

March 25, 2009

To All Incoming GEPN Students:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to GEPN, and to the YSN Class of 2012. You are about to embark on an exciting and challenging year of your life, one that will include a wide range of new experiences. In this letter I am going to address some specific information you will need prior to beginning the school year. **Please read this letter carefully, follow up on the information given, and keep this letter for your future reference.**

### **Your Schedule**

I wanted you to have an idea of how accelerated your GEPN schedule is. Depending on your course load, you will have two to three days of class per week during the fall semester (usually Mondays & Thursdays), and two days per week of clinical shifts (a combination of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays). Even if you waive out of the anatomy course, there will be special workshops and classes throughout the semester that will be scheduled. You will receive a detailed course schedule in July.

Please note that a three day orientation program starts on Monday, August 24, 2009. This program includes essential information such as policies, procedures, class content and clinical practice you will need to know and understand in order to ensure your success at YSN. We strongly recommend that you plan on attending all of the orientation sessions.

All classes and clinical practice begin Wednesday, September 2, 2009. In order to ensure patient safety and quality care, you will be expected to prepare for clinical practice on the day prior to the first clinical shift of the week. This means that, presuming your fall clinical days are on Tuesday and Wednesday, students assigned to New Haven clinical sites will be expected to go to the hospital on Monday afternoon or evening. The expectation is all students will review their respective patients' charts in order to develop care plan for the next day.

Please note: In the first semester, clinical groups are scheduled for day shifts (7 AM to 1 PM or 8 AM to 2 PM), for evening shifts (3 PM to 9 PM or 4 PM to 10 PM), and twelve hour shifts (7am-to 7pm) on Saturdays.

During the spring and summer terms, clinical shifts will be a full eight hours long. You can expect to have two days per week of class and two shifts per week of clinical practice. The specific days of the week in which we hold class and clinical will vary by rotation. Assigned clinical shifts include both day shift (7 AM – 3 PM) and evening (3 PM – 11 PM) shifts, as well as some Saturday day shifts or 12 hour shifts (7am-to-7 pm).

Students, who are parents, will need to make sure that their day care includes availability beginning before 7 am. Whenever possible, we will avoid assigning students who are parents to evening shifts for clinical, but clinical assignments are made with a variety of factors in mind.

**Vacation times have been set, and are firm.** YSN's Thanksgiving break starts at 5 PM on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. However, the GEPN schedule ends that day at 2 PM, so you can plan to travel that afternoon. Classes will resume on Monday November 30 at 8 AM. The fall semester ends on Friday December 18, at 5 PM. School is back in session on January 11, 2010 at 8 AM.

### **Waiving Courses and Challenging Course Requirements**

#### ***N503 Biomedical Foundations of Health and Disease:***

Dr. Walter Zawalich coordinates N503 Biomedical Foundations of Health and Disease. At the first meeting of N503 he will present an overview of the course, and will discuss arrangements to challenge out of his course by taking an exam. There is no waiver procedure for this course. You cannot opt out of the course on the basis of past academic experience and transcripts alone.

#### ***N511 Fundamentals of Human Anatomy:***

Professor Linda Pellico coordinates the anatomy course, which is taught in collaboration with the anatomy department at Yale School of Medicine. If you have taken a two credit hour course in *Human Anatomy* within the past 5 years, and obtained a grade of C or better, you can waive out of this course. This waiver policy also applies if you are currently taking anatomy, or plan to take it later this summer. **If your application file at YSN does not include a transcript of your anatomy course, you will need to submit a copy of your transcript in August.**

Prior to the beginning of class, we need to know how many students are planning to take the Anatomy course. As a result, we have enclosed a Waiver Request Form regarding your anatomy requirement. Please complete and mail or fax this form back within two weeks of receiving this letter. You will be notified during your GEPN orientation session in August as to whether your request was approved. You can send the forms to:

Barbara Celotto  
GEPN Program  
Yale University School of Nursing  
PO Box 9740  
New Haven, CT 06536

