At Inspira Health Network, we are fortunate to have a comprehensive team of skilled healthcare professionals providing excellent care for our community every day. I’d like to give special recognition to the caregivers that we often see first when we need assistance: our nurses.

Who helped the obstetrician deliver you at birth? Who did you turn to in grade school when you did not feel well? Who do you often see first when you make an office visit to your primary care doctor? And who takes care of you 24/7 if you need to stay in the hospital?

As you can see, we have all formed special relationships with nurses throughout our lives. They have dedicated their careers to your health and well-being by collaborating with physicians and other staff to assure great outcomes.

I’m very proud of Inspira’s nurses because they repeatedly distinguish themselves as leaders in excellent care. I’d like to provide you with a few examples of the nationally recognized nursing care that you and your family have access to in your community. In fact, Inspira’s nurses have received three national awards this year for providing our community with top-notch care.

This spring, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) recognized Inspira Medical Center Vineland’s Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) and Cardiac Step Down Unit (CSDU) with a gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence. This national three-year award is given to units that successfully improve patient outcomes and foster healthy work environments. This is the fourth consecutive Beacon Award that Inspira Medical Center Vineland’s CICU has received and the first for its CSDU.

Inspira Medical Center Woodbury also received a prestigious award this year for excellence in nursing. Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, or NICHE, awarded its highest honor in recognition of our commitment to geriatric nursing care. In fact, our nurses received “Exemplar” status, the highest possible designation that NICHE awards to hospitals. What this means for your elderly loved ones is that our nurses excel at providing evidence-based, interdisciplinary care that promotes better outcomes, positive experiences and improved care.

Another example of our distinguished nursing care came in January when Inspira Medical Center Elmer became the first hospital in New Jersey to receive the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses’ PRISM Award®. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional nursing practice, leadership, and outcomes in hospital medical-surgical departments across the United States. The award, which stands for “Premier Recognition in the Specialty of Med-Surg,” is the first of its kind honoring acute care medical-surgical departments and was given to Inspira Elmer’s 2 East Medical-Surgical Unit.

Our Bridgeton, Elmer and Vineland campuses have also been twice designated as Magnet Hospitals by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Magnet is the “gold standard” for nursing excellence and only seven percent of the nation’s hospitals hold this distinction. The award is given to hospitals with experienced nurses who are not only providing excellent care, but are also innovating and driving their profession forward through the use of research and evidence-based care.

These group awards are certainly impressive, and over the years, many of our nurses have also received individual national recognition for their leadership and innovation in the field. Just this year, Emily Turnure, M.S.N., R.N., administrative director of Education and Accreditation at Inspira Health Network, was recently appointed to the American Association of Critical Care Nurses’ national Leadership Board Nominating Committee. Under her leadership, Inspira Vineland’s Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory team was recognized by Advance for Nurses with the “Best Nursing Team Award” in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Each year the March of Dimes also recognizes nurses across the nation who demonstrate exceptional patient care, compassion and service. This year, three Inspira Health Network nursing leaders, Sandy Lovelace, BSN, RN, CGRN, Sherry Remy, MSN, RN, CEN, and Reenie Sacchetti, MS, RT(R), were all honored with Nurse of the Year Awards from the March of Dimes’ New Jersey Chapter.

These recognitions are a true honor, and they are just the most recent examples of many awards our nurses have received. What I think they really demonstrate is that our nurses bring innovation and best practices to your community. And most importantly, they are providing excellent care every day in our hospitals for you and your loved ones.

For more information, please visit our website at InspiraHealthNetwork.org.