

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
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www.ismp.org

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**ISMP Announces 16th Annual
Cheers Awards Recipients**

Horsham, Pa.—The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is proud to announce its 16th Annual Cheers Awards winners. The annual awards dinner will be held on December 10, 2013, at the Cuba Libre restaurant in Orlando, FL. The Cheers Awards honor individuals, organizations, and companies that have set a standard of excellence for others to follow in the prevention of medication errors and adverse drug events; for more information, visit www.ismp.org/Cheers/.

The winners of this year's awards are:

- **AAMI Foundation Health Technology Safety Institute (HTSI)**
Arlington, VA
HTSI, which is part of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) Foundation, has developed valuable tools and educational resources on infusion system safety. In October 2010, AAMI and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held a national summit to discuss areas of risk with infusion systems. As a result, HTSI was formed, and a steering committee was created to follow up on the ideas generated. The committee also develops the framework for novel research projects, including a 10-hospital study with the ultimate goal of reducing errors in intravenous (IV) therapy. Free white papers, webinars, and other programs from HTSI have focused on crucial issues such as pump integration, multiple-line infusion errors and clinical alarm safety. HTSI also has established a National Council for Healthcare Technology Safety that serves as its multidisciplinary advisory board, helping healthcare professionals create a safer environment for patients around healthcare technology.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
Atlanta, GA
CDC has made an important contribution to medication safety with its role in two groundbreaking projects—the Safe Injection Practices Coalition and the PROTECT Initiative. Led by CDC and the Safe Injection Practices Coalition, the “One and Only” campaign targets healthcare providers and consumers in an effort to eliminate infections and outbreaks from unsafe medical injections. The campaign provides free resources, including videos, tool kits, and printed materials in English and Spanish. The PROTECT Initiative, which CDC founded, is an innovative collaboration bringing together public health agencies, professional organizations, private sector companies, patient advocates, and academic experts to keep children safe from unintentional overdoses. PROTECT has successfully promoted the addition of flow restrictors to the neck of liquid medication bottles to limit child access to the medicine in the home and to encourage use of calibrated dosing devices (oral syringes) rather than household spoons. In a hospital setting, the flow restrictors may also help prevent accidental administration of oral liquids by the IV route.

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- **Cook Children’s Medical Center**

Fort Worth, TX

Cook Children’s Medical Center is being commended for fully incorporating the use of barcode technology in the areas of medication storage, preparation, dispensing, and bedside administration. The technology has allowed them to implement a unique breast milk tracking system to eliminate identification errors, detect expired milk, and track correct feeding containers and storage locations. Cook Children’s also is able to fully prepare and dispense barcoded, patient-specific, weight-based unit doses for inpatients and most outpatients—including all oral liquids, pharmacy compounded solutions, multi-additive IV solutions, and parenteral nutrition. The medical center is able to dispense at least four barcoded batches of patient-specific medications to each unit daily, and in key critical areas, as often as every two hours. A long-term team project continues to make process modifications, including redesigning armbands to 2-D barcodes so that nurses do not have to wake a sleeping child to perform a scan.

- **Marshfield Clinic**

Marshfield, WI

The Marshfield Clinic, a large, nonprofit physician group practice, has created a comprehensive drug safety alert program to communicate FDA warnings to staff and incorporate new information into clinical practice. As a first step, the Clinic’s Drug Evaluation Committee (DEC) evaluates safety concerns identified by prescribers, the FDA, and others to determine whether internal action is warranted. In its first year, the program targeted six different drugs. Using the electronic health record, the Clinic sent letters to prescribers along with a list of patients who were prescribed the drug in question. After 3-6 months, prescribing data was assessed and compared to baseline, then revisited every 6-12 months. Data review showed that the program provided quality, up-to-date safety alerts that led to changes in drug therapy and substantial decreases in potential adverse drug events. In aggregate, nearly 10,000 total potential adverse events were identified and approximately 80% were resolved through changes in prescribing.

- **Deb Saine, MS, RPh, FASHP**

Medication Safety Manager, Winchester Medical Center

Winchester, VA

Deb Saine is being honored as a nationally recognized patient safety expert who has created several invaluable safety tools. She co-authored the 2013 *Medication Safety Officer’s Handbook*, which is being used in more than 15 different countries, and has led numerous national-level committees working to improve medication safety. She spearheaded the creation of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Medication Safety Section Advisory Group, and served as its first chair; that group’s efforts culminated in the first annual Medication Safety Collaborative held this year. Deb has mentored students, residents and peers, which has produced new safety leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

The **George DiDomizio Industry Award**, established in 2012 in memory of a late ISMP Board member who served as a medication safety advocate within the pharmaceutical research and development community, is being given to **Intelliject Inc.**, for pioneering advances in drug/device combination products. Intelliject has created a new **EPINEPH**rine delivery system using human factors engineering

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that combines an auto-injector with voice direction, easy enough for a child to use. The product, called Auvi-Q™ in the U.S. and Allerject™ in Canada, was launched by Intelliject's commercialization partner, Sanofi, earlier this year. It is the first auto-injector with audio as well as visual cues for the emergency treatment of life-threatening allergic reactions.

The **ISMP Medication Safety Alert! Subscriber Award** is being presented to **Kindred Healthcare**, based in Louisville, KY, for their extraordinary efforts to integrate information from ISMP newsletters into the corporate and hospital processes of their long-term acute care and inpatient rehabilitation hospitals. A corporate Medication Error Subcommittee has developed numerous safety initiatives based on its review of newsletter material, and each Kindred hospital is required to perform an assessment using the Quarterly Action Agenda published in the *ISMP Medication Safety Alert!*

The **ISMP Lifetime Achievement Award** is being presented to **David Classen, MD**. Dr. Classen is an innovator who has devoted most of his career to designing healthcare information technology tools and resources for improving patient safety. He worked with ISMP to create a CPOE/EMR "flight simulator" for the Leapfrog Group and National Quality Forum (NQF) that has been used to evaluate hundreds of inpatient and ambulatory EMR systems after implementation in the U.S. and United Kingdom. He also helped develop a method for integrating multiple hospital computer databases with pharmacy systems to signal actual or impending adverse drug events, which is being utilized by more than 500 different healthcare organizations. He served on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee on patient safety data standards and co-chairs NQF's Patient Safety Common Formats Committee.

James Conway, MS, FASHP is the 16th annual Cheers Awards **keynote speaker**. Conway is an adjunct lecturer at the Harvard School of Public Health and an Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Senior Fellow. He has more than thirty years of experience in healthcare administration, including at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; his areas of expertise include patient safety, change management, and patient-centered care. Conway is a member of the IOM's committee on preventing medication errors and an advisor to the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF). He has won numerous awards, including the first Individual Leadership Award in Patient Safety from the Joint Commission and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Journalists who wish to attend the awards dinner should contact Renee Brehio at 704-831-8822, rbrehio@ismp.org.