

In the skies over Cleveland  
by Georgia L. Narsavage

Christopher Manacci, RN, CCRN, CFRN, began his nursing career as a staff nurse in the ICU, later undergoing training as a trauma nurse specialist. He is board certified in critical care and flight nursing. Currently a flight nurse specialist at Metro Health Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio, he is enrolled in the acute care nurse practitioner program at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University.

In January 2003, Manacci will become certified in advanced practice nursing and will be the first ACNP flight nurse in Cleveland. He is responsible for acute stabilization and ongoing management of critically ill and injured patients, and his practice consists of interfacility transfer and prehospital response. He has taught more than 100 educational programs, has presented at several national conferences and is published in textbooks and peer-reviewed journals.

As an ACNP, Manacci will assume increasing responsibility for implementation of the advanced practice model in flight nursing. Mr. Manacci states, "The advantages of utilization of ACNPs in air medical services include continual diagnoses and interventions that are driven by the dynamics of the patient status. ACNPs, by virtue of their advanced assessment, diagnostic and clinical reasoning skills, tailor interventions based on the ever-changing patient condition. Thus, they are ideally suited for this practice.

"In addition to direct clinical practice, prescriptive authority and consultation roles, the advanced practice nurse competencies of collaboration, critical thinking, research and leadership are a valuable enhancement to the air medical environment. With today's focus on evidence-based practice within all of health care, flight nurses must work with the scientific basis of air medical services. A graduate level degree provides additional skills needed for the development of rigorous investigations for flight nursing practice."

The 18-month, 39-credit flight nursing ACNP program at the Bolton School of Nursing is offered in conjunction with MetroHealth Medical Center, Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma and Critical Care in Cleveland. Flight nursing can also be completed as a certificate program for MSN-prepared ACNP nurses.

Article originally appeared in *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*, Third Quarter 2002.