



APP Spotlight

Meet Allante Nicole Thomas, MSN, APN, OCN

Allante started working as a new Nurse Practitioner in May 2022 in a unique role at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. She previously worked with sickle cell patients as a



registered nurse at a Children's Hospital and had a special interest in this patient population at Cooper. She did not waste any time jumping in to help solve issues and was able to decrease barriers to care by developing a "pain protocol" for her patients. Along with her physician partner they worked to develop protocols, educate infusion nursing staff, and opened their schedules to accommodate patients by offering same day sick visits. This has significantly decreased emergency room visits and admissions.

Allante is passionate about symptom management and providing same day quality care to her sickle cell patients. She has incorporated a sick visit

(continued on page 2)

From the desk of: Chief APP Eileen Campbell

It's hard to believe we're already in the final stretch of 2024! This has been a very busy and productive year for Cooper and our APPs. First, I want to thank all who took the time to complete the important Engagement & Safety survey in October. APPs had the highest response rate in the organization coming in at 89%! This



Pictured, l to r: AP Council Chair Ashley Weinmann, APN, with Co-Chairs Karima Robinson, APN and Sandrine Martin, PA.

level of participation speaks to your commitment to have a voice in guiding our focus and helping to drive change! We saw the growth of our Center for Advanced Practice and Advanced Practice Council with tremendous work by our committee chair, co-chairs, co-leads and members. We welcomed our Cooper Cape APPs to our last Townhall and look forward to many more opportunities to connect and collaborate. Our Engagement Committee did a fantastic job organizing our National APP Week celebration with many activities, recognitions and fun! We launched our inaugural Hospital Medicine APP fellowship and welcomed our first fellow, Amanda Letizia, APN to the team. Our APP Symposium was a first-class event and sure to be the premier APP conference in the region! Our APPs did an outstanding job with their podium and poster presentations as they presented evidence-based updates on pertinent clinical topics.

As we enter our holiday season, I wish you all peace, joy and time to relax with family and loved ones. I am so grateful for all you do every day to provide the highest quality, team-based care to our patients and families and to make Cooper "the destination for APPs"! Get ready for an exciting and busy 2025 ahead!

With much appreciation,

Eileen

APP Spotlight

(continued from page 1)

slot into her daily schedule to accommodate same day sick visits. She collaborated with her physician partner to establish standards of care protocols for the sickle cell program. Included in the standards were new pain protocols for sickle cell patients to receive symptom management treatments in our infusion unit at the cancer center. Patients will receive IV hydration along with IV pain medications for breakthrough pain to help avoid emergency room visits and hospital admissions for potential sickle cell crisis symptoms whenever possible.

Allante collaborates with her team to educate the community by participating in "Let's Talk Sickle Cell" community outreach with education sessions that discuss specific topics related to sickle cell and treatment management strategies.

Allante visits her hospitalized sickle cell patients both during and after work hours, to engage them in therapeutic and open communication, to assure their needs are met and to listen to any concerns regarding their care. This often results in the correction of or implementation of a more personalized inpatient pain management plan to improve their experience and solidify trust in the care team and to ensure patients feel validated, heard, and know the quality of their care is important to the team.

As a new APN, Allante has embarked on medical mission trips for the past two years to help those less fortunate with limited access to healthcare in the Dominican Republic. Her passion for providing care to vulnerable populations is so impactful and inspiring to everyone she works with at the cancer center.

Allante is an irreplaceable member of the sickle cell program at Cooper. She has worked hard to gain the trust of an underrepresented patient population.

APP Spotlight

Meet Amanda Letizia, first APP Hospital Medicine Fellow at Cooper

In her own words...

I began my journey in the field of nursing as a nurse's assistant at Inspira in Vineland after finishing high school. From there, I attended Rowan College of South Jersey where I obtained my ADN. I began working on a medical/surgical unit as an RN which specialized in the care of dialysis patients which attending Wilmington University

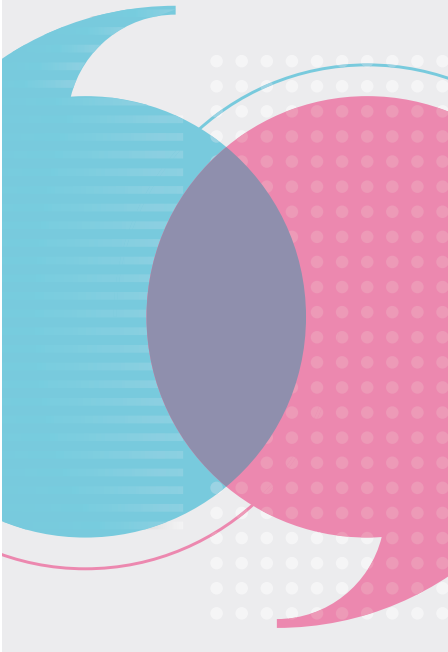


in Delaware for my BSN. I later moved onto working in a cardiac stepdown unit during COVID which served patients that required closer monitoring due to having more acute needs. While working here, I obtained my national certification as a progressive care nurse through AACN. Thereafter, I transitioned over to the hospital's Cardiac ICU unit while attending Chamberlain University for my AGACNP. My experience in the cardiac ICU unit includes performing targeted temperature therapy on post-cardiac arrest patients, managing intra-Aortic balloon pumps

and IMPELLA devices, managing temporary transvenous pacemakers, performing hemodynamic monitoring via arterial lines and Swan-Ganz catheters, patient-care post STEMI, managing post-tPA/TNK stroke patients, caring for patient on mechanical ventilation, managing vasopressor therapy, and pronation therapy. During this time, I completed my AGACNP degree and had the privilege of rotating through various specialties including hospitalist medicine, emergency medicine, urgent care, pulmonology, and critical care. Additionally, I obtained national certification as a critical care nurse and as an ACNPC-AG through AACN. I have a strong dedication to learning and am beginning my next academic journey to pursue my doctorate this fall. On a personal note, I was raised on a produce farm that my family has been running since 1934. I thoroughly enjoy helping on the farm with the day-to-day operations as we continue to grow, and ship produce 12 months out of the year. I also enjoy traveling and have had the privilege of visiting many locations across the U.S and Canada for the purposes of farm marketing. I have participated in numerous events hosted by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture advocating for family owned and operated farms in New Jersey. I also consider myself to be a big movie fan and enjoy watching my favorite films in my downtime as well as attending movie conventions and film festivals. I always look forward to spending time with my family and my two cats.

APP Peer Connection

is here to connect you with your peers, to share ideas to help you improve your professional experience at Cooper, whether that means colleague support, or finding the right APP committee to join. The APP Peer Connection team is here to help. Email Agostini-colleen@cooperhealth.edu or Goetz-kristina@cooperhealth.edu to get started.

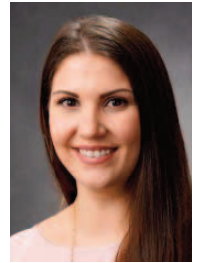


Pulse+ is Cooper's social media application to share information with Cooper team members. If you haven't already done so, you can download the application and view instructions by visiting the Pulse home page, Frequently Used Links, Pulse+ Training and Resources.



ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

Rachel Flanagan, PA, was nominated by Jeffrey Tomaszewski, MD, Head, Division of Urology, to receive a travel scholarship by the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) to attend the 2024 Bladder Cancer Think Tank in San Diego, CA, in early August. BCAN deeply appreciates the critical role PA's play in patient care and the advancement of research. This scholarship is a testament to Rachel's dedication and contributions to bladder cancer. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.



Katarzyna A. Andruchow, APN, Director of Clinical Practice for Advanced Practice Providers, presented a poster on Cooper's APP interview process at the Advanced Practice Provider Executive (APPex) conference in Nashville TN, September 18-21. APPex is the first and largest national conference focused specifically on advanced practice leadership and management.



