



Welcome to the VIP Initiative

June 2019

An IDEAS –VISN 19 Service and Research Collaborative

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Please welcome Laura Jane Hyte-Richins, BSN RN

Laura Jane Hyte-Richins knew she wanted to be a nurse when she was only 8 years old and there were no medical professionals in family let alone a college graduate. She went to the University of Utah and has been a Registered Nurse for over 20 Years with diverse experiences. She is the oldest of 7 siblings and she has 4 kids; 2 boys and 2 girls. She love to run and accomplishes 1-2 marathons a year and 7- 8 Half Marathons a year and some of her kids run with her.

She started her career in Labor and Delivery and NBICU and did that for 12 years with that came the first exposure to addiction in both mother and baby and assisted the neonate through the withdrawal of

She feels very blessed to be working with Veterans that are on the VIP team because her Significant Other is a Retired 26 years Air Force Lt. Colonel who saw combat and was injured during a deployment and returned with PTSD and became an alcoholic to escape the trauma. He has now been sober for about five years. Together they are very active in the recovery community and volunteer for a Non-Profit Organization Recovery Champs that supports families that have been affected by addiction and/or mental health in activities that assist in having productive lives that are fulfilling and more relaxing through physical activity, mindfulness, yoga, Gi-Gong, 12 Step, and other modalities.

NEW NIDA CTN NODE

Congratulations to Drs. Adam Gordon and Jerry Cochran on a newly awarded NIDA CTN NODE!!!!

The Greater Intermountain Node



The Greater Intermountain Node was founded in 2019 to expand the existing **National Institute of Drug Abuse Clinical Trial Network (CTN)** infrastructure by developing and testing innovative interventions for opioid use disorder, preventing overdose, expanding the settings for Network research, and bringing new research expertise to the Network.

The GIN is housed within the Program for Addiction Research, Clinical Care, Knowledge, and Advocacy (PARCKA) within the Division of Epidemiology within the Department of Internal Medicine within the University Of Utah School Of Medicine. The GIN brings particular expertise in three areas of opioid addiction research to the Utah, regional, and national communities:

1. Research within non-addiction specialty health care settings
2. Addiction and opioid research within large health systems of care
3. Implementation science and approaches to bring addiction evidence based research to practice

The GIN leverages robust institutional commitment and infrastructure, institutional centers focused on addiction-related research, and training programs with strong regional and national connections to clinicians, educators, other institutions and organizations, and community stakeholders. GIN has dedicated space, staff, and faculty to accomplish its missions.

For more information please visit: <https://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/epidemiology/parcka/gin/>

PUBLICATIONS

[Pregnancy-Associated Death in Utah: Contribution of Drug-Induced Deaths.](#)

Smid MC, Stone NM, Baksh L, Debbink MP, Einerson BD, Varner MW, **Gordon AJ**, Clark EAS.

Obstet Gynecol. 2019 Jun;133(6):1131-1140. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003279. PMID: 31135726

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our VIP SharePoint site: www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative

