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**Temple University Research Nurses – “the Backbone of the Research Program at Temple” – Win a Contract That Confers Respect, Prioritizes Staff Retention and Ensures Continuity for Temple Health’s Vital Research Initiatives**

***Their Colleagues – the Nurses at Temple University Hospital’s Jeanes Campus – Schedule a Strike Vote for THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH***

**Philadelphia, PA** – Today, nearly five months after their previous contract expired, 23 research nurses employed by Temple University to conduct Temple Health’s vital research initiatives ratified a contract that confers respect for their essential role, prioritizes staff retention and ensures continuity within Temple Health’s research program.

**The vote for the Nurses Association of Temple University’s new four-year contract, completed today at 4 p.m., was 100% in favor of ratification.**

“Temple is a research institution and we, the specialized research nurses, work in every corner of the hospital. I’m proud of the work we do and I’m happy that we have a fair contract,” says Hannah Reimer, RN, Clinical Research Nurse in Emergency Medicine and president of the Nurses Association of Temple University. In the fall of 2020, Reimer ran Temple University’s trial of a COVID vaccine. Thanks to the trial, the Temple patient population had the opportunity to receive life-saving treatment before other patients in the country did.

“Temple is known for novel treatments,” says Gayle Jones, RN, Research Coordinator in Thoracic Medicine and Surgery. “We, the research nurses, are integral to the research behind those treatments. Every day, we help obtain clean, reputable data; increase patient safety, and make possible new medications and devices. What we do is so important. We deserve to be valued right along with the research, and with this contract, we are.”

**The nurses’ new four-year contract includes wage increases of 19% over the four years of the contract as well as enhancements to vacation and sick time policies to improve retention of the existing staff – a central issue in the nurses’ bargaining campaign.**

“Wage rates for Temple research nurses had fallen well below the wage rates for floor nurses at Temple Hospital, and it was greatly inhibiting the recruitment and retention of the nurses who are the backbone of research at Temple,” says Reimer. “Temple can’t have a residency program without a research

program, and they can't have a research program without us. We do meaningful work. We are invaluable to the Temple name. This contract, nearly five months in the making, acknowledges our contribution."

"This contract lays the foundation for new generations of proud nurses to choose Temple Health over every other institution, because here they will do novel work and they will feel respected and valued for their contributions," adds Jones. "This contract lays the groundwork for the future."

#### **Jeanes Nurses United to Take Strike Vote**

**Elsewhere within the Temple Health System, 375 Jeanes Hospital RNs, who practice at Temple's North Philadelphia Jeanes Campus, have scheduled a strike vote for THIS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 after failing to reach an agreement with the hospital after more than six months of contract negotiations. Improvements to staffing and compensation (to enhance nurse recruitment and retention, and therefore staffing) are core issues for the Jeanes Hospital RNs, who, on Valentines Day, delivered a petition to Jeanes Hospital administration signed by 96% of their members, signaling their willingness to strike over these critical quality of care issues.**

*The Nurses Association of Temple University and Jeanes Nurses United are affiliates of PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents 10,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals across Pennsylvania and was founded on the belief that patients receive the best care when clinical-care staff have a strong voice to advocate for both patients and themselves. PASNAP represents more than 3,500 healthcare professionals within the Temple Health system.*