

Institute for Safe Medication Practices

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www.ismp.org

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ISMP Announces 11th Annual Cheers Awards Recipients

Horsham, Pa.—The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is proud to announce its 11th Annual Cheers Awards winners and Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. The annual awards dinner and reception will be held on Tuesday evening, December 9, 2008, at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant in Orlando, FL. The Cheers Awards honor individuals, organizations, and companies that have set a superlative standard of excellence for others to follow in the prevention of medication errors and adverse drug events.

The winners of this year's awards are:

- **FDA Patient Safety News**

*US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Rockville, MD*

FDA Patient Safety News, FDA's monthly video series for healthcare personnel, has produced more than a hundred segments that feature crucial error prevention information on drugs, biologics, and medical devices. The videos illustrate how medical errors occur and demonstrate how to mitigate those errors. The broadcasts also provide commentary and footage on topics such as FDA safety notifications, medical product recalls, ISMP safety alerts, and strategies to protect patients. The videos are free to use and distribute, and are available through several healthcare education networks as well as links from the FDA website (www.fda.gov/psn) and ISMP website (www.ismp.org).

- **www.healthinfotranslations.org**

*Mount Carmel Health System, OhioHealth, The Ohio State University Medical Center, and
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus, Ohio*

In 2005, three leading Ohio health systems came together to address health education needs for low literacy and limited English-speaking patients by launching www.healthinfotranslations.org; a fourth hospital joined the project in 2007. The website offers free patient education material, including medication safety-related information, that is easy to read and prints in English and 18 different foreign languages. The site has been receiving on average more than 8,000 visits a day. Additional languages and topics continue to be added, and the information is available without copyright.

- **Sebastian Ferrero Foundation**

Gainesville, FL

The Sebastian Ferrero Foundation, which was created by the parents of a three-year-old boy who died from a series of medical mistakes, including a medication overdose, has tirelessly advocated excellence in patient safety while treating families involved in errors with compassion, courtesy, and dignity. The Foundation is raising funds to build a full-service, state-of-the-art children's hospital in Gainesville, Florida to improve pediatric care, and is working with Shands HealthCare and the University of Florida College of Medicine to develop comprehensive patient safety programs for local and national use.

- **Debora Simmons, RN, MSN, CCRN, CCNS**

*Research Scientist, Texas A and M Health Science Center, Rural and Community Health Institute, and Associate Director, The Patient Safety Education Project
Houston, TX*

Simmons will receive the ISMP Volunteer Award for her dedication to facilitating education and information sharing on medication error prevention issues. She has worked closely with ISMP to provide recommendations for the prevention of IV tubing misconnections and advocate medication safety to nurses, including the state board of nursing in Texas. She also has served as an advisor to ISMP's medication safety newsletters, hosted ISMP's medication safety fellows, and helped provide nursing continuing education credits for the Institute's learning programs.

The ISMP Lifetime Achievement Award is being presented to ***Diane Cousins, RPh***, Vice President of Healthcare Quality and Information for the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) in Rockville, MD. The award honors individuals who throughout their careers have made ongoing contributions to patient safety. Cousins has developed or administered several national drug reporting programs, including USP's MedMarx program and the USP-ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program. She also organized the first USP Advisory Panel on Medication Errors and is a founder of the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention. Cousins has received a Pinnacle Award from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation for her contributions to the medication use process and is a member of the Joint Commission's Sentinel Event Advisory Group, a member of the editorial advisory board for the Joint Commission's *Perspectives on Patient Safety*, and co-chair of the Pharmacy Quality Alliance Patient Safety Cluster.

The *ISMP Medication Safety Alert!* Subscriber Award is being presented to two organizations in 2008. The ***Community Health Network*** in Indianapolis, IN and the ***UMass Memorial Medical Center*** in Worcester, MA will receive the award in recognition of their sustained, long-term initiative to integrate recommendations and action agendas from the *ISMP Medication Safety Alert!*® newsletter into the work of their internal patient safety committees and medication safety programs.

Peter Angood, MD, FRCS, FACS, FCCM, will deliver the keynote address for the 11th annual Cheers Awards. Dr. Angood is Vice President and Chief Patient Safety Officer for the Joint Commission, and oversees the development of its national patient safety goals and other patient safety initiatives. He is one of the leaders of the World Health Organization's Collaborating Center for Patient Safety Solutions, which focuses on development of multi-organization collaborative strategies to assist in the development, dissemination, and implementation of patient safety solutions for improving global healthcare. His research has addressed leading health issues, including clinical care problems, patient safety, outcomes management, resource utilization, medical education, and advanced medical and telemedicine technologies.

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The Cheers Awards are hosted by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), a nonprofit organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 30 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process.

Journalists are invited to attend the *awards reception and dinner*, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at Maggiano's Little Italy in Pointe Orlando. Honorees will be available for interviews at a reception before the dinner or by appointment afterwards. If you plan to attend, please make your reservation by contacting Renee Brehio at 704-831-8822 or rbrehio@ismp.org no later than Friday, December 5.

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