America’s opioid crisis has entered the delivery room.

IVCH obstetrics director Angela O’Bryant says the hospital has seen a noticeable increase in the number of women who present to labor and delivery at the hospital who have had prenatal exposure to illicit drugs and opiates.

In an age of shortened hospital stays when most new moms go home after spending only a day or two at IVCH, O’Bryant said there are multiple issues regarding consent, legal liability, and patient rights that complicate the provision of care to both mothers and babies who may have used or been exposed to drugs during pregnancy.

“We are trying to figure out a legal, ethical, and responsible way to care for women and babies who are either opiate addicted or exposed,” said O’Bryant. “There are no easy answers and it’s an issue IVCH and all of the hospitals in our area have to grapple with.”

O’Bryant took part in an October 19th roundtable discussion in LaSalle sponsored by the Perfectly Flawed Foundation about opioid abuse in the Illinois Valley.

IVCH was also a sponsor of a PFF fundraiser auction November 16 at Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Club. Dr. Paul Bonucci, medical director of the IVCH emergency department, received an award at the event for his efforts to call attention to and work toward a solution for the opioid problem in the Illinois Valley.

Headed by Luke Tomsha, the foundation is a local effort to combat local opioid abuse through education and support.
IV Healthcorp employees and volunteers who received WOW! Service Excellence Awards in October include:

Jessica Allen  Marisa Henry  Kendra Poole
Anaalicia Arteaga  Thomas Hepburn  Leslie Pytel
Edward Bailey  Megan Hochstatter  Candace Reppin
Soraya Blanco  Nicole Hurst  Vanessa Rosales
Cheryl Brabay  Hope Ingram  Emily Sanchez
Kathleen Budnick  Michelle Johnson  Michelle Serpico
Cynthia Cadegiani  Melissa Kelly  Nancy Siekierka
Ashley Carlos-Rubledo  Kathy Kleckner  Teresa Skoflanc
Carolyn Clayton  Aika Kowalczyk  Linda Smith
Dana Colby  Cathy Lenkaitis  Hannah Standley
Kimberly Corrigan  Cindi Loebach  Susan Stubler
Dr. Mario Cote  Deanna Maggi  Terri Terzick
Angela Davis  Lynn Mannrriquez  Sylvia Twardowski
Alicia Detmers  Sonya Marquez  Christa Urbanski
Donna M. Donna  Julie Martin  Thea Vangelisti
Kim Duttlinger  Mike Mathias  Tia Vazquez
Elizabeth Edgcomb  Ed May  Craig Vickery
Mikaela English  Shayan Miranda  Susan Wagner
Mike Evans  Victoria O'Brien Martin  Nicole Washkowski
Frank Galassi  Angela O'Bryant  Brandy Wehr
Jennifer Goforth  Lindsay Orr  Stacey Wertz
Julie Gonzalez  Vicki Pangrnic  Greg Windy
Gloria Guy  Abby Pantenburg  Michelle Wright
Kortney Hamm  Angela Pikula  Ginger Yaklich

Tommy Hobbs, IVCH chief executive officer, congratulates maintenance mechanics Dan Postula (left) and Harry Weide on earning their Level 3 credentials following completion of an extensive training program.

Ten-year-old Gracie Politsch from Dimmick Grade School put together this year’s IVCH ad for the News Tribune’s Design an Ad contest. The ad ran in the November 15th edition of the paper.

IV Healthcorp employees and physicians who were mentioned by name in a positive manner on patient surveys returned in October include:

John Apilado (2) • Mary Armata • Dr. Eugene Becker (4) • Annabelle Bedenka (2) • Liz Birkey • Dr. Paul Bonucci • Helen Bryant • Carrie Burt (2)
Carolyn Clayton (2) • Dr. Mario Cote • Maryfran Crist • Chris Debasic • Jennifer DeRubeis (4) • Dr. Vijay Desai • April Duckworth • Kim Duttlinger
Dr. Jeffrey Edwards • Mikaela English (5) • Mike Evans (2) • Becky Ferguson • Deb Fewell • Deacon Ray Fischer • Lindsey Foster (16) • Ashley Freitag
Laurie Galetti • Becky Ginsini (2) • Jennifer Goforth • Dr. Serge Golber (6) • Dr. Kemoria Granberry • Alexis Green-Ortiz • Marisa Henry • Dana Hoffman
Patti Holland • Ashley Izaguirre • Mary Jauch (3) • Jen Jennifer • Dr. Othman Jibrel (4) • Dr. Ioannis Karkatzounis • Melissa Kelly (2) • Dr. David Kelton (2)
Dr. Paul Kim • Mark Kotecki • Todd Kuzma • Cathy Lenkaitis (11) • Cindi Loebach (2) • Bridget Malone • Lynn Mannrriquez • Kris Martin (3)
Mary Sue Martyn (2) • Melissa Mata (7) • Adam Maubach (3) • Courtney McCoy • Colleen McKenna • Kim McTee (6) • Dr. Peter Meier (8) • Amy Mertes (7)
Dr. Mauro Montvecchi • Stefanie Morgan • Sue Mowbray • Vicki O'Brien Martin • Renee Olsen (2) • Abby Pantenburg • Jill Peters (2) • Mary Petre (13)
Erin Picton (2) • Bridget Pothoff • John Prentice • Deb Pyszka • Niki Rauba • Brianna Rebholz • Tina Reel • Cathy Renk • Emily Rios • Tessa Risatti
Donna Ristau • Ellyn Rodriguez (2) • Anna Rybarczyk • Dr. Muhammad Sabir (2) • Dr. U. K. Sinha • Janelle Stegman • Callie Struna-Feliksiak • Jessica Stuart
Kalie Sudaj • Barb Tieman • Sylvia Twardowski • Dr. Michelle Vasquez • Dawn Verucchi • Sue Wagner (9) • Haley Woolford • Brooke Yucus (2) • Dan Zissler
HAPPY BIRTHDAY VOLUNTEERS!
Please wish Happy Birthday to the following volunteers: Jeanne Zens, Auxiliary Member (12/2); Char Goff, Auxiliary Member (12/3); Pat Wren, Joint Replacement Center Volunteer (12/3); Carol Schloeder, Auxiliary Member (12/5); Michelle Salas, Auxiliary Member (12/8); Jan Vogelgesang, Auxiliary President (12/10); Marzita Setchell, Auxiliary Member (12/10); Joan Fernandez, Auxiliary Member (12/12); Ron Rynke, Red Coat (12/13); Holly Antkowiak, Red Coat (12/14); Judy Garbowsky, Auxiliary Member (12/18); Kathy Lewandowski, Red Coat (12/19); Donna Novak, Auxiliary Member (12/20); Marge Pietrowski, Auxiliary Member (12/21); Dan Reichen, Red Coat (12/25); and Sally Tostovarsnik, Red Coat (12/31).

AUXILIARY HAPPENINGS!
The Elegant 1 Boutique vendor will be in the Café on Friday, December 1 from 7 am until 4 pm. Make sure to check it out and pick out a cute new outfit for the IVCH Christmas party that evening. On December 5, the Auxiliary will host their Christmas meeting at the Maple’s at 10 am. All are welcome to attend! On December 15, the Auxiliary ladies will have their annual Christmas Bake Sale...yummy!

IVCH DAISY AWARD PRESENTED TO MELISSA KELLY

Taking the time to listen to and comfort a patient following surgery helped earn Melissa Kelly the latest Daisy Award at Illinois Valley Community Hospital.

Based on nominations from patients and their family members, the Daisy Award is presented quarterly to an IVCH nurse who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to patient care.

"Melissa was wonderful. I’ve been through a lot of surgeries and Melissa took time to listen to me. She is such a good nurse," said Jenette Lafuente of Peru in nominating Kelly for the award. "Melissa and all the nurses were very caring," said Lafuente. “I wish I could nominate all of them.”

A resident of Sublette, Kelly is a registered nurse who works on 2 South, the IVCH surgical floor. She has been an IVCH employee for 10 years.

The IVCH sports medicine commercials that you may have seen on the sports channels carried by the local Comcast cable system earned the hospital the Best in Show Award from this year’s Pinnacle Awards competition sponsored by the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations.

The campaign to promote the sports medicine skills of the three surgeons who belong to the Illinois Valley Orthopedics medical practice – Dr. Peter Meier, Dr. Robert Mitchell, and Dr. James Murphy – included print ads, Google ads, Facebook Newsfeed ads, YouTube videos, and web site content. The ads were created by McDaniels Marketing and targeted athletes in specific sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, cross country, and track.

NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH

Daisy, the pet therapy dog, and the Illinois Valley Hospice team got together for a group photo as part of their observance of November as National Hospice Month. Pictured in the first row, from left, are Dawn Moutray, social worker; Tom Hepburn, RN; and Melinda Hopkins, CNA. Standing, from left, are Dr. Mark Fernandez, medical director; Kathleen Parr, RN; Michelle Wright, RN; Trina Hamrick, director; Lisa Casford, pastoral/spiritual care/volunteer coordinator; and Manessa Trench, secretary.
IVCH RECOGNIZED AS A TOP FIVE CLINICAL SITE BY ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY

Students in the nurse anesthesia program at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science selected Illinois Valley Community Hospital as one of the Top Five Clinical Sites at which they did their clinical residency in 2017.

IVCH – which also won the award in 2016 – is one of 34 hospitals and medical centers in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana at which Rosalind Franklin students in the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) program earn clinical hours.

Jay Tumulak, DNP, CRNA, APN, Director of Clinical Education at Rosalind Franklin’s nurse anesthesia program, came to Peru to present the award to Tommy Hobbs, IVCH chief executive officer, and Kim Duttlinger, CRNA, clinical coordinator of IVCH’s partnership with the university.

Tumulak also presented IVCH CRNA Becky Meier with the 2017 Outstanding Clinical Educator Award, an honor voted on by this year’s nurse anesthesia students.

Rosalind Franklin University is located in North Chicago.

IVCH VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS SET FOR JANUARY 13

Illinois Valley residents who can sing, dance, juggle, play an instrument or otherwise entertain and want to perform on stage in front of an appreciative audience for a good cause are invited to try out for the 2018 Illinois Valley Community Hospital Variety Show.

Auditions are scheduled for 9 am – 1 pm, Saturday, January 13, in the Dr. Mary Weeg Cultural Centre at Illinois Valley Community College.

Individuals and groups who would like to perform in the show can reserve an audition time by calling the IVCH Community Outreach office at 815-780-4618.

“We’re announcing the date for auditions now so people who want to perform in the show have time to think about what they want to do and rehearse,” said Dawn Moutray, the show’s director.

An IVCH Foundation fundraiser to help the hospital purchase a new MRI unit, the show will be staged Saturday night, March 10, in Matthiessen Auditorium at LaSalle-Peru High School.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR IVCH EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES

The IVCH Players are a group of employees, family, and friends who are willing to open and close the Variety Show by participating in a group song and dance. No one has to do any “solo” singing or dancing. A little skill and a lot of enthusiasm are all that is required.

Practice begins on November 30 and will continue every Thursday until dress rehearsal on March 9, 2018. You do not have to make every rehearsal.

“We need about 30 to 40 people to make it great! The audience will love you! No one is turned down. It is always a great time with great people,” said Renee Rebholz, who is organizing the group.

For more information, call Rebholz at ext. 3485.

BREATHEING EASY AT ROTARY

IVCH Respiratory Therapy director Linda Pinn was the featured speaker at the November 17 Peru Rotary Club meeting at Mark Allen’s restaurant. She talked about inpatient services provided by the hospital’s respiratory therapists as well as her department’s pulmonary function, pulmonary rehab, and sleep study programs. Pinn was the guest of Peru Rotarian Bob Johnson.
Gathered around the CT scanner in Diagnostic Imaging are, from left, Cindy Herrmann, Charlene Dean-Jones, Kayla Mayszak (kneeling), Kim Corrigan, Jennifer Wrobleski, Dawn Verucchi, Dana Colby (sitting), Jenny Kennedy, Stacey Wertz, Dan Zissler, Soraya Blanco, and, kneeling, Jen Jenner (left) and Jennifer Washelesky.

Illinois Valley Hospice, Illinois Valley Adult Day Center, and IVCH were represented at State Senator Sue Rezin’s senior health fair October 18 at the Grove Center in LaSalle. ADC Director Janelle Mrowicki chats with Senator Rezin, whose 38th district includes IVCH.

Critically ill emergency department and intensive care unit patients who need sustained CPR treatment will be the beneficiaries of the IVCH Auxiliary’s most recent gift to the hospital. The $15,000 Auxiliary donation was used to purchase a LUCAS chest compression system. The device, which can deliver 100 consistent compressions per minute indefinitely, is a more efficient alternative to manual CPR. Physio-Control representative David Fee is pictured showing ER nurse Mary Jauch how to set up the equipment. Looking on is IVCH EMS coordinator Nick Fish.

Seventy-sixth District State Representative Jerry Long stopped by the Illinois Valley Hospice table to talk to Michelle Wright, RN (left) and Lisa Casford, hospice's spiritual care and volunteer coordinator.

HALLOWEEN 2017

Two of IVCH's largest departments had themes when they dressed up for Halloween this year. Diagnostic Imaging channeled Pac Man while 3 South went to the movies with 101 Dalmatians.

