

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Excellence in Geriatric Care Recognized at 11th Annual Awards Gala



April 25, 2014

Hamilton, ON -- The Regional Geriatric Program central (RGPC) and St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences are pleased to announce the winners of the 11th Annual Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence (SAGE).

SAGE is a unique program that celebrates the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations committed to providing the highest quality of care to older adults in our communities to ensure they can age with optimal health, independence and dignity.

The awards were presented at a gala dinner on Friday April 25, 2015 at the Burlington Convention Centre.

58 nominations were received from six regions across Southern Ontario (Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin and Halton).

### 2014 SAGE WINNERS

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#### **CATEGORY: Executive/Senior Leadership**

**Dr. Irene Turpie**, Professor Emerita, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton

Irene is a trailblazer, the very first Geriatric Medicine specialist in Hamilton and the first female professor at McMaster University. She is truly unique and one of a kind with an engaging and fiery personality, while possessing an active curiosity which encompasses advocacy, scholarship, and passion for life-long learning. She has inspired many

in the field of Geriatrics in delivering proper care and is a role model and champion for caring for older persons and those who are vulnerable and in need. Throughout her career, she has led a huge number of educational endeavours, pioneered many educational

products and stimulated and challenged audiences, whether they were a tutorial of students or a large group of practitioners.

**CATEGORY: Individual**

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**Gail Elliot**, CEO, DementiAbility, Oakville

Gail is passionate about changing the face of dementia and dementia care. Over the past 30 years she has gained a reputation as a leading expert in the field of aging, with a focus on interventions for dementia, cross-cultural awareness and elder abuse. In her role as an educator, she has delivered workshops, presented at conferences and taught at the college and university level on a variety of topics in the field of aging. Gail takes an idea, develops it into an educational initiative, disseminates it

widely, evaluates the effects and produces results, leading to improvement in care for the elderly.

**CATEGORY: Individual**

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**Mary Lloyd Clifford**, Community Support Worker, Alzheimer's Society Peel, Oakville

Mary's creativity is seen in her day-to-day interactions. To facilitate the often difficult transition into adult day program, she has developed a number of highly effective techniques, which have since been modeled by others. Mary is always learning, questioning and reflecting on ways to incorporate curriculums into her daily work. She designs creative and individualized strategies to understand and address

responsive behaviours, which improve seniors' quality of life. Mary's work is filled with creativity, knowledge, a belief in collaboration, compassion and dedication as she develops relationships with clients, caregivers, and peers.

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**CATEGORY: Individual**

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**Myles Sergeant**, Physician, St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton

Myles is a compassionate and empathetic doctor who is well liked and trusted by his patients at St. Peter's Hospital. During his career, he has been diligent and dedicated to his work, with an open door policy when speaking with family members that can't always be geographically close to supervise care for their loved ones. He makes a point of speaking with all hospital staff members from nursing to clerical, showing support

for their work and viewing them as allies to maintaining excellent patient centered care.

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**CATEGORY: Rookie of the Year**

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**Jocelyn Hunt**, Knowledge Broker, Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange, Alzheimer Society of Ontario, Hamilton

Jocelyn has empowered persons with dementia to remain at home using signage that was proven over a six month in-home study to reduce confusion, anxiety and frustration while increasing feelings of independence. From the success of her thesis research project, she has presented at various conferences not only across Ontario, but also across Canada. Jocelyn has an unwavering

dedication to the field of Gerontology and diligently seeks ways to improve the lives of persons living at home with Dementia. Her optimistic, cheerful attitude is infectious and enjoyed by those around her.

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**CATEGORY: Volunteer**

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**Narine Dat Sookram**, Volunteer, Community Support Connections, Meals on Wheels, Kitchener

Narine is a dedicated volunteer who is passionate and committed to senior's wellbeing and independence. Rain, shine or snow, he is committed to making sure seniors receive the care and nourishment that they require and always ensures to deliver their meals on time every day. Narine is also the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award Winner, 2013 and is the only Canadian to receive the TIAW World

of Difference 100 Award.

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**CATEGORY: Team**

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**Stonechurch Geriatric Consultation Team**, McMaster Family Health Team, Hamilton

Stonechurch Geriatric Consultation Team provides innovative clinical care and educational services and has expanded from an initial pilot project to a fulsome consultation service with a diverse approach to addressing the unique needs of each patient and family referred to their service. The team has administrative and research support to allow its work to become increasingly

scholarly and focused on being able to measure the impact that they are having on families they serve and other clinicians and learners in the primary care clinic. This model of care by this multidisciplinary team enhances, supports and realizes excellence in care of complex frail elderly patients in the community setting.

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**CATEGORY: Organization**

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**Hamilton Health Sciences**

Hamilton Health Sciences was visionary in identifying a significant gap between theoretical, evidence-based dementia care practices and what was being delivered at the point-of-care.

They disseminated an innovative and evidence-based educational program using knowledge transfer strategies that helped contribute to an organizational cultural shift toward person-centered dementia care.

Implementation of this significant patient experience improvement has also facilitated

a safer environment for staff by providing employees with techniques to de-escalate responsive patient behavior in a supportive way at all sites.

**For more information:**

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