

ROXANNA M. GARCIA, RN, CCRN

Staff Nurse/ Critical Care

NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull Hospital



Roxanna Garcia is passionate about serving the most vulnerable patients and communities, a fervor that she has translated into her work at NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull Hospital since 2012.

“The public hospital system is the safety net and sometimes the only place where millions of NYC residents receive health care,” she explains. “Our mission is to care for anyone regardless of their race, gender, socio-economic status or ability to pay. This means as a nurse in the public hospital system, I often take care of the most disfranchised New Yorkers, often without all of the fancy ‘bells and whistles’ that private hospital systems have.

“Many things motivate me to continue being a nurse,” she continued. “My mother, my friends – many who are colleagues and coworkers – the patients and community I serve, and an internal motivation because I feel it’s my purpose in this life to use my skills and passion to advocate and care for those that can’t do for themselves.”

Garcia credits her mother with encouraging and inspiring her to become a nurse. “My mother saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself,” she notes. “She’s the one that suggested I should become a nurse. I took her advice and enrolled at Borough of Manhattan Community College, completed the pre-requisites and got accepted into the Nursing Program. After my first day of clinicals I was hooked and knew then my mother was right, and nursing was my calling. I’ve loved it ever since.”

Garcia points to integrity as one of the values she cherishes as a nurse. “Integrity is defined as ‘the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.’ This is the value that resonates with me as nurse, not because I feel my moral principles are above those of others, but because being a nurse, matching my principles with honesty is crucial. Having integrity means I have to also be compassionate; I have to hold myself accountable; I have to respect others, and always reach to achieve excellence as a professional nurse.”

Nursing can be both challenging and rewarding, Garcia admits, adding that her patients keep her motivated. “As an ICU nurse, especially over the past six months, I’ve experienced some of the most challenging times in my short career,” she says, adding that she is proudest of “the moments when I connect with patients and families, and they say they feel I’ve genuinely and compassionately cared for them and acknowledged them not only as a patient but as a human being.”