3 South director Rose Mary Carrico was Cruella De Vil and her staff the 101 Dalmatians for Halloween 2017. Pictured, from left, are Shannon Spencer, Janet Redshaw, Bridget Malone, Carrico, Mansa Henry, Sonya Marquez, Deb Feswell, Vicki Pangracz, Callie Struna-Felkosak, and Dasia Beals.
UPCOMING EVENTS

VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS – JANUARY 13
The IVCH Community Variety Show is coming back. Last held in 2011 as a fundraiser for the then new obstetrics unit, the show is going to be revived as an IVCH Foundation event. It’s set for Saturday night, March 10, in Matthiessen Auditorium at LaSalle-Peru High School. Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, January 13. Story inside for details.

IVCH FOUNDATION BALL – JANUARY 20
The IVCH Foundation Ball turns 30 Saturday, January 20, at Celebrations 150, LaSalle. The 30th incarnation of the Foundation’s principal fundraiser will feature a Grand Buffet, dancing to the music of the Hardesty Band and the Chuck Cunningham Band, and the opportunity to win prizes by playing various games of chance. Tickets are $95 per couple and can be ordered and paid for by going to the Foundation page at ivch.org or by dropping by the Foundation office on 2R. Questions? Call Jheri Emmerling at ext. 4642.

IN SYMPATHY
The entire IVCH family wishes sincere sympathy to:
• Shawna Flanary, Streator Orthopedics, on the loss of her brother, Lee Sember;
• The family of Barb Boehn, Patient Access, who died October 25;
• Jessica Brucki, Surgery, on the loss of her father, Raymond Brucki;
• Kristi Leix, Family Home Medical Equipment, on the loss of her father-in-law;
• Connie Dyer, Surgery, on the loss of her father-in-law, Carl Dyer;
• Dr. Jeffrey Edwards, Women’s Health Care Center, on the loss of his mother, Virginia Rose Edwards;
• Harry Weide, Maintenance, on the loss of his father, Robert Halstead;
• Tess Freiburg, Obstetrics, on the loss of her mother.

NANCY PORTER (1924-2017)
Nancy Porter, an IVCH employee who worked at the hospital for half a century, died November 16 at the age of 93. Nancy retired in September 2016 after celebrating 50 years of service providing support to the Patient Access and Patient Financial Services Departments.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Lylybell Arteaga, 3 South
3 John Roliandi, Transport Services
4 Jill Huebbe, Nursing Administration
4 Kevin McLendon, Counseling Services
4 Diane Davis, Patient Financial Services
5 Traci Aimone, OB
5 Chaz Pizzolato, ICU
7 John Eustis, Transport Services
7 Patricia Holland, Cardiopulmonary Rehab
8 Michelle Salas, Surgery
9 Renee Olsen, Pain Management
9 Polly Inman, Utilization Review
9 Kelly Dzierzynski, Physical Rehab Services
9 Carolyn Clayton, ER
10 Candace Reppin, OB
12 Joan Fernandez, Community Outreach
12 Angela Vezzetti, ENT and Allergy Center
14 Kris Hanson, Pharmacy
14 Kimberly Thorson, Physical Rehab Services
17 Sue Walters, Occupational Health
17 Susan Tutko, ER
19 Deborah Couch, Sterile Processing
19 Dr. Robert Mitchell, Illinois Valley Orthopedics
22 Christine Askeland, OB
25 Leslie Pytel, Patient Access
26 Kristina Leix, Family Home Medical Equipment
27 Alyssa Heider, OB
28 Mary Wellner, HIM
28 Niki Rauba, Diagnostic Imaging
28 Rebecca Gensini, ER
29 Haleigh Kunkel, 2 South
29 Diane Karge, Sleep Therapy
29 Sara Burd, Physical Rehab Services
29 Madison Misener, Endoscopy
30 Tracy Platt, Peru Primary Care Clinic
31 Christina Hardee, Patient Access

New EMPLOYEES

New IVCH employees welcomed at the November 13 new employee orientation day include:
Seated, from left, Melody Schultz, Sodexo; Roxanne Daniel, Sodexo; Karl-Rae Kerrschneider, Women’s Health Care Center; and Jessica Bautista, Nursing Services.
Standing, from left, are Dawn Colmone, Nursing Services; Kyle Kramarsic, Sodexo; Tina Blair, Sodexo; Edward Bailey, Jr., Sodexo; Sarah Stuepfert, Nursing Services; Miranda Reinhardt, Nutrition Consultant; April Duckworth, Sodexo; Ashleigh Newmarker, Nursing Services; Brittany Lange, Women’s Health Care Center; Marcie Pena, Sleep Lab; Patricia Bardell, Adult Day Center; and Jody Vlaovic, Nursing Services.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS