

Heroes & Heroines 2005

THE 2005 INTERNATIONAL SHARPS INJURY PREVENTION AWARDS

by Ron Stoker

Do you have a hero or heroine that you look up to? I would define a hero or heroine as someone who has shown great courage, ability, or bravery, and who has a noble character.

You choose your heroes and heroines because you decide that you want to be like them. You see in them the traits that you want to have in your own life. As a young man in elementary school and junior high school, I seemed to always get into fights with some of the older kids. I must have had a smart mouth or something, but many times it made me feel that I had very few friends. I often times felt ostracized from other people and so I spent much of my time reading books and finding things and people that interested me.

One summer I read the entire 30-volume encyclopedia set that my parents had purchased including all of the annual end-of-year editions. I found some unique and wonderful people in those pages. I discovered people like Thomas Edison, Madame Marie Curie, and Louis Pasteur. They ended up influencing many aspects of my life including a desire to apply the scientific method to areas of my life. I read about the many fascinating inventions that Thomas Edison received patents for and this influenced me greatly. I read books like "Encyclopedia Jones" where I learned about fun and fascinating adventures using inventions. At one time I had pulleys and rope and clothes pins all over my bed so that when I got out of bed in the morning I just had to go to the foot of the bed and pull on two ropes and the bedspread, blankets, and sheets would quickly "whoosh" to the top of the bed—the bed was all made!

We all need heroes in our lives. They help us to make changes and adjustments in our own lives. At this time of year we have an opportunity of honoring some of those heroes. During the past year *Managing Infection Control* and the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society (ISIPS) have widely distributed information on how to nominate individuals for the 2005 Sharps Injury Prevention Awards. From this information many have come forward and nominated some of their heroes that have inspired and encouraged others in reducing needlestick and other bloodborne pathogens. The nominees have been outstanding! We have had 40 nominations from five countries, four continents, and 17 U.S. states! We have been awed with the accomplishments of this impressive group.

The 2005 Sharps Injury Prevention Awards have been graciously sponsored by Terumo Medical, Tyco Kendall Healthcare, Ritract Medical, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), Retractable Technologies Inc., and B. Braun. These organizations have come forward to assist *Managing Infection Control* magazine and ISIPS in honoring the accomplishments of this unique group of heroes and heroines. This year we honor six individuals with the 2005 Sharps Injury Prevention Award, along with 34 recipients of honorable mention certificates.



These individuals have shown leadership and community service through their meaningful contributions. We believe that because of their accomplishments they have added to the quality of the work environment by improving the quality of life in the workplace.

We present to you the 2005 Sharps Injury Prevention Award Winners:

- ▶ Brian French
- ▶ Dr. Robyn Gershon
- ▶ Renee Gould
- ▶ Susan Loomis
- ▶ Elizabeth Maccario
- ▶ Becky McKinney

Brian French

Brian M. French, RN, MS, BC is a professional development coordinator, The Knight Nursing Center for Clinical and Professional Development, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Boston. As a member of the interdisciplinary Needlestick Reduction Task Force since its inception in 2000, his team of educators work collaboratively with others to evaluate and implement the safest, most clinically effective and cost effective sharp safe products for patients and staff. The committee's collaborative efforts have resulted in a steady decline in injuries and exposures from the highest risk products through product choice and comprehensive educational initiatives.

Mr. French has been a strong force behind working with nurses and physicians to change practice in the sharps safety arena. "In designing educational strategies, he recognizes that safety products are not always easier to use, in fact, sometimes they are harder to use," states his nominator. "Knowing this, he uses creativity in communicating the importance of practicing a certain way and is unfailing in his efforts to promote safety. Each year he designs a fresh approach to connect with physicians and nurses about sharps safety—and it is working."

To his credit, MGH has a higher rate of participation in sharps training programs than many other organizations. Reviews by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have shown MGH's sharps safety program to be comprehensive and successful in decreasing sharp-related injury rates.

