

# MITSS Adds New Board Members

## Maureen Connor, RN, MPH



Maureen is a healthcare consultant with Claremont Consulting Partners, in Arlington, Massachusetts focusing on quality improvement, patient safety and patient- and family-centered care. She is the former Executive Director of Quality and Safety for Patient Care Services at North Shore Medical Center (NSMC) in Salem, MA. Prior to joining NSMC, Maureen served as Vice President for Quality Improvement and Risk Management at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and Director of Quality Improvement at the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center, Boston. She is a graduate of Boston City Hospital School of Nursing and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Boston College. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Massachusetts. At DFCI, Maureen led a major transformational effort in implementing a fair and just culture that encompassed the clinical, administrative and research arenas. In addition, she is a co-author of the consensus statement, *When Things go Wrong: Responding to Adverse Events*, written to support the Harvard affiliated hospitals in communicating with patients and families about errors and adverse events. Maureen was a co-investigator of a study that measured the impact of patients' participation in Patient Safety Rounds in the ambulatory clinics at DFCI and also a study on oral chemotherapy safety in ambulatory oncology. She is passionate about assisting healthcare organizations form authentic partnerships with patients and families to advance quality and safety. As such, she has been a faculty member for the Institute for Patient- and Family-Centered care for over a decade. Maureen also worked with the MA Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors to assist health care organizations throughout Massachusetts in implementing state-mandated patient and family advisory councils. She has presented nationally on patient safety and patient- and family-centered care.

## Patricia McGaffigan



Patricia is the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Programs at the Boston-based National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF). Patricia's prior positions at NPSF have included roles as Interim President and Vice President of Program Strategy and Management. Additional roles she has held over her career include staff nurse in pediatric critical care, faculty member a baccalaureate nursing program, and education and marketing positions for several start-up and established medical device companies focused on improving patient safety.

Patricia is a graduate of the NPSF-American Hospital Association Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship program and is a member of the American

Society for Professionals in Patient Safety. She serves on a wide range of health care and patient safety related committees, including the DNV Patient Safety Advisory Committee, the AAMI Foundation Healthcare Safety Institute, the AAMI Coalitions on Alarm Management and Opioids Safety, the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention, the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis, and the National Collaborative for Improving the Clinical Learning Environment. Patricia has also served on the Society of Critical Care Medicine's Coalition for Critical Care and related taskforces on including High Reliability, Simulation, and Closed Loop technology. She speaks on a range of patient and workforce safety to national, regional, and local audiences.

Patricia was awarded a Lifetime Member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), and served as chairperson of AACN's Certification Corporation Board of Directors, and on AACN's Nominating Committee and AACN's President Search Committee. She has collaborated with AACN on a number of programs focused on patient safety, including organizing and moderating AACN's first Patient Safety Summit, and implementing education programs for safe use of technology at hundreds of schools of nursing.

Patricia received her BS with a major in Nursing from Boston College, and her MS with a major in Nursing from Boston University.

## Maria van Pelt, PhD, CRNA



Dr. van Pelt graduated from Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia in 1998 and received her master's degree in anesthesia from St. Joseph's University. She received a master's in the science of nursing from Villanova University in 2004, a post master's certificate in teaching from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010 and a PhD in Nursing from Villanova University 2015. She was the Program Director for the University of Pennsylvania Nurse Anesthesia Program until 2012, when she moved to Boston, MA where she is currently the Nurse Anesthesia Team Leader for the Divisions of Neurosurgery, Vascular and Thoracic anesthesia at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Dr. van Pelt's research interest is the aftermath of perioperative catastrophes and the impact on patient safety and provider wellness. She has been lecturing extensively and has been recognized nationally for her work within this research domain for the past decade. She was named the 2012 American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation Doctoral Fellow. In 2013, she was selected by the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) to be an American Hospital Association / National Patient Safety Foundation Patient Safety/Leadership Fellow and developed and implemented the MGH Department of Anesthesia Clinician Peer Support Program. Dr. van Pelt is a member of the AANA Professional Development Committee. She is the Massachusetts State Peer Advisor and AANA Foundation Advocate for Massachusetts. Dr. Van Pelt is the first and only CRNA on the APSF Executive Committee and also sits on the APSF Board of Directors. She was recently selected to serve as the Chair for the APSF Committee for Education and Training.