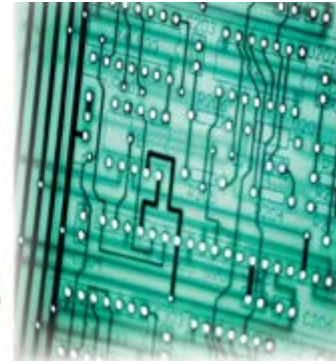




Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals  
AFT Healthcare Local 5017  
www.ofnhp.org



# TECH News & Updates

## News and Updates for the TECH Bargaining Unit December 2010

In the interest of keeping you up-to-date on events in our Bargaining Unit, we will be periodically sending out these update emails. There's a lot happening right now, and we want to be sure you know how our union is working together to protect and promote TECHs and patient care.

### So Who, Exactly, Are the Techs, Anyway?

Of all the bargaining units in OFNHP, the TECH unit is the most diverse – with 36 job titles for more than 400 members. As we move forward with our new newsletter communications, we're going to highlight a different job title each month, so that we can all have a better understanding of what our fellow members in these jobs do.

#### Christie Grove, Registered Polysomnographic Technologist

Christie is one of 17 RPSGTs in our unit. They work in the Sleep Lab, doing several types of respiratory and neurological sleep studies.

While patients sleep, RPSGTs monitor their respiratory flow and brain activity, recording all data and checking it in 30-second increments (called "epochs"). Depending on their



### Unit Leaders Working on Recruitment, Retention & Adjustment

The Recruitment, Retention & Adjustment Committee has been formed to represent and advocate for our members' growth and involvement, while also promoting the value of what we do to the greater community. We will be building career lattices and ladders within the bargaining unit to help chart clear courses for our members, and we will be researching and documenting educational resources and opportunities to help our members reach their full potential in their careers.

If you would like to know more about the committee, or be a part of it, please contact Matt Coady or Dannica Kaer. And look for the RR&A newsletter coming out next month!

### Save the Date!

After-Holiday  
Holiday Party  
Friday, January 21

needs, patients are connected to EKGs, EEGs, and LEED receptors that track every bit of activity.

The tests cover a wide range of disorders, from common apnea to the very uncommon Kleine-Levin Syndrome. Apnea is a temporary suspension in breathing, and Kleine-Levins is a rare neurological disorder that results in repeated periods of excessive sleep and dramatically altered behavior. "I've never seen it," said Christie, "but it's one of the most extreme conditions we can test for."

For nearly a year, Christie and other RPSGTs have been working with Oregon legislators to develop a licensing program for polysomnographic techs. There are currently no state-level licensing programs for the job -- although Kaiser and other reputable companies maintain high standards for their own employees, the lack of licensing requirements mean that not all companies need to maintain the same strict standards.

"It's a matter of protecting patients, and protecting ourselves and our employers," said Christie.

Their efforts are beginning to pay off, and the team expects to see positive results soon. "AFT-Oregon has been incredibly helpful throughout this process," said Christie, "especially Rob Wagner, the Director of Political and Legislative Affairs."

"We've really got a fantastic team," Christie said. "Our physicians are great, everyone on the team is incredible. We love what we do and we love our job. We don't make the deeper patient connections like people in CVPR might, but we do get the opportunity to help save people's lives and make a dramatic change for the better."

6-9pm  
at Big Al's Family  
Event Center in  
Vancouver  
More info to come!

Steward Training  
Saturday, January 15  
9-4pm email  
[itsmyunion@ofnhp.org](mailto:itsmyunion@ofnhp.org)  
to reserve a spot.

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