"We are quite proud of our outcomes in terms of a decreased rate of injuries," says Mr. French. "There are a great many challenges involved in sharps injury prevention efforts, but perhaps our greatest challenge has been facilitating change across large groups of clinicians caring for all ages of patients—organizational culture change, staff knowledge change, staff behavioral change, systems change."

In order to meet this challenge, the interdisciplinary Needlestick Reduction Task Force—which includes members from occupational health, nursing, medicine, infection control, research, clinical pathology, materials management, environmental services, clinical laboratories, public affairs, blood transfusion service, infectious disease, pharmacy, operating rooms and administration—works collaboratively with clinicians from various practice areas to evaluate products for sharps safety. By evaluating products based on clinical effectiveness, patient comfort, staff safety, complexity of use, ease of learning for staff, and cost, staff are engaged in decision making and are thus part of the change vs. being the recipient of change.

"Our committee has been in place for over four years and membership is stable," Mr. French states. "It is always a pleasure to work with a group of people that are committed to achieving a common goal, who are willing to chip away at a complex problem and who are willing to try different solutions until the goal is achieved—our Needlestick Reduction Task Force is such a group. Although Susan Loomis (co-award winner) and I are extremely proud to have been recognized, we strongly feel that the award is a result of the tremendous efforts of many at Massachusetts General Hospital."

Dr. Robyn Gershon

As an occupational health and safety researcher with more than 15 years of experience in conducting complex occupational health research studies, Dr. Robyn Gershon, Associate Professor, Principal Investigator, WTC Evacuation Study, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, has spent the past 20 years studying and working on identifying the risk factors for needlestick injuries. Her work has included studies of devices as well as behavioral and organizational factors. Dr. Gershon's studies have been important in showing work stress as a predictor for why healthcare workers do not adopt precautions relating to protective devices. She has developed Participatory



Brian French



Dr. Robyn Gershon

Action Teams to develop worker-centered approaches to reduce needlesticks, a challenge she finds greatly worthwhile. “Working directly with front line healthcare workers and being able to appreciate their enthusiasm and interest in protecting themselves and reducing their risk is a rewarding experience,” she says.

Her dedication to sharps safety is motivated through a personal experience. “When I worked at Yale as the Biosafety Director in the mid-’80s, prior to going back to school for my doctorate, a lab technician had a lab accident that resulted in a fulminant Hepatitis B virus infection—she died in less than six weeks. She left behind three young children and it galvanized me and motivated me to want to study the problem of BBP risk in health care workers.”

Dr. Gershon served for several years as the director of Biological Safety at Yale University. Her research interests are generally focused on high risk, high stress work populations. She has conducted a number of applied research studies, including risk assessment studies as well as interventional studies. She serves on various safety and health committees and panels and leads an active research team of public health scientists, epidemiologists, statisticians, occupational physicians and research assistants, all focused on various safety and health aspects of the work environment.

While initially Dr. Gershon’s studies on the risk of needlestick injuries focused on hospital workers, it has extended to other groups including emergency technicians, dentists, funeral service workers and most recently, home care workers, among others. Her work has consistently been presented in prestigious peer reviewed medical journals and she has been a frequent presenter at national and international scientific and public health meetings.

“Dr. Gershon has brought to the field the development and testing of devices to reduce injuries, but also the necessary understanding of individual behavioral and organizational climate considerations that have been necessary to achieve the needed changes,” says her nominator. “She is a high quality researcher who has been a key performer and innovator in prevention research in this area.”

“I am extremely honored to be recognized for my work by the ISIPS,” states Dr. Gershon. “I know the organization has worked tirelessly to promote sharps prevention.”

Renee Gould

“Having a needlestick in August 1989, just a month into my employment, took my career in a direction I never would have imagined,” says award winner Renee Gould. “As a new employee and new member of the Nursing Products Evaluation Committee, it made sense to me to pursue safety products and decrease the number of needlesticks and visits to the University Employee Health Clinic for exposure work ups.”

An Advanced Practice Nurse in the Medical Services Division, Department of Nursing Services and Patient Care, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Ms. Gould’s responsibilities include quality and safety improvements, and standards development.

