**Name**

Margo Bell

**Credentials**

RRT-NPS, PDE, TTS

**Education**

AAS Respiratory Therapy

AAS Marketing

**Years of Experience**

27 years

**Current Place of Employment**

Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center

**Role in Respiratory Care**

Pulmonary Disease Navigator

**What do you enjoy most about your position?**

Being able to help patient's better manage their very difficult disease process, assist in closing barriers around their personal journey and developing trusted relationships. This role makes me stretch into new directions that are so varied from traditional respiratory therapist roles that I've held in the past. I honestly feel that all the prior RT jobs I have held grew me to this place.

I am able to work independently every day and I insite real change for the patients I work with and celebrate with them.

**What are your biggest challenges in your position?**

I'm most challenged by two things.

Tobacco cessation education and developing a quit plan with very long standing tobacco abusers. It's always the elephant in the room.

Secondly, beginning goals of care discussions with my patients that are in advanced stages of their COPD disease. Often, patients are very unopen to talking about this, but as I build relationships with them they become more comfortable approaching this very personal and private nature these talks require.

**Would you lease identify one strength in our profession (not job description) as a whole and why you feel it is a strength?**

Our expertise of invasive and noninvasive ventilation places in an extremely valuable position in the healthcare arena. We are the experts and no one else has a better foundation of knowledge. I believe this is where no one can shine brighter than RT's.

**Would you identify one weakness in our profession (not job description) as a whole and why you feel it is a weakness?**

The weakness I see is the lack of advancement opportunities for a Respiratory Therapist that obtain advanced degrees. As a profession, I believe we haven't been forward thinking enough to create unique positions outside of acute care hospital environments.

Our skill set positions us for these non traditional roles but they have been very slow to be developed.

**What health care skills would you like to develop?**

I would like to continue to advance my knowledge, experience and credentials as a Tobacco Cessation coach. In this tack I am currently preparing to sit a national board to become.a Certified Tobacco Cessation Coach.

**Is there anything you would like to share with our readers?**

I am honored to be a Respiratory Therapist. I am practicing at a hospital system that allows me to practice at the very top of my license. I feel like I am contributing to the true trail blazing of change for our profession. I have been in a Pulmonary Navigator role for over 7 years, before anyone else really knew what a COPD Navigator was or did. I was a vital part of developing a program that I knew from day one could and would bring lasting change to our beloved profession.

Developing a Navigator program is an evolution of neverending evaluating and reevaluating processes and workflows. There are abundant challenges faced with the COPD patient population we work closely with.

I forsee that in the future there will be some new certifications needed for this role beyond the North Carolina licensing PDE.

The Pulmonary Navigator role is not for the faint of heart. You need to be able to ask difficult questions and do excellent follow up. It is not a come to work, punch in, punch out and go home role. This is intended for the high functioning and highly motivated RT's that are dedicated to excellence.

**Could you please attach a photo?**

☐Yes

☐No