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# Academic Partners Consulting Newsletter

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*Nursing takes a whole life to learn. We must make progress in it every year. Florence Nightingale*

## Business Update

We had a great discussion last month in our Wine Down Session on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Thank you again to Dr. Christi Doherty for leading the discussion. If you would like a recording and the resources from the webinar, please email me at [maria@academicpartnersconsulting.com](mailto:maria@academicpartnersconsulting.com)

**Content is being worked on now. Expect several webinars to be up in the next month or so. Accreditation for Continuing Education Credit is also being submitted for approval and will take several months.** Please visit the website for more information. [APC Website](#)



## Upcoming Events

### **Wine Down Session – Self-Care, Body and Mind – April 27, 3 pm EST**

We will discuss the importance of self-care especially in these globally tumultuous times. Special guests will join to talk about care of the body and mind. We will cover the toll the pandemic has taken on health care workers specifically and offer ideas for rejuvenation! Free resources will be provided.

[Self-Care Webinar Registration](#)

### **Wine Down Session – Discussion of the RaDonda Vaught Case and Sentencing – May 25, 3 pm EST**

We invite all nurses and non-nurses to join our discussion regarding the guilty verdict of Nurse RaDonda Vaught and the sentencing that is scheduled for May 13. We will present the facts surrounding the case and welcome discussion regarding your feelings, thoughts, and suggestions for action for the future. See below for more information about this case.

[Vaught Webinar Registration](#)

## Topic of the Month and In Nursing News

### **RaDonda Vaught**

Ms. Vaught is a Registered Nurse who was working at Vanderbilt Medical Center when she mistakenly gave the incorrect medication to a patient and the patient died as a result. After investigations and Board of Nursing hearings, Nurse Vaught was stripped of her license and eventually charged in a criminal court with abuse and negligent homicide. Her sentencing is scheduled for May 13.

There has been a flood of attention on this case ranging from an outpouring of support for Ms. Vaught to condemnation and agreement with the verdict. One thing we can all agree on is that the case has elicited emotions in almost every nurse who is aware of the tragic situation.

You may wonder what makes this situation unique. The fact that a nurse, who made a medical error, is being tried in criminal court is uncommon. Most medical errors, even those that may lead to death, are dealt with “in-house” and within the profession. In other words, the facility in which the error occurred holds the professional accountable and the Board of Nursing, in this case, would hear the evidence and render a decision/punishment.

Health professionals are educated and encouraged to report errors so that appropriate action can be taken to care for the patient, first, and secondly, to allow for a systematic review of the policies and procedures to prevent the same error in the future. Often, with medical errors, especially medication errors, systemic concerns are found that need correcting. As was the case with Nurse Vaught and Vanderbilt Medical Center. Vanderbilt filed a 150-page corrective plan addressing the investigation’s findings!

There are so many questions surrounding this case. Why were criminal charges brought against the nurse? Why were charges filed against the nurse but not Vanderbilt? What are the consequences to future patients if caregivers know they can be criminally charged for making a mistake? What are the consequences to the future of nursing?

We should all care about this verdict and the upcoming sentencing. As a nurse, I want nurses held accountable for their actions. I want there to be severe consequences for egregious errors. I want all nurses to uphold the standards of our profession. I also want recognition that we are human. We are fallible. We often work in impossible conditions, short-staffed, non-working equipment, not enough equipment, incivility, and yet more often than not, we make it work! Despite these conditions, we have been known as the most trusted profession in the U.S. for over a decade. We admit when we make mistakes and want to be part of the solution. We should all strive to uphold this type of professionalism!