The Young Pediatric Nurse Clinician Program (YPNCP) is a mentored program for undergraduate nursing students with an interest in pediatrics. YPNC students participate in and host activities in healthcare facilities and the community under the direction of a faculty mentor and expert pediatric nurse clinicians to better the lives of children.

**Members**
- Katelyn Baumann
- Amalia Gedney
- Melinda Gravel
- Jordyn Heiter
- Katelyn Warner

**Not Pictured**
- Nichole Brauer
- Victoria Walstrum

**Faculty Advisor:** Vanessa Kimm

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**Diabetes Busters**

Diabetes Busters is a Diabetes prevention program, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association that takes place in the 4th grade classes at local elementary schools. It involves both an education and physical activity portion. During the education portion students rotate through three stations where they are taught about what diabetes and the difference between type I and type II diabetes, and about the importance of nutrition and physical activity. During the physical activity portion students wear a pedometer for 3 weeks and track their steps. They then calculate their total steps as a class. As a class they are trying to walk to Iowa City to Disney World then to Disney Land and back to Iowa City. As members of the Young Pediatric Nurse Clinician program we each take the lead on a school. As the student lead for the school you help with and participate in the educational portion and then visit the school each week during the physical activity portion to track their progress. On these visits we discuss what activities the students are doing to get their steps, how they think they are doing and reveal how far they have walked up to that point.
Dare to Care Day

At the end of April we participated in an event called Dare to Care at the Children’s Museum at Coral Ridge Mall. The event was coordinated by another University of Iowa nursing student group, UIANS, to teach children about various health topics. We decided to test the kiddos to see how much they knew about hand washing and to see how well they actually washed their hands. We brought special lotion and a UV lamp, “the glitterbug”, to highlight the spots they missed while washing their hands. They rubbed on the lotion, viewed their hands under the lamp, then washed their hands. Upon the second viewing, the goal was for all of the lotion to be gone from their hands. The lotion that was still on their hands continued to glow green under the UV light. We had kids from the ages of 2-10 participate in this activity. Both the kids and the parents really enjoyed this hands-on activity.

Autism Walk

Young Peds joined hundreds of families members and children to participate in the 6th Annual Autism Walk on April 27, 2013. The walk helped to lead services that will directly benefit Autism Families in the Eastern Iowa area. As volunteers, the Young Pediatric Nurse Clinicians helped with the kids zone, silent auction and many other entertaining booths! The Young Pediatric Clinicians were able to support the organizations mission of Taking Action While Creating a Support Network. It was great to see the Young Pediatric Clinicians interact with the children and their families while supporting such a great cause.
UIHC Safety Fair

During the UIHC Safety Fair, the Young Pediatric Nurse Clinician group was able to host a booth demonstrating proper hand washing to preschoolers. The GlitterBug tool was used to show the children that even though they are using soap and water to wash their hands, it is really important to scrub hard to get those invisible germs off their hands. The kids really seemed to enjoy the activity and were walking away smiling and telling their friends that “hand washing is fun!”

Hancher Project

During the Fall Semester, the Young Pediatric Nurse Clinician Program was asked to compile a presentation for elementary students in grades 5 and 6 throughout the Iowa City Community School District. The presentation was based around a play titled The Man Who Planted Trees. The Man Who Planted Trees was a puppet show about a man, Elzéard Bouffier, who planted trees circa 1910 in the Alps region of France.

The YPNC's objectives for this presentation were to tie the environment in to people’s health. We felt it would be important to educate on this matter because students may not recognize that the environment around them plays a significant role in a child’s wellbeing. The presentation was to be taken into the classrooms of all students who attended The Man Who Planted Trees. The materials included a word scramble; discussion topics about what makes us sick and what can make the environment sick, how trees can affect our health, and ended with students discussing what they can do to contribute to a healthy world. The final activity was to have each child plant a bean and watch it grow. This was intended to help students understand the positive impact they can have on the environment.
This year, the YPNC Program had a booth at Progressive Nursing Day. We created a poster showcasing all the projects we were involved with, the volunteer work we had participated in, as well as a little bit about the program itself. Our members stood at the booth and talked with other nursing students about the program and encouraged those interested to apply. We were able to answer questions, promote the program, and tell our peers what we have learned from our involvement. We also shared about the experience we’ve gained, and how the program has helped us professionally to network and learn more about pediatric nursing.

YPNCP served a pizza dinner for the families staying at our local Ronald McDonald House.

This year, the senior YPNC’s had the unique opportunity to attend the National Association of Pediatric Nurses Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. We attended various educational sessions to increase our nursing knowledge of the pediatric population.

The students of the Young Pediatric Nurse Clinician Program are able to host and participate in all of these wonderful opportunities by utilizing funds from fundraising activities and community donations. If you would like to donate to the YPNCP, please send a check (made out to YPNCP) to:

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