



## NIH Clinical Center Nursing Department Neuroscience, Behavioral Health and Pediatrics Leadership Biosketch

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### **Joan M. Sheeron, MA, RN**

Senior Nurse Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

### **Academic Degrees**

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MA, Delivery of Nursing Services, New York University, New York, NY

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### **Biosketch:**

Joan M. Sheeron MA, RN is the Senior Nurse Manager for the pediatric nursing program of care at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health. Her areas of responsibility include the pediatric inpatient, day hospital and clinic areas. In her role as Senior Nurse Manager, Joan is responsible for planning, executing and evaluating nursing administration, practice, education and research for the pediatric nursing program to provide clinical research nursing care for pediatric patients and their families participating in clinical biomedical research programs.

Joan's career as a pediatric nurse commenced as a new graduate nurse at University Hospital, New York University Medical Center. With increasing clinical and leadership responsibility, Joan contributed to the pediatric program of care in multiple positions and in each area of the program, including the Pediatric Intensive Care, the young adult as well as the early childhood units. She has cared for pediatric patients in the home care setting as well as supervising and managing nurses in this arena. Joan has held various positions developing her passion for education and management. She has supported various nursing departments in the role of Nursing Administrative Supervisor and Administrative Coordinator, as well as being the Director of a Staff Development Department. Joan has been a Nurse Manager in Ambulatory Care Services at the Clinical Center since 2007 and has recently been promoted to the position of Senior Nurse Manager for pediatrics.





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### **Kristina M. Hagan, BSN, RN**

Clinical Manager  
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### **Academic Degree**

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### **Biosketch:**

Kristina Hagan is the Clinical Manager for the 1NW Pediatric Inpatient Care Unit at the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. As Clinical Manager, she works closely with the Nurse Manager to lead a team of approximately 28 nurses on a 25 bed inpatient unit that provides care for a wide variety of pediatric patients enrolled in approximately 77 different research protocols from 10 different institutes at the NIH. Kristina is facilitating the implementation of the Clinical Center Nursing Department's vision of the Model of Care leading a project to improve the patient discharge process in the pediatric program of care, and participating in the Clinical Center, Nursing Department's Shared Governance.

Kristina began her nursing career in 2006 as a staff nurse at Inova Children's Hospital on the Pediatric Medical/Surgical unit. During her time there, she was an active member of the team, serving as a charge nurse, preceptor, and member of unit based Peer Review and Employee Satisfaction committees. In 2009, Kristina came to the Clinical Center as a staff nurse but quickly became a charge nurse and preceptor. In 2012, she was promoted to Senior Clinical Research Nurse. In this role, she worked closely with the Clinical Educator and Clinical Nurse Specialist to facilitate education for the pediatric clinical research nurses. She has been instrumental in the transition to Transparent Classification to define acuity for the unit.

Kristina is currently certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support and is a certified pediatric chemotherapy/biotherapy provider. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Gamma Omega Chapter, as well as the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses.





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### **Jennifer L. Leary, RN, BSN**

Clinical Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

### **Academic Degree**

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### **Biosketch**

Jennifer Leary is the Clinical Manager for both the Pediatric Clinic and the Pediatric Day Hospital at The National Institutes of Health Clinical Center (CC) in Bethesda, Maryland. As the Clinical Manager for these two pediatric outpatient areas Jennifer serves to facilitate projects, advance practice, education, and support for the research activities conducted by the various institutes which serve the pediatric population at NIH. The 1NW Day Hospital provides skilled care for pediatrics in need of specialized care, but not requiring an inpatient stay. The Day Hospital provides a number of services including: chemotherapy/biotherapy, blood product administration, medication infusion, serial blood sampling, skin biopsies, lumbar punctures, pre- and post-operative outpatient care. The Pediatric Clinic provides outpatient support to pediatric patients including: blood draws, assessment, pain management, coordination with patient's primary team.

Jennifer started her career in research as a Senior Nurse Extern at the Cleveland Clinic. Her research was focused on end of life care and brain tumor survivorship. Jennifer's clinical experience includes both pediatric and adult oncology, bone marrow transplant, and solid tumor care. She has obtained her provider card for chemotherapy and biotherapy administration through the Oncology Nursing Society. Currently a graduate student with plans to obtain her DNP, Jennifer's primary interest is end of life care in pediatric cancer patients and the family role through the dying process.

Outside of the Clinical Center, Jennifer is dedicated to eradicating blood cancers as a volunteer for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and was a 2011 Woman of the Year candidate. She has been an active advocate for the society, facilitated support groups for patients actively in treatment and those navigating survivorship. She serves at the CC as a code blue trainer; she has served as a CPR instructor, and has presented many lectures on the topic of end of life care in children. Jennifer remains committed to advancing the profession of nursing and is a member of both The Oncology Nursing Society and The Association of Pediatric/Hematology Oncology Nurses.





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### **Bruce Steakley, BSN, RN**

Nurse Manager  
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#### **Academic Degree**

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#### **Biosketch**

Mr. Steakley is the Nurse Manager for the 1SW Pediatric Behavioral Health Unit at the NIH Clinical Center. In this role he provides oversight of all management functions of this highly specialized and complex patient care area. He assures that clinical research and patient care goals are met with an eye toward excellent customer satisfaction and patient safety. Through his management of an extraordinary leadership team, Mr. Steakley oversees innovation and creativity in meeting the diverse needs of several audiences: patients, families, institute partners and nursing staff as well as numerous support and ancillary staff from a variety of specialized departments. Mr. Steakley enjoys spurring others forward in their professional development and careers and champions excellent recruitment efforts within the Clinical Center Nursing Department. He works with others and is a leader in the development of scholarly contributions including, and especially, in the important work of milieu management and transition.

Mr. Steakley started his career in nursing in 1979, when he attained his BSN from George Mason University. He worked for six and a half years in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Georgetown University Medical Center before moving into a psychiatric setting, working with adolescent patients at the Psychiatric Institute of Washington, D.C.. It was here that his management career began when he was promoted to Senior Nurse of the Gateway Unit. Since that time he has continued his practice in pediatric psychiatric nursing in a variety of settings prior to coming to the Clinical Center in January of 2006. His career took a detour when he was recruited to develop and open the Nicotine Dependence Treatment Program at Georgetown University Hospital in 1999. That opportunity permitted him to travel to Amman, Jordan and to Lyon, France in early 2004; first to advise the King Hussein Cancer Center in the development of a clinical nicotine dependence program; a program which still operates successfully today. In Lyon, He described his work in Jordan and the principles he described there led to the development of nicotine cessation efforts in several other Mediterranean and Middle Eastern nations. For over 20 years, Mr. Steakley has been a member of the Board of Directors of Special Love, Inc., a non-profit charity that provides a network of support for children with cancer and their families. His interests in staff development and the actualization of young people have been well met in his time with that organization and it has been his honor to have been involved in the advancement of the personal, education, career, and professional tracks of numerous survivors of pediatric cancers.



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### **Tom Houston, BS, BSN, RN**

Clinical Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

#### **Academic Degree**

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BSN, University of Western Ontario

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#### **Biosketch**

Mr. Houston is the Clinical Manager for the Pediatric Behavior Health unit, 1SW, at the NIH Clinical Center. He is a protocol coordinator for mood disorder and childhood onset schizophrenia research studies on the unit and an associate investigator for childhood onset schizophrenia research studies. In addition to managing patient care needs, he is responsible for organizing and running the day to day operations of the unit and for scheduling unit staffing to ensure 24 hour coverage every day in conjunction with the nurse manager. He serves as a leader and a mentor to the staff on the unit and contributes to each staff member's professional growth and development through the employee evaluation process.

Mr. Houston received his BSN and BSc in Biology from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. He was the assistant manager of Youth Services at Dominion Hospital in Falls Church, VA, and received their Nurse of the Year award in 2004. He has been employed at NIH for 10 years on the pediatric behavioral health unit.



