

4 Questions with...



Amy Hogan
Respiratory Care Education Coordinator

Why did you choose to go into the Respiratory Care field?

My interest in Respiratory Care began when I was a young adult. I was born with no connection between the esophagus and stomach, which put me at high risk for developing life-threatening aspiration pneumonia. I was also only 2 pounds, 4 ounces at birth. It was a respiratory therapist who identified that something was wrong in the delivery room. My outcome and survival were dependent on early identification and repair of the birth defect.

How did QCC prepare you for your career?

The education and training that I received through QCC prepared me for taking my board examinations and gave me valuable clinical experience that allowed me to apply the material in a practical manner. I was prepared to be a working clinician after graduation.

My first year after graduation, I worked in a chronic ventilator and pulmonary rehabilitation hospital. After that, I began working for UMass Memorial Medical Center (UMMMC), where I have been employed since. My first 5 years after entering the field, I spent the majority of my time as a primary neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) therapist. In 2002, I transferred to the Adult ICU. In 2004, I began teaching for QCC. I taught all of the different clinical rotations including NICU, and was the primary lab instructor for several years.

Could you describe what you do on a daily basis?

My job may take me to a baby delivery where I play a critical role as part of a highly specialized team for infant resuscitation. I may be asked to run the life support ventilator during a baby surgery, or maintain life support machines for adult patients who are post-operative, are gravely ill, or have trauma injuries. Less intense duties include asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) education, treating patients with inhaled respiratory medications and assisting with procedures, such as bronchoscopies. We draw blood and manage airways. I will never be bored as a respiratory therapist.

At UMMC, I work for an acute-care facility as an educator. I'm able to fulfill my passion for teaching, without losing direct contact with patients. I can't say enough great things about the field and my job. It's nice to get up every day and say you really enjoy what you do.

Do you have any words of wisdom for students considering a career in Respiratory Care?

In this field, knowledge and practices change and grow exponentially. You are constantly learning and adapting. If you do not keep current you will be left behind, at least in the critical care/acute care setting. This field requires very strong critical thinking skills. You have to maintain focus under extreme pressure.

The Path to Success

Associate's Degree, Respiratory Care
Quinsigamond Community College – 1994

Staff Therapist, Respiratory Care
Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital – 1994

Staff Therapist, Respiratory Care
UMass Memorial – 1995

Adjunct Faculty, Respiratory Care
Quinsigamond Community College – 2004

Education Coordinator, Respiratory Care
UMass Memorial – 2008

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