



INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PATIENT SAFETY CHAMPION AWARD AND GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (June 9, 2016) The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety honoured its patient safety grants and award winners at their Annual General Meeting on June 8, 2016. The grants and award celebrate those working in the healthcare system and community whose work and efforts demonstrate exceptional passion and commitment for improving patient safety.

Gale Schultz is the Institute's Patient Safety Champion Award recipient. The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Regional Director for Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) WRHA is being recognized for her inspiring local and national leadership in reducing the risk of patients acquiring healthcare associated infections from medical devices that are improperly cleaned and sterilized before being reused.

Schultz is a founding member of the Provincial Medical Device Reprocessing Working Group, the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee on Sterilization and a driving force in the formation of the Canadian Association for Medical Device Reprocessing.

A strong believer in the necessity of high quality training and continuing education for all MDR technicians, Gale has been instrumental in establishing recognition criteria for MDR technician education courses. She is a passionate advocate for national certification, which allows Manitoba technicians to evaluate their knowledge and skills against national MDR standards. Her involvement at the national level has brought prestigious conferences to Winnipeg and she leads a team of volunteers in organizing an annual MDR conference, which is attended by MDR professionals from across Manitoba and beyond.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety also awarded \$7,380 of funding to three projects through its Dr. John Wade Patient Safety Initiatives Grant. The grant recognizes projects in our communities that advance the practice, awareness and knowledge of patient safety.

Brilliant in its simplicity was Dianna Meseyton-Neufeld of Southern Health-Santé Sud's submission to assess and replace seniors' slippers that are too worn, slippery or damaged. Neufeld also uses the opportunity to educate seniors on ways to minimize the risk of falls. Her team will be promoting the slipper exchange program and working with community partners to expand it.

(More)

PREMIER MEMBERS

To raise awareness of the increasing percentage of the aging population in Emerson Franklin Municipality, Senior Resource Coordinator, Lorri French received a grant to hold a series of safety and education sessions on topics she knew were issues of important for seniors in the municipality. French hosted presentations on anxiety and mood disorders that included discussion on coping techniques, the proper care of mobility equipment and the diagnosis, treatment and the importance of physical activity in combating osteoporosis. She also organized a series exercise sessions.

Venetia Bourrier, the Director of, Quality, Patient Safety & Risk at Cancer Care Manitoba (CCMB) and associates, Michele Fontaine and Carla Krueger, received a grant to do a small, preliminary test of a checklist for oral chemotherapy that could be used by community pharmacists. The preliminary results have identified where small improvements could be made at CCMB, which would have an impact on a pharmacist's ability to verify oral cancer drug prescriptions. CCMB will work with physicians to assist them in ensuring there is complete information on prescriptions and continue to work with pharmacists to further develop the checklist.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety's grants are named in honour of Dr. John G. Wade. The University of Manitoba medical school graduate is internationally-recognized for his pioneering work in patient safety. Wade can be described as the "*Father of Patient Safety in Canada*". His leadership led to the creation of both the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety.

Created in 2004, the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety promotes, coordinates and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba while enhancing the quality of healthcare for Manitobans. The Institute's patient safety initiatives like *It's Safe To Ask* have also been replicated across Canada and internationally.

Patient safety can be defined as activities that caregivers, patients and families engage in to prevent harm to patients and work towards providing the safest possible care. Examples are disclosing when things go wrong, studying patient incidents to find ways to prevent them, apologizing, creating standard procedures such as checklists, and creating cultures that are open to patient and caregiver team input.

High-Res photographs of award and grant recipients can be found at www.mips.ca.

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