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## Announcing the Retirement of Hildy Schell-Chaple PhD, RN, CCNS, FAAN

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From Pearson, Maddy <Maddy.Pearson@ucsf.edu>

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### Announcing the Retirement of Hildy Schell-Chaple PhD, RN, CCNS, FAAN

After a remarkable 38-year nursing career, Hildy Schell-Chaple will retire in January, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of leadership, collaboration, and dedication to the care of acute and critically ill patients.

Hildy's nursing journey began in 1987 as a new graduate in the Kidney Transplant Unit, where her passion for caring for complex medical and surgical patients first took root. In 1989, she transitioned to the Intensive Care Unit, where she experienced the power of true collaboration and interprofessional teamwork—values that would guide her throughout her career. From 1991 to 2016, Hildy served as the Clinical Nurse Specialist for Adult Critical Care, where she worked alongside colleagues from Critical Care, Medicine, Respiratory Care, Pharmacy, Nutrition, Social Work, and Rehabilitation to provide the highest quality care to critically ill patients and their families. Hildy was on the system Patient Safety & Regulatory Affairs team for five years before returning to nursing as the Director for Clinical Practice and Research, where she has expertly built and nurtured a team of dedicated to advancing nursing excellence and fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement.

Hildy has always been strongly committed to advancing the nursing profession, both academically and in research. She earned her Master of Science degree and PhD from the UCSF School of Nursing. She has held an academic appointment since 1994 and is a Health Science Clinical Professor. Throughout her tenure, Hildy has mentored and helped cultivate hundreds of advanced practice nurses and nurse scientists, making an indelible impact on the future of healthcare.

A recognized national expert in critical care nursing, Hildy has transformed systems, advancing evidence-based practice changes to optimize care and improve patient outcomes. Her contributions to the field were honored in 2008 when she was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing for her leadership, innovation, and significant contributions to health improvement and science. Hildy is also known for her authentic leadership style and her tireless work mentoring nurses across UCSF. She maintained an office in the hospital throughout her career to stay connected to practice and to witness the excellence in action between team members and patients.

While I have only known Hildy for a short time, I quickly came to admire her knowledge, expertise, and advocacy, and appreciate the pivotal role she has played in advancing care and the profession and practice of nursing at UCSF. We all thank Hildy for her unparalleled dedication to advancing nursing and for the lasting impact she has made on the lives of countless patients, families, and colleagues.

In light of Hildy's retirement, I am pleased to announce the following interim leadership for our clinical practice and research teams:

**Melissa Lee, MS, RN, PCCN, GCNS-BC**, Advanced Practice Clinical Manager, will be the interim director of Clinical Practice for the Center for Nursing Excellence and Innovation.

**Adam Cooper, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, EBP-C**, Director of Nursing Continuous Improvement and Affiliate Nursing Quality, will be the interim director of research for the Center for Nursing Excellence and Innovation.

**Please join us in celebrating Hildy's extraordinary career at her retirement party:**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025

**Time:** 1500-1700

**Location:** Clinical Sciences Building 0101 (sub level), Parnassus Heights Campus

While Hildy will retire from her clinical role, she will continue her service through the UCSF School of Nursing, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). In the new year, she is excited to volunteer with the Sepsis Alliance and to dedicate more time to her family, including her husband, two sons, and extended family. Hildy also looks forward to traveling more and spending time enjoying her favorite activities, including swimming and golfing.

Hildy's contributions will be remembered for years to come, and we wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement!

Warmly,  
Maddy

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