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### **Rosa Clark, MS, RN-BC**

Nurse Manager  
CDR, United States Public Health Service  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

### **Academic Degrees**

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### **Biosketch**

CDR Rosa Clark is the Nurse Manager for the alcohol research inpatient program and outpatient clinic at the NIH Clinical Center Nursing Department in Bethesda, Maryland. This combined program serves the NIAAA and NIDA. She started her career at NIH in 1999 as a senior clinical research nurse on the addictions unit, and advanced to permanent charge nurse to become the Clinical Manager. She serves on the NIAAA/NIDA IRB. CDR Clark is a co-investigator on a research study describing sleep disturbance in early recovery from alcohol dependence. She received the 2012 Director's Award with the other team members for this ongoing unit-based research. She has co-authored an article and presented two posters addressing this sleep research. She is certified in Psychiatric - Mental Health Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

CDR Clark earned her MS in Counseling from Capella University, her BSN from North Carolina A&T State University, and earned a certificate in Case Management from Kaplan University. She has extensive clinical and supervisory experience as a civilian, Army, and Public Health Service nurse. Her practice specialties include mental health, chemical dependency, and medical-surgical nursing in both hospital and clinical settings. As a Public Health Officer she deployed to New York City on September 11, 2001, and provided medical support to the victims of three devastating hurricanes during these major national disasters.



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### **Kala Rochelle, BSN, RN**

Clinical Manager  
LCDR United States Public Health Service  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

### **Academic Degree**

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### **Biosketch**

LCDR Kala Rochelle is the Clinical Manager for 1 SE Adult Behavioral Health Alcoholism Inpatient and Outpatient Program within the Nursing Department at the NIH, Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. This combined program serves the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) as the Clinical Manager, she provides clinical oversight of shift operations, staffing, patient flow management, safety, and facilitates protection of research integrity at the unit level. She has been employed as a Clinical Research Nurse at NIH since 2009 and progressed to a Clinical Manager in 2014. As a Public Health Officer she received her training ribbon in 2009 and deployed on the SOUTA Mission in 2011.

LCDR Rochelle earned her B.S.N from Carlow University. She is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Health Promotion and Education at Benedictine University. She brings with her to this position 17 years of nursing experience ranging from Critical Care, Surgical, Medical, Obstetrics, Rehabilitation, Oncology, Trauma, Case Management, and Mental Health with substance abuse. Her experience also includes Unit Protocol Coordinator for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) on the Metabolic Unit, which was mandated by Congress to focus on obesity and other metabolic diseases. She recently transitioned from a Medical Surgical Oncology Research Unit where she received and maintained certification in chemo and biotherapy administration. In addition she completed training in Chemical Terrorism in 2013.





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### **Rosemary Payne, MSN, RN**

Senior Nurse Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

#### **Academic Degrees**

RN-Diploma, St. Luke's School of Nursing, Sioux City, IA  
BSN, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA  
MSN, Morgan State University, Baltimore MD

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#### **Biosketch**

Rosemary Payne is the Senior Supervisory Nurse for 7SE- Adult Psychiatry Inpatient and OP4 – Adult/Pediatric Ambulatory Psychiatry within the Nursing Department at the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Rosemary provides oversight of the operations, planning and advising of the programs of care within her specialty areas. She works closely with the multidisciplinary teams within her areas of service and supports the agenda for the adult inpatient psychiatry program and the adult/pediatric ambulatory care services regarding clinical research nursing.

Rosemary earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD with a focus in nursing leadership and education, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA and a Diploma of Nursing from St. Luke's School of Nursing, Sioux City, IA. Rosemary previously served as the Service Director for Traumatic Brain Injury and Coma Emergence Program for the University of Maryland. She also served as the Interim Nurse Manager for the Center of Eating Disorders and Nurse Liaison for Recruitment and Retention at the Sheppard Pratt Health System, Baltimore, MD. Rosemary has served as the past President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Rosemary has more than 18 years of nursing experience inclusive of emergency medicine, critical care, infectious disease management, and community health.

Rosemary earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD with a focus in nursing leadership and education, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, and a Diploma in Nursing, from St. Luke's School of Nursing, Sioux City, IA. Rosemary previously served as the Service Director for Traumatic Brain Injury and Coma Emergence Program for the University of Maryland Health System. She also served as the Interim Nurse Manager for the Center of Eating Disorders, at the Sheppard Pratt Health System, Baltimore, MD. Rosemary has served as the past President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She has served as a Health Facilities Nurse Surveyor II for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Rosemary has more than 18 years of nursing experience inclusive of emergency medicine, critical care, infectious disease management, and community health.



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### **Victoria Liberty, BSN, RN**

Clinical Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

### **Academic Degree**

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### **Biosketch**

Victoria Liberty is the Clinical Manager for the inpatient Adult Behavioral Health Unit- 7SE North within the Nursing Department at the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. As the clinical manager, she is responsible for the day to day supervision and operations of a 13 bed psychiatric research unit for the Mood and Anxiety Program. She provides oversight for the unit nursing personnel along with the Nurse Manager to ensure appropriate staffing and competency requirements are met to provide safe patient care for the research participants. She is the lead coordinator for all unit protocols maintaining participant safety and ethical treatment of research participants. She is an Associate Investigator for “Replication of Ketamine’s Antidepressant Efficacy in Bipolar Depression” which is an innovative and state-of-the-art protocol which has gained national attention. She was the 2012 recipient of the NIH Clinical Center Director’s Award.

She started her nursing career in the U.S. Navy as a pediatric nurse and then specialized in psychiatry. The highest rank achieved in the military was Lieutenant. She supported the troops during Desert Storm as a Nurse Manager on the Adult Psychiatric unit at Walter Reed NNMCC. She has over twenty years of supervisory experience in the community and military supervising and educating nursing healthcare professionals. In 1991, she was awarded the National Defense Medal and Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.





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### **Roger Brenholtz, MSN, RN**

Clinical Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

#### **Academic Degrees**

AA, Montgomery College, Takoma Park, MD  
BS, University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
MSN, Marymount University, Arlington, VA

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#### **Bio sketch**

Roger Brenholtz is a Clinical Manager for Patient Care Unit 7SE (Adult Behavioral Health), in the Clinical Center Nursing Department (CCND) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Clinical Research Center in Bethesda, Maryland. As a clinical research nurse he is actively involved in patient care, advocacy, and study coordination. As one of two 7SE clinical managers, he supervises and leads a team of 12 clinical research nurses and three patient care technicians. Under his supervision, the team supports the research mission while delivering high quality evidence-based care.

Mr. Brenholtz has been an NIH Clinical Center behavioral health nurse for more than 24 years. He became the 7SE Clinical Nurse Educator in 2010. In 2011, Mr. Brenholtz was selected by the NIH Nursing Department Chief Nurse to work with a specialized interdisciplinary team to provide care on the neurology unit because of his special skills. In 2012, he was named Chair of the Performance Improvement Committee (a branch of the NIH Nursing Department's Shared Governance). During his tenure, the committee evaluated the efficacy of the CCND's new model of care. The results of this evaluation were published in *The Journal of Nursing Administration* (Vol.43, No.10) and presented at the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses Fourth Annual Conference in Houston, Texas. Mr. Brenholtz is committed to the research mission supported by the NIH Nursing Department and believes the research results from Patient Care Unit 7SE will provide a model standard of care in Behavioral Health for the future.



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### **Brenda (Lucy) Justement , MA, RN**

Clinical Research Nurse  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

#### **Academic Degrees**

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MA, American University, Washington, D.C.

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#### **Biosketch**

Lucy Justement is the Clinical Manager for the Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic. The clinic supports both adult and pediatric research studies being done by the National Institutes of Mental Health, (NIMH), and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, (NCCAM). As the Clinical Manager, Ms. Justement coordinates the clinic operations in conjunction with the Nurse Manager and the NIMH and NCCAM investigators. She supervises the Clinical Research Nurses assigned to the clinic and works with the team to provide excellent care for the research participants.