Soon after her needle stick, identifying, trailing and implementing safety products became her passion—one product at a time. This was accomplished by staff members willing to take a chance on something different and giving thoughtful feedback. “The most frustrating part of working with sharps prevention is resistance from staff,” Ms. Gould states. “It saddens me when a staff member experiences a needlestick because they either don’t use a safety product or use it incorrectly. I have found nursing staff to be proactive in pursuing new products and using current products. There still is an occasional situation when safety is not used. It is important to access why—typically it has to do with easy access; the product wasn’t right at hand and the busy healthcare worker is in a hurry.”

Ms. Gould has spoken on sharps injury prevention and safety products for a wide range of audiences, from local Rotary Clubs to the Governor of Iowa’s Needlestick Study Group. She educates staff on the products available to reduce their risk of injury and is often called upon as a consultant to others, both inside and outside the hospital.



Renee Gould

For her dedicated service in sharps injury prevention, Ms. Gould received the Improving Your Workplace Award from the University of Iowa in 2001 for: “being instrumental in evaluating, disseminating, educating and supporting the use of safety products to decrease needlestick work-related injuries through the implementation of sharps safety products.”

The drive to keep as many healthcare workers as possible from ever having a sharps injury, and having to go through the workup and worry that comes with it, was inspired by her personal experience. “My work of preventing needlesticks all started when, 16 years ago, I experienced a sharps injury from a lancet. I spent the next year worrying about seroconverting, and what that would mean for my 16-month-old son and husband. Eliminating or reducing the risk of sharps injuries for our staff, one project at a time over 16 years, has decreased our institution’s sharps injuries.”

Ms. Gould’s nominator applauds her efforts, “Through Ms. Gould’s tireless work the incident of needle stick injuries at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics continues to decrease. She is truly a leader in evidence-based sharps injury prevention and has made the workplace safer for frontline patient caregivers.”

“This award is truly an award for UIHC,” says Ms. Gould. “Without support from the hospital and collaboration among departments—nursing, pathology, material services, safety and security, epidemiology, environmental services and employee health—and staff, UIHC wouldn’t have the safer workplace it has today.”

Susan Loomis

Susan Loomis, MSN, RN CS is often described as being ahead of the curve in recognizing the safety issue associated with sharps long before other organizations became aware. “As a leader and advocate on sharps safety, Susan has been tireless in informing staff and negotiating for funds to obtain safety devices,” her nominator says. “She is superb in communicating to staff at all levels in the organization and involves staff in reviewing and selecting products. Because of her leadership, inclusion and rigor, sound product choices were made.”

Ms. Loomis serves as the Director of Occupational Health Services for Partners Healthcare System in Boston. As a member of the Massachusetts General Hospital Needlestick Reduction Task Force, she has assisted with the role of developing the task force’s mission and objectives. This task force serves a crucial role in mitigating risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogen. Ms. Loomis has been active on the task force in the development of data systems to capture and analyze exposure variables, measure outcomes related to needlestick reduction activity and assist task force members with promotion and publication of task force activity.

In leading these efforts, Ms. Loomis has found that one of her greatest challenges has been to objectively identify, on a timely basis, the work areas, jobs, job processes, and sharps devices with the highest risk of sharps injury. “This is particularly challenging in a large, diverse organization like Massachusetts General Hospital,” she explains. “Our efforts have been a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. Our greatest success has been in reducing the number of reported sharps injuries, involving employees who use sharp devices in product evaluation and selection, and developing and implementing a sharps injury prevention program with demonstrated outcomes. The 2005 International Sharps Injury Prevention Award validates the effort that I and the other task force members have made over years to reduce the risk of sharps injury in our organization.”

Elizabeth Maccario

Elizabeth Maccario, RN, BSN, has been involved in needlestick prevention since 1999. As an Infection Control Nurse at the VA NY Harbor Health Care Facility, Brooklyn Campus, she has been involved in all aspects of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act.

SHARPS INJURY PREVENTION AWARDS WINNERS CIRCLE

Acknowledged for their dedication to sharps injury prevention, the 2005 Sharps Injury Award winners are welcomed into the Sharps Injury Prevention Winner’s Circle, which includes the following 2002, 2003 and 2004 recipients.

