PeaceHealth nurses win five major awards at the Seventh Annual March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards!

PeaceHealth nurses broke records at the Seventh Annual March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards held on Friday, June 2 in Portland, Ore. Congratulations to the following Nurse of the Year award winners! We are so proud of you!

**Distinguished Nurse of the Year Award:** Gail Weeks, RN patient navigator, Cancer Program, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. Gail was chosen from across 16 categories and stood out as a leader, community volunteer and a distinguished nurse.

Here’s what a nominator said about her, “This nurse has worked tirelessly in the community by visiting public schools to provide education to students in a variety of areas. Their knowledge and ability to connect with their audience creates a comfortable atmosphere where a culture of inquiry is created. This nurse splits their duties between the Cancer Center and community speaking engagements and each compliments the other. Without this outreach into the schools, students would miss this nurse’s unique delivery style of current and relevant information we hope will guide them to positive lifestyle choices. Along with these special pieces of their life and providing service to our community, this nurse maintains membership on advisory boards in three local school districts, contributing their time and industry experience to career and technical programs. This nurse is passionate about educating all whom they encounter so they may, at a minimum, be aware how daily decisions can have lifetime consequences. This nurse does this with the most altruistic motivations proving they truly care about those they meet professionally and personally.”
2017 Rising Star Award: **Kelsey Sudenga**, RN, Surgery, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. Here’s what a nominator said about Kelsey, “This nurse is relatively new in their practice. This nurse provides excellent care to their patients, advocating for their needs. This nurse is completing their BSN, demonstrating their commitment to continued learning and advancing their practice. As our organization has started shared governance, this nurse stepped up and took on the role of chair. They are doing a great job. The first project they worked on has been successful. This nurse always has a smile and kind word for their patients, families and co-workers.”

Adult Acute Care Award: **Irina Kolychev**, RN, Medical-Surgical, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. Here’s what a nominator said about Irina, “This nurse consistently ensures that their patients and our staff are at the center of their care, utilizing our daily management system and creating their own safety rounds. When this nurse is acting charge nurse, their safety rounds begin at the start of their shift. This nurse will round on every patient on the unit, this can be up to 56 patients, ensuring that they have the proper safety equipment in place; they present as described in report, so they know who is in charge for the night.”
Case Management, Occupational Health and Utilization Review Award: Cynthia Faubion, RN, Complex Care manager outpatient, PeaceHealth Medical Group Quality and Coordination, PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center. Here’s what a nominator said about Cynthia, “This nurse is an amazing RN. They have been described as going "above and beyond" for their patients to ensure that they have what they need to be successful at home as they transition from inpatient care back to self-care at home. This nurse carries a panel of patients that they follow and case manage for. This nurse works diligently for their panel patients and checks in with them often to ensure that they are able to continue to meets their needs at home and remain independent for as long as possible.”

Critical Care (Adult) Award: Teresa Chamberlain, RN, Intensive Care, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. Here’s what a nominator said about Teresa, “This nurse is an exemplary nurse. They have grown over the past year into the charge nurse role in the ICU and is also a part of the Rapid Response Team. This nurse’s dedication to safe and compassionate patient care is exemplified in their roles on the unit as well as their role as the chair of the Hospital Care Experience Council. In the past, Care Coins were a token of recognition that were reserved for leadership to pass out to staff. This nurse has led an initiative through the Care Experience Council to obtain Care Coins for all staff members to be able to recognize their peers for Moments of Excellence.”

Thank you to our award winners for creating a safe, compassionate and caring environment, while ensuring quality outcomes for all of our patients! Congratulations!