

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
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www.ismp.org

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**ISMP Announces 18th Annual
Cheers Awards Recipients**

Horsham, Pa.—The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is proud to announce its 18th Annual Cheers Awards winners. The annual awards dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, December 8, 2015, at The Chicory in New Orleans. 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:

- **Jason Adelman, MD, MS**
*Chief Patient Safety Officer and Associate Chief Quality Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center
New York, NY*
Dr. Adelman is a leader in research on the frequency and causes of wrong-patient errors, with a strong interest in using IT to enhance patient safety. He developed and tested the Wrong-Patient Retract-and-Reorder (WP-RAR) measure, which identifies electronic orders that may have been mistakenly placed in the wrong patient's medical record. This measure is currently under consideration by the National Quality Forum (NQF) as the first endorsed Health IT Safety measure. Dr. Adelman used this unique measure in a two-year study that showed using a Distinct Naming Convention for newborns can reduce the frequency of wrong patient errors in the NICU setting. He is currently the Principal Investigator of a research study funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to assess the relationship between the number of records open at the time of placing an order and the risk of placing an order on the wrong patient.

- **Aurora Health Care**
Milwaukee, WI
Aurora Health Care's Neonatal Medication Standardization Workgroup is being honored for its interdisciplinary effort to improve the safe preparation and administration of common pediatric medications. Before formation of the workgroup, the health system's five hospitals with neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) were using two different methods for central line administration of intermittent neonatal medications via syringe pump. The group sought input from medical staff, nursing, and pharmacy to standardize the process. When they had difficulty reaching consensus, a subgroup worked with their tubing vendor to create a semi-closed system for flushing lines that reduced the risk of infections. This flush method has been successfully implemented across the entire system. Members of the workgroup have since led other medication safety improvements, including standardization of the preparation of common pediatric medications and development of additional electronic order entry safeguards across the system's 15 hospitals.

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- **Safe Enteral Connector Advocates**

This group of winners are all on staff at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP):

Eric A. Johnson, PhD, Medication Safety Project Manager

Sean P. O'Neill, PharmD, Medication Safety Officer

Jamie Sklar, RN, BSN, MS, CCRN-K, Medication Safety Nurse

Dr. Johnson, Dr. O'Neill, and Ms. Sklar have helped bring widespread national attention to workflow problems and potentially serious dosing inaccuracies associated with the anticipated implementation of ENFit enteral connectors. This team of three individuals helped identify and confirm potential safety issues when administering liquid medications to infants and children using the new connectors, including the fact that the Enfit syringe holds more volume in its dead space than a traditional parental or oral syringe. In July 2015, they coordinated and hosted a national meeting along with several partners to address those concerns. More than 80 individuals attended, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians, device manufacturer representatives, and professional associations. Their efforts led to postponement of full implementation of ENFit connectors and resulted in a change in their design.

- **Eric Kastango, MBA, RPh, FASHP**

President and CEO, Clinical IQ, LLC

Florham Park, NJ

Eric Kastango is receiving a Cheers Award for his ongoing work related to sterile compounding safety. He has been instrumental in bringing about greater understanding of the causes of sterile compounding errors and the reasons behind slow adoption of technology and best practices. Kastango served as an elected member of the United States Pharmacopeia Sterile Compounding Committee from 2005-2013, and has helped create a comprehensive sterile compounding compliance gap analysis and risk assessment tool. He is a teacher, author, and frequent speaker at pharmacy meetings who advocates addressing the deep-seated reasons for errors, including the decline in perceived importance of compounding and dispensing processes, lack of knowledge and standardization around best practices, training based on variable traditions handed down from one pharmacist to another, and learned workplace tolerance of risk.

The **George DiDomizio Award** was established in 2012 in memory of a late ISMP Board member who advocated greater collaboration between medical industry and the broader healthcare community to promote safer drug products. The award is being given this year to **CredibleMeds®**, for its work as a resource for the safe use of medicines and its special focus on drugs that increase the risk of torsades de pointes, a potentially lethal cardiac arrhythmia. The CredibleMeds® website was created by the non-profit AZCERT (Arizona Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics), and provides a wide variety of prescribing and teaching tools. CredibleMeds® conducts a rigorous, independent analysis of evidence and assigns drugs to lists based on their relative risk of causing torsades de pointes; these lists are available for free to the more than 48,000 registered visitors to the website. Major hospital systems have incorporated the CredibleMeds® drug list into their electronic prescribing alert systems to identify patients at risk for sudden death and improve the prescribing of drugs that prolong the QT interval.

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The **ISMP Lifetime Achievement Award** is being presented to ***John Grabenstein, RPh, PhD.*** Dr. Grabenstein has spent most of his more than 35-year career in pharmacy advocating for vaccine safety. He is the author of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recognized curriculum for pharmacy-based immunization delivery and has spoken in the past about errors with immunologics at the CDC's National Immunization Conference. Dr. Grabenstein also has published more than 300 articles, including an article on vaccine error prevention in *Bulletin* of the World Health Organization (WHO), and co-authored a chapter on vaccine errors in the book *Medication Errors*. He has served as a clinical advisor to ISMP and as a member of ISMP's acute care newsletter advisory board. A former director of the Military Vaccine Agency, he is currently Executive Director for Global Health & Medical Affairs for Merck Vaccines.

In addition, ***Russell Jenkins, MD,*** ISMP's Medical Director Emeritus, will receive special Board recognition for his more than 20 years of service to the Institute.

The 2015 **Cheers keynote speaker** will be ***Derek Gillespie, RPh.*** Gillespie has had a long career in hospital pharmacy, and addressed many challenging medication safety issues. Just prior to the December 2014 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, a major event took place at the hospital where he served as the director of pharmacy. He will speak about that experience leading a pharmacy team through a time of uncertainty and transformational change. Gillespie received his pharmacy degree from the Oregon State University College of Pharmacy and completed his hospital residency at the VA Medical Center in Portland, OR. He spent more than 20 years of his professional career at the St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, OR. While his primary area of focus has been hospital inpatient pharmacy, he has managed many different pharmacy practice areas, including community/outpatient and oncology clinics, and recently became the Pharmacy Operations Manager for Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, NV.

Journalists who wish to attend the awards dinner should contact Renee Brehio at 614-376-0212, or email rbrehio@ismp.org.

About ISMP: The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable 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 40 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org.

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