced Oncology Formula for Management of Gastrointestinal-Related Symptoms in Breast and Gynecological Cancer Patients to Reduce Symptom Burden and Improve Quality of Life

Fostering a Culture of Inquiry

The Nursing Research Council plays a vital role in advancing evidence-based practice and fostering a culture of inquiry across Woman’s Hospital. The council supports nurses throughout the research process by providing mentorship, education, and resources that empower staff to ask clinical questions, explore opportunities for improvement, and translate evidence into practice.

Composed of clinical nurses and interdisciplinary experts, the council serves as a collaborative forum where ideas are developed into meaningful research and evidence-based practice initiatives. Members provide guidance with research design, protocol development, Institutional Review Board (IRB) preparation, and dissemination of findings through presentations and publications. Through education, mentorship, and collaboration, the council helps nurses build confidence in research while advancing nursing knowledge and improving patient outcomes.

By promoting curiosity, innovation, and the integration of evidence into clinical practice, the Nursing Research Council strengthens professional nursing practice and supports Woman’s Hospital’s commitment to improving the health of women and infants.

Summary of Nursing Research Activities in 2025:

Title	Nurse Investigator
Evaluating Knowledge, Attitudes, and Role Perceptions Regarding Social Determinants of Health in Hospital-Based Care	Nneka Uwaemelu
Impact of supine and non-supine birth position on maternal labor outcomes	Catherine Davidson
Study for Dexamethasone Mouthwash in Lowering Episodes of Oral Mucositis among Patients with Cancer: The SMILE Study	Mary Salario
The Effect Epidural Analgesia has on the Various Degrees of Perineal Lacerations in Laboring Nulliparous Women	Shannon Zumo
Comparison of blood usage and quantitative blood loss with use of Jada versus Bakri balloon as well as medications used in Postpartum Hemorrhage at delivery	Bianca Ferris
Genetic Case Reports	Kelly Laborde
Knowledge and Attitudes of Healthcare Workers in a Maternity Hospital toward Persons who Use Drugs	Stephanie K. Powers
Virtual Reality Technology: Effectiveness of a Non-Pharmacological Pain Management Intervention for the Reduction of Patient Reported Sensory Pain During Labor The “Virtual” Study	Jessica LeJeune
The Lived Experience of Postpartum Hypertensive Patients Who Were Readmitted to the Hospital After Discharge	Jeannie Harper



Founded in 1968, Woman's is a nonprofit organization, governed by a board of community volunteers, providing medical care and services in order to improve the health of women and infants, including community education, research and outreach.

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