

## Our Honorees:

### *Jean Wadman, RN, MSN, CPNP*



It is with great delight that we honor Jean Wadman, Sickle Cell Advanced Practice Nurse at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware.

Ms. Wadman has cared for children with cancer and blood disorders for the past 20 years, and participated in the development of the state of Delaware's first pediatric hematology/ oncology units, first at the Medical Center of Delaware in Christiana, and then again at the duPont Hospital.

Since 2001, however, she has focused specifically on serving Sickle Cell patients and their families. Working with a high-powered, multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers, she has helped to build a many-faceted service system that supports more than 200 Sickle Cell children, and their families, from birth to age 21. Her passionate involvement and leadership have gained recognition: in 2002-2003, she participated in the State of Delaware Sickle Cell Consortium.

Ask her about her work, and her commitment is plain to see. "It is an honor and a privilege to be able to work with the patients and families impacted by this disease," she says. With its birth-to-age 21 scope, the team can plan for their patients' developmental needs, counsel their parents on symptoms and possible crises, support the children's schools in anticipating special needs, and ultimately facilitate a seamless transition from the care of a pediatric hematologist to an adult hematologist.

Ms. Wadman has been integral in the development of all these services, and more: in the fall of 2006, she implemented a pediatric sickle cell outreach clinic in Sussex County, Delaware, bringing the hospital's service to the patients rather than requiring them to travel two hours or more for routine checkups and non-urgent care. Currently, she is planning a patient/family education day at the hospital.

None of this could have happened without the hospital's hematology/oncology team, she says, listing her teammates by name: Robin Miller, M.D., pediatric hematologist and medical director of the sickle cell program; Suba Krishnan, M.D., pediatric hematologist; Dahra Jackson, Ph.D., psychologist; Dora Temple, CLCSW, social worker; Julie Regan, RN, hematology/oncology outpatient nurse; Laurie Milnes, CNA and Kei-Shandra Saddler CNA, certified nurses' assistants; and Maureen Karmondy and Deirdre Beckford, patient service representatives.

"I'm fortunate to be a part of this great team," she adds. "From its inception, the team has had a single purpose: to improve the life of every child with Sickle Cell Disease. We're all completely dedicated to this patient population...the award really should go to the team. And we're moving forward! ...Just in the last year we've become involved in a national-level research consortium with the NIH. Patients receive cutting-edge treatment here." She gives much credit for the team's advances to Hematology/Oncology Division Chief Christopher Frantz, who "gives us encouragement and the space to grow and develop."

In an inspiring aside, Ms. Wadman notes that Greg Jackson, Jr., the son of the Fund's 2006 honoree, Delaware State coach Greg Jackson, is one of her team's patients. She adds proudly (with the blessing of the Jackson family) that he is "doing fine."