Fax: 203-785-6455

### **Preparations for Clinical Practice**

#### ***Clinical uniforms and other supplies***

Clinical practice will begin the second week of school. The initial clinical experience will be in a simulated laboratory where students will begin with basic nursing skills (e.g. blood pressure, temperature, assessments). By the second week in September, students will be providing direct patient care in a variety of hospitals located within, and outside of, New Haven, CT. Prior to the clinical simulation laboratory and actually clinical experiences, all students will need to purchase the following: scrub suits, a lab coat, and specific footwear. All students should purchase all required uniforms and equipment prior to the start of the fall semester. The aforementioned items and all clinical related items are available at any uniform shop or on any online uniform website.

**Clinical Uniforms:** All students are required to purchase two pairs of navy blue colored scrubs and a white lab coat (jacket or knee length) for clinical.

**Clinical Shoes:** All students are required to purchase a pair of shoes specifically for clinical. Washable clogs of any color or sneakers are acceptable as long as the primary color is white. Please note that all shoes should be washable.

**Stethoscope:** All students will need to purchase their own stethoscope. Students are strongly discouraged from buying their stethoscope on line but rather you wait until you arrive on campus. The Yale University Barnes and Noble Medical Bookstore stocks several Littman and DRG company models. Many second and third year masters students tend to purchase the Littman Classic II; however, Adult Advanced Practice students tend to purchase a more specialized stethoscope, such as the Littman Cardiology. The DRG models, however, are growing in popularity, and students are encouraged to do comparative shopping before buying any stethoscope.

### **CPR Certification**

***All students are required to be CPR certified prior to arrival at YSN.*** You should enroll in the “community CPR course.” It should also be “for the professional.” This course will certify you for one-person CPR for the adult, child, and infant. Students also might consider becoming certified in Community First Aid and Safety. Any local Red Cross Chapter can assist in identifying a certification course.. The national website is located at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and is a source of contact information on local chapters. Another organization that should be contacted is the American Heart Association. Their website is at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org), and their toll free phone line with information on CPR training is at 877-AHA-4CPR.

***All students are required to provide a copy of either a CPR card*** or a letter signifying successful completion of a CPR course. Without proper documents, students will be deemed ineligible to start the clinical practicum. Finally, prior to beginning all clinical, students also are required to take and pass several additional on-line modules that the Office of Student Affairs will notify you about.

### **Optional Prescription Coverage**

When you receive information from the University about the Yale Health Plan coverage, you will have the opportunity to sign up for coverage for prescription medications. Even if you have health insurance through another source, I urge you to look carefully at your policy and consider signing up for the additional prescription coverage. There are circumstances in which you might be faced with the need to take very expensive medications, such as if you experience a needle stick from a patient who is HIV positive. Although we teach you how to avoid this situation, and needlesticks happen rarely, they happen; if you experience such an injury, the medication for HIV prophylaxis can cost thousands of dollars.

## **Transportation and Car Pooling**

Throughout the GEPN years, students will concurrently have corresponding didactic course work and clinical practicum. Please note that all clinical practicum sites are not located in New Haven proper and therefore may require the use of some form of transportation. Students are responsible for all costs associated with transportation. Given that not all students will have access to or have their own car, all clinical practicum assignments requiring transportation take this into account and assign at least one student with a car to clinical practicum located outside of New Haven proper. Students who do not have access to or have their own car are not exempt from clinical practicum located outside of New Haven proper.

In closing, Dr. Margaret Grey (YSN Dean), faculty, and staff congratulate you on being accepted to the GEPN program. I hope you are able to schedule some vacation time, and adequate time for relocation, so that you can start school feeling rested and at home in New Haven. In addition to the housing information, you will receive information over the summer on orientation and the big sib program offered by the YSN Student Government Organization. I recommend that you take advantage of the opportunity for the informal contact this offers you. If you have questions about the information in this letter, you can contact Barbara Celotto, Administrative Assistant for GEPN at [barbara.celotto@yale.edu](mailto:barbara.celotto@yale.edu) or 203-737-2194.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Guthrie, RN PhD, FAAN  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and  
Interim Director for Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing