

# Now

Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees  
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# Honoring healthcare pioneers as a part of Women's History month

March is Women's History Month, an annual observance to highlight the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. In recognition of this month, we celebrate some of the prominent women who were pioneers in the medical field.



## **Helen Rodriguez-Trias, MD**

As the first Latina president of the American Public Health Association, Helen Rodriguez-Trias, MD, spent her career advocating for healthcare access, particularly for women and children in underserved communities. A pediatrician and activist, she was instrumental in shaping reproductive rights policies and improving maternal healthcare. Her work influenced national public health initiatives, ensuring future generations of women and children receive the care they deserve.



## **Fe del Mundo, MD**

Fe del Mundo, MD, broke the gender barrier as the first woman admitted to Harvard Medical School, and went on to revolutionize pediatric care in the Philippines. She founded the country's first pediatric hospital and developed innovative treatments for infectious diseases. Known for her unwavering commitment to children's health, she worked well into her 90s. Her pioneering work in medicine continues to save lives and educate future healthcare leaders.



## **Anandibai Joshi, MD**

In 1886, Anandibai Joshi, MD, became the first Indian woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. Overcoming immense societal pressure, she pursued medicine to improve healthcare for Indian women, who lacked access to female doctors. Her journey was a milestone for women's education and professional aspirations in India. Her determination continues to inspire generations of women in healthcare worldwide.



## **Allison Kurian, MD, MSc**

As a professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Stanford University, Dr. Kurian's research focuses on cancer genetics, precision oncology and the quality of cancer care at the population level. Dr. Kurian has conducted extensive research on breast and ovarian cancer risk assessment. In 2024, she and her colleague received the SCI Equity Impact Research Grant Challenge Award for their project on genetic cancer risk and follow-up care in rural Californian communities.



## **Katerina Spranger, PhD**

As the founder and CEO of Oxford Heartbeat, Katerina Spranger, PhD, developed an innovative AI-powered medical software that makes cardiovascular surgeries safer and more accurate. The software offers surgeons an opportunity to rehearse high-risk minimal invasive procedures and choose the best scenario for every patient, reducing surgical complications and improving patient outcomes. In 2024, she was awarded the Princess Royal Silver Medal by the Royal Academy of Engineering for her contributions to medical technology.



## **Senait Fisseha, MD**

Senait Fisseha, MD, is an Ethiopian American physician and lawyer specializing in endocrinology at the University of Michigan. As a leader of the University of Michigan Ethiopia Collaborative Platform for Global Health, she helped Michigan forge strong partnerships with Ethiopia's Ministry of Health and the Medical College in Addis Ababa. Dr. Fisseha is a globally recognized reproductive health and rights leader. She founded the Center for International Reproductive Health Training (CIRHT) at the University of Michigan, aiming to expand reproductive health services in Ethiopia and other countries.

*Parkland's Women's Resource Network Employee Resource Group strives to create opportunities for connection, mentorship and professional growth to support and empower women in healthcare. Through networking and advocacy, the group fosters an environment where women can develop their careers, share knowledge and contribute to improving health outcomes for the communities they serve. The Women's Resource Network ERG meets on the third Thursday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. To join or receive updates about their meetings, events and activities, email [ParklandWRN@phhs.org](mailto:ParklandWRN@phhs.org).*

## ▼ Lasting Impressions: Catherine Gillespie



Each week, "Lasting Impressions" features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week's "Lasting Impressions" features Catherine Gillespie, Senior Registered Nurse Specialist, 15 Medicine ICU.

*"The decision was made to transition a patient to comfort care, but the patient had no family in-state. On this day, neither the iPad nor the TV video for a Zoom call were working, but Cat remained calm and determined to find a solution so that the patient's grandson could see and speak to his grandmother before removing her from life support. Cat coordinated with the healthcare team and the patient's grandson to set up a FaceTime call on her cellphone. Cat's quick thinking and efforts gave the patient's grandson the ability to see and say a few words to his grandmother before the medical team withdrew life support and transitioned her to comfort care."*



Want to nominate an employee who goes above and beyond? Tell us what makes them so fantastic by emailing [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or calling ext. 28048.

## Register for the March 5 blood drive

Parkland will host a Carter BloodCare blood drive from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, in the Private Dining Room. Online registration is encouraged and is available by [clicking here](#). There will also be a limited opportunity to accommodate walk-ups, based on availability.

Blood donors should bring a driver's license, know their medications, eat a good meal and drink plenty of fluids. For more information, contact Monique Barksdale at 469-419-1628 (ext. 71628) or [Monique.Barksdale@phhs.org](mailto:Monique.Barksdale@phhs.org).



## ► March HRO Theme: Escalate using CUS

We frequently hear the phrase, "See something, say something." It is important to raise your concerns if something doesn't seem right, especially when it comes to patient and workforce safety. Using the CUS tool enables and empowers you to point out a problem or a safety concern when clarifying questions or attempts to cross-check others hasn't worked.

When used properly, CUS doesn't come across like a personal attack or challenge someone's authority. CUS is an acronym for being concerned, letting others know you are uncomfortable, and there is a safety concern.

