

Career opportunities at your hospital

Medical Radiation Technologist, Mammography – part-time

Registered Nurses – various, full- and part-time, including: shift team leaders, ICU nurses, Emergency nurses and RNs for Complex Continuing Care

Pharmacists – full- and part-time opportunities available now

Many more opportunities available. For more information and a full listing, go to the Careers section of the hospital Web site, www.nhh.ca

Feedback on our hospital communications?

Please email or call our Director of Corporate Communications, Jennifer Gillard at: jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757

Infection prevention at NHH: a team effort

Ontario recently amended the Public Hospitals Act to increase public reporting of certain patient safety indicators, including hospital-acquired infections such as *C. difficile*. NHH welcomes the increased discussion around the dos and don'ts of infection prevention as it increases awareness of what we can all do to reduce the spread of disease.

"All it takes is one person to spread an infection," says Myonne Allan, NHH's Director of Laboratory Services and Infection Control. "Only by working together (patients, staff, volunteers and visitors) can we stop infections from traveling within our hospital and within our community.

Earlier this month, NHH introduced the Ontario Hospital Association's new *Clean Hands Protect Lives* program. A complementary program to *Just Clean Your Hands*, an initiative directed at health-care providers, *Clean Hands Protect Lives* is a new patient-focused initiative aimed at educating patients and visitors on the latest best practices related to infection control.

"We know that effective hand hygiene practices in hospitals play a very important role in improving patient and provider safety, and in preventing the spread of infections," said Joan Ross, President and CEO. "Working with effective new education materials supplied by the OHA, NHH is emphasizing throughout our organization the simple message that "Clean Hands Protect Lives."

"Many people believe that they practice effective infection control," adds Myonne Allan. "In fact, studies show that this is not yet the case—either people are not washing properly or they are not washing often enough—so there is still much we can do in the way of educating all people within our hospitals and community today."

When it comes to combating one of the more resilient and better known bacteria, *C. difficile* (or CDAD), NHH strives to follow the guidelines recommended by the leading authority on infection prevention in

the province—the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Recommendations from PIDAC for the management of *C. difficile* in a health-care setting include:

- Prompt isolation in a private room with dedicated toileting facilities of any patient admitted with or who develops diarrhea while being hospitalized
- Twice daily cleaning of the rooms of patients with CDAD, paying particular attention to "high touch" areas such as bed-side rails, telephone, call bells, light switches, door handles, faucets, toilets etc...
- A housekeeping post-discharge check list for support service attendants to ensure that all surfaces have been scrubbed
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves and gowns) for all personnel and visitors entering the room (children under 12 discouraged from visiting)
- Thorough cleaning of any patient equipment that may come in contact with patients with CDAD
- Increased staff, volunteer, and visitor education on hand washing
- (rolling out this month, through the newly launched *Clean Hands Protect Lives* program) Education of all incoming patients on admission on the importance of good hand washing habits
- The use of probiotics for patients with recurring CDAD
- A standard order form for the treatment of CDAD, which helps physicians treat patients

PIDAC has also established best practices for hand hygiene in health care settings. The latest recommendations are in place at NHH for health care workers providing care to patients with CDAD:

- All staff (and visitors) entering the room of a patient with CDAD should be wearing a gown and gloves; when the gloves are removed many of the spores are removed
- Meticulous hand hygiene with either soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub must be performed following glove removal
- Hand washing should not be performed at a patient's sink as this may re-contaminate the health care worker's hands.
- When a hand washing sink is not immediately available, hands should be cleaned with an alcohol-based hand rub after glove removal

By paying close attention to the current best practices, increasing education programs for all audiences, and auditing our performance over time, NHH is working hard to keep infections from spreading. By following the best practices above, patients, visitors and volunteers are playing a role too. For questions or comments about infection prevention at NHH, please contact Myonne Allan at mallan@nhh.ca or 905-377-7744.

Upcoming NHH Auxiliary events

November 23 – Annual Poinsettia Tea at the Best Western

February 22 – Annual Polar Bear Dip, Heritage Harbour, Cobourg

For information please contact the Auxiliary office at 905 372-6811, ext. 4630.

A thank you message from

Joan Ross, President & CEO



President and CEO Joan Ross (in red) and her family with NHH Board Chair Sid Trevail (far left) at the retirement dinner held in her honour October 24 at Dalewood Golf and Curling Club. The two boys in the foreground, Joan's grandsons, are holding a mock-up of the new sign that will grace the corridor outside the Boardroom. It was announced at the dinner that the Boardroom would be renamed the Joan Ross Boardroom in her honour as a tribute to her many contributions to the hospital in the past 12 years.

November 14 will be my final day at NHH. While I am certainly looking forward to spending more time with my family and exploring personal interests that I did not have time to pursue while working full-time, I will be very sad to leave. It has been a real privilege to work with such a fine team of professionals—both those involved in the hospital today, and those who have retired or gone on to other opportunities before me. The retirement celebrations arranged for me in recent weeks have only served to confirm what I already knew: this is truly a great place to work, and a great community to call home.

In particular, I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who attended my retirement dinner on Friday, October 24 at Dalewood Golf and Curling Club, and to all those who sent me their best wishes. Special thanks are owed to the planning committee led by Board Chair Sid Trevail and the individuals who spoke so generously at that event, namely Dr. David Broderick, who acted as emcee, Sid Trevail, the Chair of our Board of Directors, Dr. Kathy Barnard-Thompson, President, NHH General Medical Staff, Mary Anne Shill, a former Vice President of Patient Services, Deborah Hammons, CEO of the Central East Local Health Integration Network, Cheryl Turk, Chief Operating Officer, Elizabeth Vosburgh, Director, Human Resources, Julie Thompson, Chair of the NHH Foundation, Dale Hodge, President of the NHH Auxiliary and Kevin Burn, who spoke on behalf of the NHH staff.

I was completely overwhelmed by the kind and generous remarks and the very special gifts. I realize, however, the remarks really describe the totality of the staff, physicians, Board of Directors, Auxiliary members, Foundation team and all the volunteers who have contributed to making our 137-bed hospital the great place that it is today. Without such a team, and a rich heritage upon which to expand, NHH's many achievements over the years certainly would not have been possible.

I will leave on November 14 with many wonderful memories, but certainly, the Board's parting gesture—to name the hospital Boardroom in my name—is one honour I will hold very, very dear in the years ahead. Thank you, everyone!



NHH recently announced the names of the recipients of its Healing Hands Awards. Now in its fifth year, the award is presented to staff members who continually demonstrate the hospital's values. Shown in the front row, left to right, are: Cheryl Dimarco, Support Service Attendant; Wendy Scott, Medical Radiation Technologist; Barbara Ellis, Technician, Central Supply and Re-Processing Unit; and Whitney Lake, Charge Nurse, NHH Chemotherapy Unit. Also shown is Joan Ross (back left), President and CEO, and Elizabeth Vosburgh, Director, Human Resources (back right). Missing from the photo are recipients Chris Toope, Medical Laboratory Technologist, and Cathy Setterington, Emergency Department RN.

Upcoming NHH Foundation events

Coming Soon... Watch your mailbox the week of November 3rd for your chance to make a gift in support of the NHH Foundation's *Light up a Life* Campaign. Funds raised during this important annual appeal will be used to purchase several high priority pieces of medical equipment, including:

- a mobile cast cart - \$4,900
- fetal monitor - \$33,000
- Pyxis Medication System - \$46,000
- Cystoscopes - \$12,000

For more information on the *Light up a Life* Campaign, please call (905) 377-7767