- ▶ Lt. Cmdr. Paul Andre
- ▶ Rep. Cass Ballenger
- ▶ Diane Baranowsky
- ▶ Gerald I. Brecher
- ▶ Beverly Campbell
- ▶ Diane Crawford
- ▶ Barbara DeBaun
- ▶ Jennifer Hawbaker
- ▶ Eileen Johnson
- ▶ Dr. Burton Kunik
- ▶ Ron Luther
- ▶ Kathi Miller
- ▶ Sally Peerbolt
- ▶ Brian K. Reaux
- ▶ Thomas J. Shaw
- ▶ Michael W. Smith
- ▶ Connie Steed
- ▶ Susan Taylor
- ▶ Tim Truitt
- ▶ Bruce G. Weniger



Elizabeth Maccario

“Ms. Maccario is an advocate for prevention,” states her nominator. “She incorporates needlestick prevention into her daily IC rounds and confiscates all non-safety devices in the units. She is an asset to the needlestick prevention process.”

An active member of the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Prevention Committee, Ms. Maccario gives lectures on needlestick prevention to new residents and interns monthly, and includes it in monthly new employee orientation. In addition to needlestick injury prevention, emphasis is placed on the steps to take during a needlestick injury including the importance of reporting the incident and demonstration of safety devices.

An active member of the Commodities Standards Committee, Ms. Maccario participates in the trial, evaluations and decision making for the final selection and implementation of a device. She goes out of her way to find a safety device when the current one is not well liked. She has conducted numerous trials on new safety devices utilizing input of all direct care givers in order to obtain the safest products. As a result of these efforts, there has been an on-going decrease in needlestick injuries at the Brooklyn Campus over the past three years.

Becky McKinney

As the Infection Control Manager for St. Vincent’s Hospital in Birmingham, Ala., Becky McKinney has been a nurse for more than 26 years. “I have been working in Infection Control for the past 11 years, and I love my job,” says Ms. McKinney. “With responsibility for surveillance, education, tracking, trending and assorted other tasks that seem to fall under infection control, by job can be quite interesting.”

Blood/body fluid (BBF) exposures and sharp object injuries (SOIs) are a shared responsibility with the Personnel Health Department. Ms. McKinney notes that they were very fortunate to get administrative support to purchase safety devices in the 90s. “Our first safety devices were to start IV’s and draw blood,” she states. “Our latest and greatest is a safety device to administer intramuscular and subcutaneous injections. Our biggest challenge is to get associates to activate safety devices properly. We started our Reduce Our Sharps Exposure campaign (ROSE) in June of 2004.”

The campaign is a joint effort with Personnel Health, Infection Control and user departments. The team’s focus was to increase awareness of all sharp safety devices and encourage associates to activate safety devices properly to avoid exposures. Each unit received a graph of their SOIs for the past several years with an explanation. In July of 2005, six departments were recognized for having gone one year without a SOI, with a celebration including a cake with roses, a balloon and of course a long stem rose.

“As a nurse, who has received more than one needlestick in my career, I truly understand the sinking feeling you get when you acquire a needlestick,” says Ms. McKinney. “I don’t want our associates to have to go through the experience. I hope to see a month, a quarter and up to a year with no needlesticks when performing tasks that have safety devices.”

Ms. McKinney organized the Sharps Injury Prevention Group (SIPG) which is comprised of front-line healthcare workers to analyze sharps injuries, review sharps injury prevention products and recommend solutions/products for trial or use.

“Ms. McKinney has worked tirelessly with purchasing to get products in house as they have become available over the years,” explains her nominator. “She teaches about the safety products in orientation and encourages *all* associates to use the safety products available.”

“If feel very honored to have been nominated and selected as an award winner,” Ms. McKinney states. “I would like to acknowledge this is not something that was done all alone. We had administrative support to purchase safety devices, excellent follow-up through our Personnel Health Department—Linda Pickard, Roxanne Bagby and Pat Little, long hours of training and retraining by Paula McCullough and tireless record entry by Pat Fulk, our assistant.”



