

# *Nurse Recognition Award*

JACKELYN RODRIGUEZ LUGO,  
MS, BSN, RN, CRRN

HMH JFK JOHNSON REHABILITATION INSTITUTE



Jackie is a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN) and charge nurse on the Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute's Brain Trauma Unit. She holds a master's degree in Medical Microbiology from Long Island University, a bachelor's degree in nursing from State College of Florida and is currently pursuing her Nurse Practitioner degree. A strong supporter of professional practice and staff development, she takes pride in her mentorship and guidance, encouraging her mentees to pursue their dreams with confidence, doing so with empathy and an easy-going attitude, which she hopes to instill in her three children.

Ms. Lugo's utilizes the nursing process to assess, plan, implement and evaluate the nursing care for a designated group of patients on the Brain Trauma Unit. She ensures that comprehensive, individualized patient/family education is provided prior to discharge. She develops and maintains excellent working relationships with all members of the interdisciplinary team to support patient and family goals, and to provide safe, appropriate, quality care. Her passion for rehabilitation nursing and her enthusiasm for patient care is an inspiration to all who know her, along with her mentorship, guidance, and patience with new nurses, which is exemplary.

She is also known to champion a cause, so when the RN-Clinical Advancement Program was implemented she not only embraced it but encouraged her colleagues to advance their practice. She afforded her peers opportunities for education, encourages participation in community service activities, and most importantly, she avails herself and her time to assist her co-workers, she is a Nurse Managers dream!

In her quest to pursue advancement in professional growth, Ms. Lugo joined three team member work groups: *Aspiring Women Leaders*, *Women in Leadership*, and *the Young Professionals*. The common thread in these groups is they are dedicated to the development and advancement of leadership, in particular, of women. There is no doubt that she will be a leader and an asset to each of the resource groups.

Ms. Lugo knows that sometimes, it may be the little things that matter most for patients. Jackie sees the whole person when she assesses her patients and includes the family in developing a plan of care. She is bilingual which is a tremendous asset on the unit for Spanish speaking patients. She takes the time to understand what is important to her patients, and this goes a long way with her personalized gestures.

She is respected by her peers and by the members of the interdisciplinary staff on her unit and was just voted by her peers as *September's Peer Choice Award* winner! One of Jackie's greatest joys is seeing one of her more challenging complex patients "walk" through the door so proudly to thank the staff for giving them their life back. She is then in that proud moment reminded of why she became a nurse in the first place.

**Message from Jackie:** I would like to thank Chris Wade, RN, BSN, CRRN for the nomination. My husband, my mother-in-law, family and friends for always supporting me and always working with my work schedule and the kids. To my colleagues thank you for entrusting me to lead you and making it such a wonderful place to work.