

Curriculum Vitae

Evangeline (Vangie) Varelas Dennis MSN, RN, CNOR, CMLSO

Demographic Data:

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Marital Status: Married, 3 Children

Education:

- June 1973 LPN-Dekalb Area Technical School
- June 1978 RN Georgia State University
- June 1979 Nursing Certification Course in Hemodialysis
- February 2011 BSN Chamberlain College of Nursing
- June 2019 MSN Capella University

Professional Organizations:

AORN: Association of PeriOperative Nurses
ASLMS: American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery
ATSA: Advanced Technology: Lasers and Minimally Invasive Surgery
AAGL: The American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopist
LIA: Laser Institute of America
AONL: American Organization of Nurse Leadership

Professional Activities and Accomplishments:

- National Certification in the Operating Room (CNOR)
- National Certification of Medical Laser Safety Officers (CMLSO)
- American National Standards Institute Member 136.3 and 136.1
- Chair: Board of Laser Safety National Certification CMLSO
- Association of periOperative Nurses: Laser Expert Liaison to ANSI 136.3
- Association of periOperative Nurses: Workplace Safety Committee 2006-2007
- Association of periOperative Nurses: Environment of Care 2007-2008

- Association of periOperative Nurses: Recommended Practice Committee 2007-2010
- Association of periOperative Nurses: Environment of Care Surgical Smoke Task Force 2008-2010
- CPR Certified
- In-depth research study on the ultra filtration factors with artificial kidneys. Presented Research at the American Association of Nephrology Nurses in Washington, D.C.
- Process Improvement Committee Representative
- Women's Services Advisory Council
- Communities Educators Network
- Marketing Advisory Council
- Chair: Employee Giving Program, "STARS"
- Partner's Advanced Technology Task Force Chair
- Laser Safety Officer: Gwinnett Health System, Emory Health System, & WellStar Health System
- Chair: Advanced Technology Partners Health Alliance
- National Committee VHA/Novation: Endomechanicals and Suture
- National/International Courses on Lasers and Advanced Technology
- Independent consultant on medical courses for physicians and hospital personnel
- Faculty: Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Gynecare, Indigo Lasers, Laser Institute of America, DJ Sullivan and Associates, AORN: Nationally and Regionally, Australian Confederation of Operating Room Nurses, Canadian Nurses Association/International, International Laser Safety Conference, Medtronic, and Baxter
- Past Secretary: AORN Advanced Technology: Lasers and Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Past Chair: AORN Specialty Assembly of Advanced Technology
- Past Vice President: AORN Suburban Chapter
- Past Chair for the Allied Health Division: American Society of Lasers in Medicine and Surgery
- Board of Directors: Laser Institute of America
- National Certification Board for Laser Safety Officers
- Board of Laser Safety Commission: Member
- Gwinnett Technical School Advisory Board
- Clinical Advisory Board: DeRoyal
- Clinical Advisory Board: Ethicon Endo
- Editorial Advisory Board: American Journal Clinical Lasers and Medicine
- Editorial Advisory Board: Photomedicine and Laser Surgery
- Editorial Advisory Board: OR Nurse
- Editorial Advisory: OR Today
- Editorial Advisory Board: Outpatient Surgery
- AAGL Planning Committee: 2005, 2006, 2007 Post Graduate Course
- Chair Certification Board: Medical Lasers: 2010
- American National Standards (ANSI) 136.3 Member

- AORN Recommended Practice Committee 2007-2011
- International Laser Conference PAS Chair: 2010-2019
- Chair: AORN Nominating Leadership Committee: 2014-2016
- National AORN: Board of Directors: 2017-2019
- National AORN: Treasurer: 2019-2021
- National President: AORN 2022-2023
- Publications and Presentations: Upon Request

Awards

- Recipient named in Strathmore's WHO's WHO
- Recipient of the 1996 Nursing Excellence Award from the American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery
- Recipient 2011 R. James Rockwell Jr. Educational Achievement Award
- Recipient 2011 AORN award for Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Clinical Nursing Education.
- 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Nurse of the Year for Georgia March of Dimes
- 2019 North West Ga AORN Perioperative Nurse of the Year
- 2019 Georgia Council of Perioperative Nurse of the Year
- OR Manager of the Year 2019

Professional Experience:

Assistant Vice President Perioperative Services: AnMed Health System

- Level 3 Trauma Center
- Magnet Hospital
- Services at both campuses include Pre-assessment, pre-op, operating room, PACU, GI endoscopy, sterile processing, & the Operating Room
- FTE's: 200 plus

Executive Director of Nursing: Perioperative Services WellStar Atlanta Medical Center Downtown and Atlanta Medical Center South 2017 to March 2021

- Level 1 and 2 trauma centers
- Services at both campuses include Pre-assessment, pre-op, operating room, PACU, GI endoscopy, sterile processing, CVOR Step Down Unit and Trauma Services for the Level 1 Center.
- FTE's: 300 plus

Administrative Director for The Emory Clinics for 8 Ambulatory Centers: 2015 to 2017

- Multispecialty and single specialty surgery centers performing over 43,000 surgical procedures a year. Responsible for 8 Managers and 400 FTE's

Southern Regional Medical Center, Riverdale, Ga: 2013-2015

- Director of Surgical Services

- Service Areas: Surgery 16 operating rooms, PACU, Pre-Op, PAT, Endoscopy, Sterile Processing, Wound and Ostomy
- Volume 400-450 cases a month
- 180 FTE's

Spivey Station Surgery Center, Jonesboro, Ga: 2011-2015

- Administrative Director
- Multi-specialty Surgery Center
- Performs over 400 procedures a month
- 36 FTE's
- Services include: Otolaryngology, Orthopedics, Pain Management, Podiatry, General Surgery, Urology Endoscopy, Plastics, Pediatric General Surgery and Gynecology
- Responsible for the operation, fiscal management, marketing and program development of the Surgical of a several departments with accountability for an expense budget and 42 associates.

Gwinnett Hospital System, Duluth, Georgia: 2007-2011

- Clinical Manager Surgical Services and Certified Laser Safety Officer
- Department Areas: Pulmonary and Gastroenterology, Imaging Nursing, Procedural Nursing, Interventional Radiology, Sterile Processing, Clinician and Special Projects/Operating Room.
- Has over 30 years as a perioperative nurse in Surgical Services Service Line.
- Other responsibilities include the Chair Partners Health Alliance: General Operating Room/Advanced Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, which are composed of 8 hospital systems.
- Responsible for the operation, fiscal management and program development of the Surgical Services Division of a several departments with accountability for an expense budget and 40 associates.

Span of Administrative Responsibility – The clinical manager of 6 departments, System Laser Safety Officer, committee member of hospital Administrative Safety Committee, Product Committee, and Chair: Employee Giving Program, "STARS"

Gwinnett Hospital System, Duluth, Georgia: 1996-2007

Advanced Technology Systems Manager, Systems Laser Safety Officer and Interim Manager for Sterile Processing.

Span of Operational Responsibility – Program Development:

- Direct responsibility for planning, organizing and implementation of services and technology for Gwinnett Medical Center-Lawrenceville and Gwinnett Medical Center- Duluth for 28 operating rooms and surgical services departments to include Pain Center and Pulmonary and Gastroenterology.
- Developed a minimally invasive Laser Surgery Program and via multi-media marketing increased the laser and endoscopic cases by 205 percent in one year.
- Sponsored national workshops for physicians and nurses to meet the educational/training needs associated with new MIS technology. This placed the Gwinnett Health System in a highly visible position both locally and nationally as experts in laser/endoscopy surgery.
- Assisted with expansion Gwinnett DaySurgery Center three times in the first five years of operation to accommodate spiraling volume increases.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive Patient Education Program to include procedure-specific videos to guide the pre and post-op care of outpatients.
- Assisted with planning, organizing and opening a new Glancy Outpatient Surgery Center in Duluth, Georgia.

Gwinnett Medical Center Inpatient and Outpatient Surgical Services 1987-1996

- Laser Coordinator for Gwinnett Hospital System:
Direct administrative responsibility for the developing, planning, organizing, staffing, of the laser service for the hospital system. Served as the expert for a multimillion dollar campaign in development of the laser services for the system. Responsibilities included the direction of day-to-day operations; long range planning, program development, systems management, budget preparation and control, quality assurance, and development of departmental policies and procedures.