Becky McKinney

Honorable Mentions

Nominations for this year's awards have been truly outstanding. We would like to recognize the following individuals for the contributions they have made. It is through their efforts that the healthcare work environment continues to improve in the many areas impacting safe sharps practices.

Please join us in congratulating the 2005 Sharps Injury Prevention honorees.

May Alabado



May Agnes Alabado is the Assistant Director of Nursing at The Moorings of the Presbyterian Homes in Arlington Heights, Ill. She is responsible for the The Moorings infection control with such close attention that Quality Indicators for Nosocomial Infection fall below the state and national percentages. She

also has extensive staff nurse experience in long-term care and excels in the areas of skin and wound care, as demonstrated by her certification in this area.

David Alexandrou

After graduating from the University of South Florida (USF) in 2001 with a bachelors degree in nursing, David N. Alexandrou, RN, BSN, has worked in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fla. He is currently enrolled in a Master's Nursing program at USF and upon graduation will assume the roll of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) at the hospital. Patient and nurse safety is very important to Mr. Alexandrou, and he looks forward to the new role of CNL, which is designed to retain experienced nurses to implement evidence-based practice and serve as a mentor for new nurses.

Baptist Hospital East, Safer Sharps/Exposure Prevention Committee

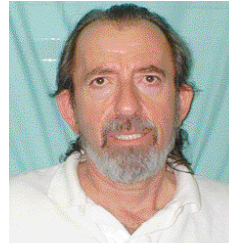


The Safer Sharps/Exposure Prevention Committee at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville, Ky., is charged with finding ways to reduce exposure incidents for 3,500 employees at its 407-bed acute care facility.

Accomplishments since 2002 include reducing total exposure incidents by 36.2% and sharps related incidents by 56.2%. Additionally, the team has been instrumental in recommending a revamping of the safety training program to include creation of a safety coordinator position as well as unit-based safety trainers.

Members of the multi-department team include: Patsy Adams, Tony Bohn, Laurie Bliven, Pam Brown, Beth Browning, Cathy Dougherty, Trish Ferris, Sandy Haile, Bonnie Henle, Diana Huber, Janet Kaiser, Pam Kayrouz, Janice Lattus, Nancy Montfort, Charlotte Mudd, Valinda Petri, Jacqui Reynolds, Nicole Seraphine, Mary Margret Spann, Larry Spear, Dottie Strother and Anita Taylor.

Barry Berler



In 2000 Barry Berler, an avid entrepreneur and inventor, revolutionized the safety syringe industry upon submittal of the first of three patents pertaining to the innovative SafeTip syringe.

Mr. Berler established Devon Medical Supplies in 2004, making a notable addition to his list of entrepreneurial accomplishments. Prior to taking on the role of COO at Devon Medical, he ventured to build and grow three start-up businesses.

Lisa Black



Lisa Black, RN, from Reno, Nev., was occupationally infected with HIV/HCV through an occupational needlestick injury in 1998. Since her dual seroconversion, Ms. Black has spoken extensively about her experience in the United States, Europe and Asia. She also has been instrumental in the success of state and national needle

safety and worker's compensation reform legislation.

Ms. Black has recently transitioned out of her role as the Executive Director/Health Policy Administrator for the Nevada Nurses Association and is now teaching nursing full time at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Charlotte Cruz

As Housekeeping Manager for Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill., Charlotte Cruz and her team are dedicated to safety in the hospital as they make sure the sharps containers

are frequently changed and never full. Ms. Cruz also identified a new vendor to process the hospital's sharps disposal and reduce landfill.

Clare Edelmayer

Clare Edelmayer, RN, MT (ASCP), MS, CIC, has been the Infection Control Coordinator at Doylestown Hospital in Doylestown, Pa. since 1991. She is an active member of APIC, holding several board positions, the latest being president of the Delaware Valley-Philadelphia chapter. In 1997, well before the OSHA guidelines, she began her crusade to decrease sharps injuries. A motivator for infection control practices, Ms. Edelmayer is an expert in her field and is frequently requested to speak to physician, nursing and community groups.

Lynn Gove

Lynn Gove, RN, CIC is the Director of Infection Control for AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, N.J. Ms. Gove graduated from Misericordia School of Nursing in Philadelphia in 1964. She has worked in various capacities in the nursing profession, entering into the field of infection control in 1979.

Preventing infection to patients and reducing the risk of infection transmission to healthcare workers has always been a high priority for Ms. Gove. She has taken an active role in implementing safe needle devices throughout the AtlantiCare Health System. Needlestick injuries at the Medical Center have been significantly reduced as a result of the engineering controls and the education provided to patients, staff and visitors.

Dr. Dietrich Grabis

As president and COB of ITG-Medical in Road Lodi, Calif., Dr. Dietrich Grabis invented one of the most advanced retractable safety syringe devices, receiving three patents and FDA approval. The technology is applicable to both IM and IV injections and will be available early next year.

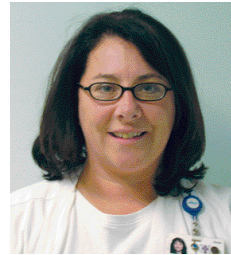
Robin Haag



A champion of safety throughout her 30 year career as a nurse, Robin Haag is currently the president of APIC Chapter 13 and is the Director of Infection Control and HIV Services at Coney Island Hospital, a New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation 350-bed acute care facility located in Brooklyn, N.Y. Among her major accomplishments are: the implementation of a Safer Sharps Committee; a detailed monthly report tracking and trending all bloodborne pathogen exposures; performance improvement activities to ensure appropriate follow-up after exposures; rapid

HIV testing of source patients; and education for the proper use of sharp devices.

Kristine Heiser



As a founding member of the Safety Device Task Force at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, N.Y., Kristine Heiser, RN has been chairperson of the committee since 2003. She was the first point-of-care nurse to chair the multidisciplinary committee. As chairperson, Ms. Heiser has been able to demonstrate that having the "right" mix of staff making decisions, educating peers and implementing practice changes ensures quality outcomes. She believes that what is essential to success of any team is leadership which is enthusiastic, optimistic and knowledgeable about the work to be done.

Wendy Hess

As Director of the Infection Control Division at Hackensack University Medical Center in Hackensack, N.J., Wendy Hess has been at the forefront of sharps injury prevention for many years. She recognized the potential risks before the development of the current needless system, aggressively discussed new needle systems with vendors, and was instrumental in having new systems incorporated into daily hospital practice. Ms. Hess has been responsible for the ongoing education of sharps safety for the hospital staff.

Deborah Hodapp

Working in Cardiac Telemetry at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill., Deborah Hodapp, RN, is conscientious in her efforts for sharps injury prevention, setting a good example for both new and experienced staff.

Andy Hu



Andy Hu, president of Globe Medical Tech Inc. and Chief Technology Officer of Maxxon Inc., has successfully developed several devices with unique safety and low cost features to prevent sharps injuries. These devices include: Auto Retractable Safety Scalpel, Vacuum Operated Auto Retractable Safety Syringe, and Vacuum Operated Retractable IV Catheter.

Mr. Hu obtained his Masters degree in Engineering Management from the University of Florida in 1982. He has more than 15 years of extensive experience in developing medical products.

Dr. Yvan J. F. Hutin



Dr. Yvan J. F. Hutin is a World Health Organization (WHO) Medical Officer stationed as resident adviser for the India Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) of the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. The NIE is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Dr. Hutin graduated from the Medical School of the University of Paris in France. After a Master's degree in Clinical Tropical Medicine in London and a residency in Hepato-gastroenterology, he joined the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the Hepatitis Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga. and completed a PhD in epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel, Switzerland. As part of his public health career, he worked in Burkina Faso (West Africa), in Uganda (East Africa) and at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland where he was in charge of the secretariat of the Safe Injection Global Network (SIGN) alliance.

Dr. Amandua Jacinto



Dr. Amandua Jacinto has worked for 18 years as a doctor in rural Uganda in both clinical and management positions, and has been medical superintendent at general and regional referral hospitals in Uganda.

