



Patrick Coyne

Cancer Pain Relief Effort of MCVH Nurse Is Recognized with National AACPI Award

Patrick Coyne knows pain. For nearly a decade, this MCVH nurse has dedicated his professional life to understanding and improving pain relief for cancer patients.

Coyne's extraordinary work recently earned him national honors from the American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives. The AACPI recognized him with a prestigious Distinguished Service Award for leadership, research, advocacy, and his outstanding level of dedication.

Coyne's credits in pain management are many. This clinical nurse specialist for oncology/pain management is a founding member and past president of the Virginia Cancer Pain

Initiative. The statewide, multidisciplinary organization seeks to improve cancer pain management through education and awareness of practices and techniques.

He launched and directs the Cancer Pain Center at VCU's Massey Cancer Center, which treats some of the Mid-Atlantic's most difficult cases.

An active voice for improving public policy in the field, Coyne played a key role in the Virginia legislature's move to enact laws requiring insurance companies to provide hospice coverage, as well as to provide pain medication and referral coverage for cancer patients.

As a researcher, he's currently seeking ways to assist patients with shortness of breath and is studying the effectiveness of imagery and relaxation as non-drug tools for managing pain.

Most recently, Coyne was named clinical coordinator of care for MCVH's Thomas Hospice Palliative Care Unit.

"A lot of my patients have accepted the fact that they don't have much time, and they want to make the most of it," Coyne says. "They just want to go fishing one more time, or attend a daughter's graduation. If they have a realistic goal, it's my job to help make that happen."

Annual Love Light Tree Sale Benefits Music Therapy Fund

For many people, the holidays are a time to celebrate family and friendship, giving us the chance to connect with and remember special people in our lives. Each year, the MCV Hospitals Auxiliary honors this spirit of kinship and remembrance with the sale of Love Lights.

Patients, staff, and visitors at Main Hospital and Stony Point are encouraged to buy a Love Light as a tribute to a friend or family member, or in remembrance of one. Love Lights—special tags to hang on the Love Light Tree in the lobby—are \$3 each, or \$5 by mail. Each comes with a card that can be sent to the individual or family of the individual for whom the card was purchased.

The proceeds from this year's sale will benefit the Krystal Dawn Music Therapy Endowment, which will fund a full-time music therapist for health system patients of all ages.

Love Lights will be on sale in the first floor lobby of Main Hospital and Stony Point the week of December 4, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Donations also will be accepted. For details, call the MCVH Auxiliary at 828-0922.