Susan Garrow-Sloan



How long have you worked at Baystate?

I came to Baystate in May of 2008. Wow 17 years. Time flies.

What roles/positions have you held while at Baystate?

In 2008, I was hired as a research nurse coordinator for Pediatric Endocrinology. I had absolutely no experience when I accepted this position as I came from a background in women's health. Pediatric Endocrinology was intriguing to me. You are working with children and their families navigating new onset Type 1 Diabetes, complexities of growth hormone deficiencies, adrenal insufficiencies and childhood onset of Type 2 Diabetes. I made the decision to transition to the Office of Research as I had a growing interest in education. I was able to bring my experience from pediatrics to the research community.

Have you presented at national conferences? Webinars?

Yes. I have presented a poster at the 2018 PRIM&R conference. My colleague and I received national recognition for our poster describing a unique informed consent education workshop. I have presented the same poster at the AAHRPP conference. More recently, I have worked with the SUNY Downstate HRPP Clubhouse in presenting a series of 3 webinars surrounding the subject of Expanded Access and Emergency use of Drugs and Devices.

What are your responsibilities in your current role?

Currently, I am responsible for conducting research study audits as an education and quality assurance specialist. With that, assessing and addressing the education needs of the research community is a priority. Assuring research policies, regulations, and principles of good clinical practice are applied to all aspects of human subjects research.

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What have been some of your accomplishments at Baystate?

I am not someone that is into accolades. One of my proudest moments was when I was nominated and recognized by my pediatric endocrine colleagues. During Research Week of 2016, I was honored as a research coordinator. I had the privilege of inviting a family and their child to this event and spoke of the contributions families make to clinical research. I was really proud of that moment.

What do enjoy most about your role in the Human Research Protection Program?

I enjoy working with the research community. The people. The remote environment has been an adjustment and a challenge. It has required me to reflect heavily on how I communicate with colleagues and the broader group. Addressing that challenge, sparks creativity which is the impetus for growth.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Outside of work, I love being outside. I enjoy long hikes and trail running with my dog, Rocky the rockstar. I also enjoy gardening. I like to challenge myself. Recently I successfully installed a new kitchen faucet with the help of You Tube. No leaks! Yay! I am an advocate for mental health and have long supported the efforts of CHD, MHA, and NAMI.

Final Thoughts...

I would like to thank those that mentored me along the way. Your experience and coaching kept me on track when I questioned "What did I get myself into?" It has been a journey I would not change.