

# Women's History Month Achievers Awards



## WINNERS



**Rona Corral, D.N.P., M.S.N.**  
*Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center  
Patient Care Manager*

Rona Corral has contributed to the health care of women and the community by creating a platform for the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Division of Hospital Medicine to educate women and men about breast cancer awareness. She has held annual programs to celebrate breast cancer survivors, and invited guest speakers to share their stories of hope while educating audiences about risk factors and the benefit of a healthy lifestyle. For the past 12 years during the holiday season, Corral has led her medical unit to adopt a family in the surrounding neighborhoods, including participating in adopting a nearby elementary school to provide over 100 coats, hats and gloves. With her guidance, the unit adopted a senior in need as well as a family this past year.

Corral contributed to the lives of women at large by serving as coordinator of the Sollers Point Scholars Program, a homegrown program that is a collaboration between Johns Hopkins Bayview and Sollers Point Technical High School. This program offers a scholarship to allied health high school students who wish to pursue a nursing degree while working as a CNA. Corral mentors the young ladies and ensures they are placed on a supportive unit that benefits their professional and personal growth. The program has produced several compassionate and critically competent Johns Hopkins Bayview nurses who have become charge nurses and ACE nurses, and have grown to precept other Sollers Point Scholar students and newly hired nurses, helping to advance their careers.

Leading by example for her unit staff, interdisciplinary team members and the organization, Corral exemplifies JHM core values. She values pushing the boundaries of excellence and continues to support and encourage her team to grow professionally and further their education. She values patient- and family-centered care and interdisciplinary collaboration, and she is sought after to help pilot creative programs on her unit that improve the quality and safety of care for her patients. She embodies all of the core values, and ensures that patients are the priority.



**Emily Ferg**  
*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Clinical Laboratory Specialist*

Emily Ferg is a major contributor to the improvement of health care for women. She started her career at Johns Hopkins in 2015 in the DNA Diagnostic Lab as a laboratory technician, and has continuously taken on new tasks to expand her knowledge. She was recently promoted to clinical lab specialist, working closely with lab directors, genetic counselors and assistants, and other hospital staff members to manage sample intake and accessioning, test development and improvement, and employee performance reviews. Additionally, she conducts myriad genetic testing, from Huntington's disease diagnostics and maternal cell contamination testing to Sanger sequencing for specific familial variants and next generation sequencing setup for the lab's whole exome and zoom tests. These tests allow women, their families and their medical care team to know if they are carriers of disease-causing genetic variants and if their babies will also carry the variant, and show if the babies will have physical effects of certain genetic diseases. Co-workers say that without Ferg, the lab would not run as smoothly as it does.

Ferg amazes her co-workers with her dedication and her willingness to go above and beyond all expectations. She is not only exceptional at her job, but also exceptional in her ability to help and motivate her team members, the majority of whom are women. She has a huge impact on many women's lives in the community, not only the women in the lab, but also in the Molecular Diagnostic Lab, the Center for Inherited Disease Research lab, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Starbucks staff and the security guards at 1812 Ashland Avenue.

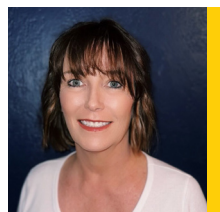
Ferg's positive and can-do attitude has been paramount to the growth and success of the lab and everyone she interacts with daily. During new hire onboarding, it is evident that she knows the ins and outs of the lab. Any question a new hire has, Ferg answers and explains thoroughly. She is approachable, with an upbeat attitude, and she welcomes discussions about how to improve all aspects of the lab. She ensures that the voices of the technologists are heard and taken seriously. These traits create a calm, respectful and high-functioning workplace culture, and that is an incredible benefit to the lives of women in the Johns Hopkins Genomics community.

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Ferg embodies the organization's core values in all she does. She is inclusive and open to people of different backgrounds with different ideas. Many describe Ferg as a role model in Johns Hopkins Genomics.



**Nancy Hipps , L.P.N.**  
*Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital,  
Sarasota Outpatient Care Center*

Nancy Hipps is a strong advocate for health screenings and preventive health care. A Healthy at Hopkins promoter in the Sarasota Outpatient Care Center (OCC), she is also a champion of blood donation, and helps organize monthly blood draw events in her large neighborhood.

As a member of the board for the Suncoast Blood Centers Red Hot Gala, Smith works all year to help plan this premier Sarasota event, which raised \$50,000 this year.

Hipps exemplifies the JHM core value of leadership and integrity. She is always a voice of positivity, and embraces change. She has done wonders for employee engagement and wellness in the Sarasota OCC. One of her most impressive accomplishments is a centerwide plan for "Wellness January" to jump-start the new year on a wellness journey.



**Armine Smith, M.D.**  
*Sibley Memorial Hospital  
Assistant Professor and Director of Urologic  
Oncology in National Capital Region*

Armine Smith is passionate about women's health. She worked with colleagues at the Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute to establish a one-of-a-kind Women's Bladder Cancer Program that provides multidisciplinary care, an ongoing educational series (via in-person meetings and webinars), and monthly support programs for patients and their families. This model of care for women with bladder cancer is being replicated by the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. Through this and her other work, Smith is recognized in the field as an expert in bladder cancer in women, and she has a national reputation for complex, function-sparing reconstructive surgery in women.

Bladder cancer treatments (e.g., transurethral resection and intravesical instillations of chemotherapy and immunotherapy) can result in urinary urgency, frequency and incontinence. Surgery, such as bladder removal that is required for more advanced bladder cancer, may require creation of a urinary ostomy and resection of some or all of the vagina. The attention that Smith and her team give to the psychosocial implications of these side effects has mitigated their severity and rate of recurrence. Of particular note, she has developed a technique for vagina-sparing surgery that allows maintenance of sexual activity.

Smith communicates clearly and compassionately with her patients. She is a leader who developed a team devoted to the goals of improving care and quality of life for women with bladder cancer.