Ms. Justement started her nursing career as a medical-surgical nurse. She was commissioned into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps where received her education and training in psychiatric nursing. She then worked at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as a psychiatric nurse. After completing her military service, Ms. Justement began working at the National Institutes of Health, (NIH). She has worked in a variety of patient care settings including an inpatient schizophrenia unit, an immune disorders unit, a mood and anxiety procedure unit, and the behavioral health outpatient clinic. Her roles on these units have included supporting patient care as a primary nurse, study coordinator, screening and intake coordinator, code blue instructor, and charge nurse. Ms. Justement is a strong advocate for research participants and is interested in human subject protection. She obtained an MA in Philosophy and Social Policy and served as a member of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, (WRAIR), IRB and the NIH Ethics Committee. Ms. Justement's interest in policy and best practice led her to join the Nursing Department's Clinical Practice Committee, (CPC). She actively served as a CPC unit representative and later as Chair of the committee. She continues to pursue interests in advocating for quality patient care using evidenced based practice.



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### **James (Jim) Paterson, MS, RN**

Nurse Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

#### **Academic Degrees**

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MS, Michigan State University

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#### **Biosketch**

Jim Paterson is the Nurse Manager for 7SW N, Neurology and Sleep Lab Patient Care Unit within the Nursing Department at the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. As the Nurse Manager, he is responsible for the management and supervision of Clinical Research Nurses providing clinical care and research support to research participants enrolled primarily under the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) research protocols. He plans and manages a nursing care model that ensures both clinical expertise and protocol knowledge is maintained to support the specialty care of the neuroscience patient population.

Jim Paterson started his nursing career at Cooper University Hospital, Camden, New Jersey as a research nurse in the Infectious Disease section. He relocated to Maryland to begin work in neuroscience nursing at Johns Hopkins, Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland before coming to the NIH. He received a Business of Nursing Certificate offered by Johns Hopkins University and is currently a faculty member for the Neuroscience Nursing Review Course. He has participated in work groups to develop an action plan for Inclement Weather and worked on an Advance Directive Documentation Improvement Project. He is a member of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses and holds the specialty certification of Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN).



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### **Sandra Brown, BSN, RN**

Clinical Manager  
Nursing Department, NIH Clinical Center

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Business of Nursing Certificate, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD

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### **Biosketch**

Ms. Brown is the Clinical Manager for the Neurology, Neurosurgery and Sleep Lab Unit within the Nursing Department at the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. As the Clinical Manager she oversees the daily operation of the unit in collaboration with the Nurse Manager. She ensures efficient staff and bed utilization to maximize Clinical Center resources. She completes the monthly unit schedule and ensures that staffing ratios will support census and acuity. She coordinates and participates in interview panels which assist in the selection of new candidates to the neuro specialty. Along with the unit leadership team, she coordinates the selection of protocol managers and the timeliness in which this new information is shared with the staff. Ms. Brown coordinates the sharing of unit resources among services seeking to have patients participate in sleep disorder screening.

Ms. Brown along with the Nurse Manager remains accountable for clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction and human resources management. She collaborates with members of the research team to maintain protocol integrity. She serves as resource and role model to her staff. Ms. Brown remains passionate in guiding the transition of novices nurse to the role of clinical research nurses by ensuring that mentoring continues beyond orientation. She proactively engages clinical research nurses in discussions which support's critical thinking, thus building an environment of excellence in Neurology and Neurosurgery. She is an integral member of the unit leadership team which ensures that staff development and patient centered care are consistently realized.

Ms. Brown started her career as a staff nurse in the Critical Care Nursing Department at Providence Hospital in Northeast Washington DC. From bedside nurse she took on the opportunity to become a member of the Nursing Supervisor team before transitioning to the Clinical Center Nursing Department. While in her current position as Clinical Manager her leadership and administrative skills were recognized with a Clinical Center Directors Award in 2013. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration from Walden University.