

To all of my friends and counterparts from across the world,

I wanted to let you know that after 26 years as the MCS lead here at Sharp Memorial Hospital I will be retiring, last day is Oct 1st. Before I go, I want to say a very sincere thank you to all of you. Your combined wit and wisdom over the years had made me proud to be part of this group and have been a source of inspiration for me and I'm sure everyone else that is part of our little community. I feel very privileged to have been part of this wild ride that is the life of a MCS coordinator and to have shared it with all of you. I miss you all already and will really miss "VAD Camp" whenever that happens again J

Thank you everyone for the outstanding care you continue to provide all of our patients when they need us most.

Stay safe out there,

Suzanne



Suzanne Chillcott, BSN, RN

Lead, Mechanical Circulatory Support

Suzanne Chillcott has been a nurse at Sharp Memorial Hospital for more than 30 years. She began her nursing career in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit before becoming the lead in the Mechanical Circulatory Support Department in 1994. Suzanne holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Northern Michigan University. She has been recognized as Sharp HealthCare's Nurse of the Year and has been an invited lecturer on various mechanical circulatory support topics at many national conferences. She is a published author in several medical and nursing journals. Suzanne is also a founding board member of the International Consortium of Circulatory Assist Clinicians.

Oh my Suzanne! I want to wish you the very best in retirement! I have learned so much from you and your program. Congrats! Our vad world will not be the same!!

Sarah E Schroeder ACNP-BC, MSN RN, AACC

Congratulations Suzanne!! You will absolutely be missed all around!! Enjoy a safe, healthy, and much deserved retirement ~ Laura

Laura Coyle, MSN, ACNP-BC

Advocate Christ Medical Cente

So let me share my story !

You probably don't know me.

Solo VAD coordinator at a very small DT program in Macon Ga

You and the others like you who have so much experience in the field

For years have answered our crazy questions and encouraged us .

Thank you for breaking the mold of nurses eat there young

Thank you for sharing and mentoring and encouraging . It's pretty intimidating when you are among the world leaders in MCS at a meeting .

Then the leaders just step up and welcome you in !

Keith McCranie

Congratulations on your retirement! Thank you for everything you have taught me over the years. You've been an inspiration for sure.

Thanks,

Krista Marz

VAD Coordinator

Ochsner Hospital

Suzanne –

So happy for you! Congratulations, and always remember that you have had a HUGE impact on the VAD World through your collaboration, mentoring, and leadership. You will be missed!!

Regards,

Michael Petty, PhD, RN, APRN, ACNS-BC, CCNS

Advanced Practice Nurse Leader/Cardiothoracic and Solid Organ Transplant Clinical Nurse Specialist

M Health Fairview | University of Minnesota Medical Center

Best of luck on your retirement! Thank you for all of your amazing contributions to the MCS world over the years! And a special thanks for taking me under your wing when I was a newbie coordinator.

Take care and enjoy!

Jami Bennett

Congrats Suzanne!

I was great working with you all of these years! Hope you have a great retirement!

Tim

Timothy R. Ryan, APRN-NP

Mechanical Circulatory Support Program Coordinator

Suzanne,

It's been great working with you over the years. All us "old" LVAD Coordinators worked together during a large LVAD learning curve time and you have been able to see what efforts you have given, not only giving your patients time and quality of life but in sharing your wisdom to all . You always were gracious when sharing your facility for meetings and I always learned great tidbits from you. I hope the next life's adventure brings wonderment and enjoyment for you. Thanks for all you have done. Enjoy your retirement.

Catherine Fitzsimmons, DNP, APRN, NPc

UTSouthwestern Medical Center

Dallas, Texas

As an "old" VAD Coordinator I couldn't agree more with Catherine's sentiments!

All the best Suzanne!

Carole Ballew, ACNP

University of Virginia Health

Suzanne,

Congratulations! You were on of the first coordinators I ever made contact with, way back in 2005!! I remember you being very generous with your time and your expertise in the MCS arena, you are a true pioneer!

I wish you a long and wonderful retirement. I am pretty sure I am right behind you!!

Tony

Tony Martin | APRN-BC, Nurse Practitioner
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Suzanne,

Your contributions to VAD patients, families and VAD/MCS Coordinators have made such a positive impact – Thank You!!! You will be missed, but happy for you & wish you the best in retirement.

Nancy

Nancy M. Richards, MSN, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN-K, CCNS

Lead VAD Coordinator

The University of Kansas Health System

Suzanne,

We will miss you, hope you enjoy retirement.

Kathy

Kathleen Lockard, UPMC

Suzanne -

Thank you for all of your time, expertise, kindness, and support.

You are a great mentor and fabulous VAD Coordinator.

I too am one of the OG coordinators - 2005 and loved having you as a resource even before I was a VAD Coordinator and we got our first

HeartMate IP in 1997!!



I wish you all the best for your future health and happiness.

Thank you again !!

Shauna

Oh man... I'm always going to remember how resourceful and helpful you were to me when I was just a baby VAD Coordinator at Keck ☺. Our MCS family is going to miss your knowledge, straightforward approach and dedication to making things the best they can be for the patients you support. I certainly hope your retirement is filled with all the things you love – and if that involves travel – come see me in Charleston! You always have a place to stay ☺.

And... why wouldn't you still come hang with us at VAD Camp every once and awhile?

You are really going to be missed...

Jennifer M. Hajj, MHDS, BSN, RN, CCRN-K

Advanced Heart Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program Manager

Medical University of South Carolina

Suzanne,

You have paved the way for so many of us! I will remember your kindness and patience when I was new and how you took the time to share your knowledge and wisdom. You will be greatly missed (and I hope you have a wonderful retirement)!

Sincerely,

Sarah Schettle, Mayo

As another "old" coordinator.....I totally agree with all of the sentiments!!!!

Have fun in your new life, all the best.

Brenda

Sentara Healthcare System