

MEDIA RELEASE

Excellence in Geriatric Care Recognized at 12th Annual Awards Gala



May 28, 2015

Hamilton, ON -- The Regional Geriatric Program central (RGPC) and St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences are pleased to announce the winners of the 12th 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 May 22, 2015 at the Liuna Gardens, Stoney Creek.

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

2015 SAGE WINNERS

The Saint Elizabeth Executive/Senior Leadership Award



Dr. Alexandra Papaioannou

Scientific Director, GERAS Centre, St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton

Dr. Papaioannou is a professor in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University and a dynamic member of the Division of Geriatric Medicine. Known both nationally and internationally as an

expert in the field of osteoporosis, she is a highly skilled educator and continues to provide mentorship to many undergraduate and graduate scientific medical researchers. She is recognized regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally as an individual who brings a caring, visionary and compassionate voice to the care of the elderly. Dr. Papaioannou was awarded the Ontario Career Scientist Award and has served on a number of Ministry committees, including serving as the Co-Chair on the MOHLTC Osteoporosis Strategy for Ontario. She spent countless hours marshalling both hospital administrative and university support by means of logic, influence, persuasion and passion to actualize the establishment of the *GERAS Centre* (Geriatric Education and Research in the Aging Sciences) which opened in October 2013 and of which she is the Scientific Director.

The Individual Award



Dr. David Cowan

Geriatrician, St. Joseph's Health Centre for Ambulatory Services, Hamilton

Dr. Cowan is a consulting geriatrician on the Community Addiction and Mental Health Services of Haldimand Norfolk Specialized Geriatric Services program. He is also the Medical Director and Physician Consultant for the Stay Well Geriatric Fitness program at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton as well as being

actively involved as a member of multiple working committees in the field of geriatric medicine.

David has demonstrated a commitment to the development of best practices and the advancement of geriatric medicine through his dedication to a variety of geriatric working committees and task forces while also being a significant contributor and support to the model of Gentle Persuasive Approaches in dementia care now used across the province.

The Volunteer Award



Jean McEachern,

St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton

Jean has been a caring and compassionate volunteer for the past 34 years. Starting in 1981 in the tuck shop she joined the Hospital Auxillary to help raise funds.

After taking a course to prepare, she moved into the Palliative Care area in 1990. Jean has volunteered over 18,500 hours to enhance patient care, and regularly mentors new volunteers. She embodies the spirit of compassion, comfort, caring, and the provision of dignity and respect at the end of life that palliative care is all about. Whether dressed as a clown for Hallowe'en or Mrs. Claus for our Annual Festival of Lights Celebration, she is game to do anything for patients. Her heart is evident in all she does.

The Rosalie Senior's Choice Award



Dr. Amra Noor, Geriatrician, St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph

Dr. Noor is a geriatrician at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Guelph where her patients describe her as a compassionate and dynamic doctor. She is known to be a strong advocate for her patients and has an outstanding ability to develop trusted relationships.

Her down to earth approach is creative, practical and engages the senior, family and health care team. With her patients she exudes a confident, sincere and caring nature that enables them to know and trust that their health care needs will be addressed.

The Rosalie Seniors Choice Award



Jean Riley,
Therapeutic Recreationist, St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton

Jean is a therapeutic recreationist at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton, where she provides an outstanding program of activities for the patients. Whether it is outings in the community, board games, musical performances, drumming sessions, facilitating the Patient Action Group or hosting

bowling competitions in her own makeshift bowling alley, Jean never stops. She works with

unerring enthusiasm and energy to ensure she provides new and innovative activities for the patients to take part in. She is a crucial figure in the hospital who seeks to ensure that seniors can experience all the best there is in life despite any challenges they may have. She works with a dedication to her cause that is unparalleled, and daily improves the quality of life and independence of the seniors in St. Peter's Hospital.

The Schlegel Villages Team Award



Wellington Guelph Hoarding Network, Guelph

Developed in 2010 as a result of a collaboration between concerned community stakeholders, the network went on to form 3 distinct committees, the Hoarding Network committee, the Hoarding Education committee and the Hoarding Multidisciplinary team. The Wellington Guelph Hoarding Network

is focussed on optimizing the health, independence and quality of life for seniors and their families and support networks. It is now made up of over 20 agencies serving seniors and utilizing best practices while providing information, education and building collaboration within the community. This team's strength is reflected in its dedication to collaboration and shared responsibility, it's innovation in building capacity through a creative "Ten Step" approach and its commitment to empowering the older adult through a harm reduction approach. It is a leader in the province and has been called on Nationally to share the ground breaking work they have completed in response to a community commitment to make a difference and help vulnerable seniors most in need.

The Schlegel Villages Team Award



The Club Fitness at Shalom, Shalom Village, Hamilton

The Club Fitness Centre is the first of its kind in Hamilton, designed specifically for people over the age of 70. It was developed following a study in collaboration with the Kinesiology

Department at McMaster University focusing on the benefits of exercise in older adults. The club team offers personal fitness plans, goal planning and evaluation, assessment and classes using senior friendly, low-impact training equipment. This team has an impact that is truly far reaching with its services, touching the lives of seniors across the continuum of care. It is armed to offer its participants a leading edge experience founded on industry best practices. Described as “Hamilton’s best kept secret”, they are a role model for health care and its providers.

The Organization Award



Guelph Wellington Emergency Medical Services, Community Paramedicine Guelph

The Guelph Wellington EMS paramedics identified gaps in service and on their own time and on an informal basis the EMS staff would visit vulnerable seniors to ensure they were safe and had supports available. The Community Responsive EMS service model of care was developed

in response to these identified needs in the community with a goal to provide response to elderly patients with right resources at the right time. This organization clearly mentors the importance of partnerships through their keenness to develop linkages and coordinate care with service partners ensuring the senior is at the centre of care. Their enthusiasm to be involved at the ground level, lead and participate in change within the geriatric system is remarkable and outstanding to witness. This organization is a vibrant living example of service excellence.

For more information:

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