

Nurse Recognition Award

SWAPNIL SHAH

DNP, AGACNP-BC, APN, NPD-BC, CCRN

RWJBarnabas Health



Swapnil prides herself in persevering throughout one of the toughest times in her career thus far, having worked as a bedside ICU nurse throughout the pandemic while pursuing her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Rutgers School of Nursing simultaneously.

Through her bedside practice and precepting novice critical care nurses, she discovered her passion for education. Currently, she oversees critical care nursing education throughout the RWJBarnabas Health system through the Institute for Nursing Excellence.

Swapnil's leadership within RWJBarnabas Health exemplifies her commitment to advancing nursing practice through collaboration, innovation, and education. As a valued member of the System Policy and Procedure Committee, she brings critical insight and clinical expertise to the development and refinement of system-wide nursing policies—grounding every recommendation in evidence-based practice and current professional standards.

Recognized as a collaborative leader and trusted team player, Swapnil supports educators, staff, and leadership alike. In her role as Corporate Critical Care Educator, she developed a specialized training program for nurses entering Cardiothoracic Surgery, equipping them to care for fragile open-heart patients. She has led interdisciplinary initiatives across cardiac surgery, respiratory therapy, and physical therapy—ensuring nurses are fully prepared to thrive in high-acuity teams.

Her visionary approach to education is most evident in the creation and leadership of the PeriAnesthesia Biannual Conference, developed in partnership with Perioperative and Post-Anesthesia Care Unit educators. This pioneering program highlights the unique and complex role of the PeriAnesthesia nurse, who provides care for both ambulatory same-day surgery patients and critically ill post-operative patients. Since its inception, the conference has seen remarkable attendance growth, driven by overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.

Swapnil's contributions reflect a deep dedication to professional development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the continuous elevation of nursing excellence. And through it all, she remains true to her roots as a proud cheesehead and Green Bay Packers fan!

A message from Swapnil: *Special thank you to Dr. Mary Beth Russell and Mary Koch for their mentorship and guidance as I continue to advance my career. My deepest thank you to my family for supporting my dreams and always encouraging me to pursue them.*