Entala "Annie" Ahmeti, NP, presented at International Aortic Summit, in Aruba, October 17-19. The International Aortic Summit is a gathering of leaders in vascular and endovascular surgery. The summit aims to share the latest advancements in aortic surgery and update attendees on open and endovascular products and procedures. Expert presentations cover assorted topics including new techniques, imaging, and emergencies in aortic surgery.



Evelyn Robles-Rodriguez, DNP, APN, AOCN, Director, Outreach, Prevention and Survivorship Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse, was appointed to Assistant Professor of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University on September 11, 2024.

EVENTS PAST AND FUTURE

Cooper APPs participated in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer this fall. Thank you to all who came out to support this great cause.



Dana Rosario, MSN, AGACNP-BC, CMSRN, is shown with her family.



Shown (l to r) Jennie Bonafiglia, MSN, APN-C, Alexis Loose, MSN, APN, FNP-BC, Evelyn Robles-Rodríguez, DNP, APN, AOCN, and Samantha McKoskey, MSN, APN, FNP-BC.



(l to r) Samantha McKoskey, MSN, APN, FNP-BC, Jennie Bonafiglia, MSN, APN-C, Alexis Loose, MSN, APN, FNP-BC

EVENTS PAST AND FUTURE

HOSPITAL MEDICINE

held a social at Morgan's Pier at the foot of the Ben Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia to introduce new providers who recently joined Cooper and to celebrate APPs. We have a total of 67 APPs that provide 24-7 coverage across Cooper Hospital Medicine and all our 11 partnering organizations.



MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITALIST TEAM.



APPS WHO ATTENDED.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FLYER'S NIGHT FOR Healthcare Appreciation!

Thursday, December 12, 2024 @ 7P.M.

Hosted by the **APP Engagement Committee** and the **APP Subcommittee for Diversity and Inclusion**. In collaboration with the **Cooper Foundation**, a portion of the ticket price will sponsor the initiative to bring AEDs and training to the Camden Community. Bring your friends, family, and favorite physician/coworker to the game at the Wells Fargo Center. **\$55.00 per ticket**, location: Upper Level.

TICKET REQUESTS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED WITH CORRESPONDING PAYMENTS. NO REFUNDS ONCE TICKETS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED. REACH OUT TO **CHARLES ELSEA, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER**, WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
AT COOPER RIVER PARK FOR A

WELLNESS WALK

Meet at LaScala's Parking Lot at 9 a.m.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS | PETS ARE WELCOME

NO NEED TO RSVP, JUST SHOW UP!



A brisk walk around the 3.7 mile Cooper River Park Loop at a roughly 20-minute mile pace. It will give us the opportunity for Cooper's providers to connect with one another.



A PHOTO FROM THE WELLNESS WALK THAT WAS HELD ON AUGUST 25.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT APP WEEK!



**APP WEEK
RAFFLE WINNERS**

*Thank you to
our sponsors:*

- The Cooper Foundation
- The Pine Ridge Cookie Company
- PJ Whelihans
- Love Bug's Sweet Shop
- Barclays Rehabilitation



Charles Elsea, APN
Interventional Radiology



Emilie Young, CRNA
Anesthesia



Joseph Lever, DNP, APN
Trauma Surgery



Karen Donohoe, APN
Acute Care Surgery



Noreen Loreto-Santos, APN,
Pre-Admission Testing

APP SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

The **2024 Annual APP Symposium** was held on Friday, November 1 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Cherry Hill. For the first time the planning committee opted to move the symposium off campus and to a weekday to attract more participants, a strategy that paid off with a record-breaking attendance. Thank you to the committee chairs Janice K. Delgiorno and Sarah Cunningham, and the many APP Symposium planning members, presenters, poster presenters, and vendors helped to make this year's symposium a huge success. Look for an announcement on the 2025 APP Symposium. We hope to see you there.



 **Cooper**
University Health Care

Center-for-Advanced-Practice@cooperhealth.edu