CUS is best used in a script form by using the safety phrases: "I HAVE A **CONCERN**" and state your safety concern. If you receive no response or feel there is still a safety concern, state "I AM **UNCOMFORTABLE**" and let others know your reason for discomfort. If the issue is still not resolved, state "THIS IS A **SAFETY ISSUE**." At this point, if there is no resolution, stop what you are doing and escalate the safety concern using your chain of command.

Print your copy of the March HRO theme by clicking [here](#) or use the QR code. Place this flyer on your integrated huddle boards and discuss the CUS tool within your team so everyone is familiar with the safety phrases and recognizes their importance. We all have an obligation to speak up for safety.

JOURNEY TO → **HIGH RELIABILITY**

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## ► FY25 Conflicts of Interest (COI) Disclosure Program Campaign

The annual Conflicts of Interest (COI) Disclosure Program Campaign ("Program") for select Workforce Members has begun. The purpose of the Program is to identify outside interests, activities or relationships that may limit the ability to carry out the mission and purposes of Parkland in a manner that is free of undue outside influence, loyalty or desire for personal gain.

Workforce Members who are required to participate will receive an email notification containing a safe link to access the form. The email notification will be displayed as:

- From: Parkland Compliance and Ethics <[surveys.parkland@phhs.org](mailto:surveys.parkland@phhs.org)>
- Subject: Action Required – 2025 Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Statement

This email is not spam and will contain a link to the electronic disclosure form. Between February and July, additional Workforce Members will receive an email notification for completion of the form. Once complete, processing of routine submissions takes approximately 90 days; more complex submissions may take longer to complete.

To learn more about the Program requirements, refer to the Conflicts of Interest Policy ([SYS.COMP.058](#)) or visit the [Conflicts of Interest](#) page on the Compliance and Ethics Department portion of the Parkland Intranet.

## Texas Rangers Opening Day tickets available March 10

On Monday, March 10, a limited number of tickets will go on sale for the Texas Rangers' Opening Day game against the Boston Red Sox on Thursday, March 27. Tickets are \$100 each (limit of four tickets per customer) and can be purchased in-person at the Gift Shop or by filling out the form on [the Gift Shop's Sharepoint page](#). All seats are located in the outfield pavilion. Exact seat locations will be assigned and cannot be picked. Tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis. Payroll deduction, cash and credit cards are accepted.

## Onward & Upward

**Care Management:** Shandria Harrington to Care Coordinator

**Clinical Nutrition – Population Health:** Regina Gillman to Registered Dietitian – Advanced Practice

**Correctional Health Administration:** Marlon Brown to Manager, Quality Performance Improvement – COPC

**Information Technologies – Business & Financial Systems:** LaShawwna Broadus to IT App Systems – Team Lead

**Medicine Specialties:** Crystal Amaya Velasquez to Patient Care Assistant I – PRN

**Neurosciences ICU:** Jose Navarro Barajas and Jamie Otwell to Registered Nurse Specialist – ICU/CCU/PCU

**Nurse Residency:** Sydney Green to Associate Manager, Nursing Residency

**Oncology Services Clinic:** Alexis Williams to Registered Nurse Specialist – Oncology

**Parkland Center for Internal Medicine Clinic:** Machel Ward to Medical Assistant

**Parkland Community Health Plan:** Jamie Drexler to Manager, Health Services Operations

**Perioperative Services Administration:** Natalie Rodriguez to Business Support Specialist

**Pharmacy – Inpatient:** Nonye Igwe to Pharmacist

**Surgical PCU:** Sinthia Mejia, Shashi Pangen, Emily Paulson and Stephen Smith to Registered Nurse Specialist – ICU/CCU/PCU

**Vascular Access Team:** Kelsey O'Meara to Associate Manager, Nursing

**Virtual Nurse Call Center:** Cedric Casteel to Associate Manager, Nursing

## Retirements

- Lisa Thornton, Senior Registered Nurse Specialist – Procedural, Vascular Access Team

## March healthcare observances\*

**March 3:** World Birth Defects Day

**March 10:** National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

**March 13:** World Kidney Day

**March 14:** World Sleep Day

**March 20:** National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, World Oral Health Day

**March 21:** World Down Syndrome Day

**March 24:** World Tuberculosis Day

**March 25:** American Diabetes Alert Day

**March 26:** Epilepsy Awareness – Purple Day

**March 30:** National Doctors' Day

**March 9-15:** National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week, Patient Safety Awareness Week, National Sleep Awareness Week

**March 10-16:** Brain Awareness Week

**March 16-22:** National Poison Prevention Week

**March 18-24:** National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week

**March 30-April 5:** Patient Access Week

Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month

Child Life Month

Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month

Myeloma Action Month

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

National Endometriosis Awareness Month

National Kidney Month

National Nutrition Month

National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month

Save Your Vision Month

Social Work Month

Trisomy Awareness Month

Workplace Eye Wellness Month

National Athletic Training Month

\*The list of healthcare observations comes from [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com) as well as the Society for Healthcare Strategy & Market Development calendar. If an observation was omitted, call 214-590-8048 (ext. 28048) or email [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) to add it to the list.



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Care. Compassion. Community.

Parkland Now is published by the Corporate Communications department at Parkland Health.

Please note the submission deadline for each issue of *Parkland Now* is by the end of day each Monday.

To publicize your news in *Parkland Now*, please send all submissions to [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or call ext. 28048.