



Mission Health Awarded STTI Grant for Telehealth Wound Care Project

Kathy Guyette MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and President, Regional Member Hospitals, Mission Health in western North Carolina, **Jennifer Kaylor**, BSN, RN, CWON, Wound Care Nurse, Mission Hospital and **Vallire Hooper**, PhD, RN, CPAN, FAAN, Manager, Nursing Research, Mission Health, accepted a grant awarded at the October 2016 American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet Conference ® in Orlando, Florida.

The Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)/ANCC Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Grant, *Using Telehealth Technology to Implement Evidence-Based Wound Care in an Underserved Practice Setting*, is sponsored by Hill-Rom. The project will provide cost-effective care in the remote long-term care (LTC) setting of Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in Highlands, North Carolina.



Grant awarded at Magnet Conference ® to Mission Health in western North Carolina

Left to right are **Carlos A. Urrea**, MD, MPH, Vice President, Medical Affairs, Hill-Rom; **Vallire Hooper**, PhD, RN, CPAN, FAAN, Manager, Nursing Research, Mission Health; **Kathy Guyette** MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and President, Regional Member Hospitals, Mission Health; **Jennifer Kaylor**, BSN, RN, CWON, Wound Care Nurse, Mission Hospital; **Cathy Catramabone**, PhD, RN, FAAN, President, STTI; and **Donna S. Havens**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Interim Dean and Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing and Chair of the ANCC Commission on Magnet® Recognition.

Grant Impact: Chronic wound care remains a major US healthcare problem, impacting approximately one million older adults and three million total adults annually. The issue is particularly grave in LTC settings. Evidence supports the use of Wound Ostomy Care (WOC) nurses to assure the highest level of quality, cost-effective care delivery in the management of pressure ulcers (PUs) and other chronic wounds. Unfortunately, a global shortage of WOC nurses limits this positive effect on wound care outcomes.

Project Aim: Given the current shortage of WOC nurses, this evidence-based practice project aims to test the use of innovative Smartglass telehealth technology for the delivery of evidence-based, comprehensive WOC services to a remote LTC setting. It is expected that this healthcare delivery method should enhance PU/chronic wound care by improving time to heal, decreasing related complications, and decreasing related ED visits, hospitalizations and wound related mortality. Given these costs reductions, a positive return on investment is expected and will support expansion of this WOC care delivery method across the region. This program should also serve as a template to expand evidence-based WOC services across the globe.