In 1999, Dr. Jacinto was appointed the Commissioner for Health Services (Clinical Services) in the Ministry of Health of Uganda. With the challenge of safety in health services, the ministry has formulated an Infection Strategy from which Safe Injections Policy and Guidelines have been developed. Uganda has now changed to the use of syringes with re-use prevention features in the Curative Services. This will have a tremendous effect on the transmission of bloodborne diseases.

Dr. Jacinto has been a very strong advocate and supporter of the changes. He has tirelessly worked to push forward the policy and implantation strategies at both national and international levels.

Patricia Jagoe

As OR Clinical Manager at WakeMed Health and Hospitals Raleigh Campus, Patricia Jagoe, RN, BSN, CNOR, oversees a 22-room OR at the hospital's Level II trauma center located in Raleigh, N.C. Her primary responsibilities include overseeing approximately 175 FTE's which consists



of supervisors, registered nurses, surgical specialists, patient care technicians, instrument room technicians and surgery schedulers, as well as fiscal and budgetary responsibility. Ms. Jagoe has implemented "time out" for correct surgical procedure and surgical site using the Universal Protocol; implemented "Hot Spot" audits which focus on cautery safety and labeling of medications on the surgical field; safe sharps handling by use of "safe zone"; and recently implemented safety scalpels.

Satish B. Kaipilyawar



Dr. Satish B. Kaipilyawar, Senior Program Manager, leads the PATH Andhra Pradesh (AP) Partnership office in Hyderabad, India. In his role, Dr. Kaipilyawar leads injection safety work, including coordinating sharps disposal systems and disseminating experience nationally. He has designed, introduced and implemented use of safety boxes resulting in reduction of accidental needlestick injuries for healthcare workers serving the population of 80 million in Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Kaipilyawar has also designed, trained and implemented a trial on needle removal devices for 250 health centers and designed a waste disposal kit for used injections along with a training CD.

Patty Laird



In addition to her role as Nurse Manager of a 42-bed Surgical Medical Care Center at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Ind., Patty Laird, RN, MSN, OCN, has worked diligently as leader of the hospital Needleless Team since 1999. The team includes staff from material management, human resources, radiology, cath lab, urgent care centers, infection control, nursing and the family practices clinic. Under her leadership the team has trialed and converted to multiple safety products in the hospital and throughout the hospital's various satellites.

Ann Lewis

Ann Lewis, RN, ICP at Genesis Medical Center-Illinois Campus in Silvis, Ill. has always been a fore-runner when it

comes to needle and device safety for employees. Before it was mandated, Ms. Lewis went to the hospital's administration and convinced them of the need for safety devices for staff protection. She has worked with various teams over the years to select safety devices to meet employee needs.

LifeCare Hospital Team

Lynette Smith, RN, BSN and Infection Control Coordinator; Leilani Mallare, BN and Manager of Education; and Nancy Gagorik, RN, CRNP and Employee Health coordinator have worked collaboratively utilizing a transdisciplinary approach to implement a Zero Needle Stick injury culture at LifeCare Hospital of Pittsburgh. This team approach has been successful by involving the clinical staff, coordinating trials of new safety products, education on correct usage and implementing house-wide education awareness.

Ms. Gagorik worked in multiple areas of nursing for 25 years before becoming a CRNP in 2001. The past four years she has worked in Employee Health, although her fascination with occupational medicine started much earlier, as reflected in her graduate school research project which revolved around the prevention of lifting injuries in hospital personnel.

Ms. Mallare graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor in Nursing. She has worked the past 15 years in the field of healthcare education and is currently enrolled in a masters program at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in adult education.

Ms. Smith is a registered nurse of 25 years, an RN graduate from Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing. She completed her BSN at Carlow College in 1966 and has successfully passed the certification board exam in infection control and epidemiology. Presently, Ms. Smith is enrolled in Waynesburg College MSN/MBS graduate programs.

Lorna MacKinnon

Lorna MacKinnon is Infection Control Nurse at Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick, Maine. She has determinedly educated and re-educated the staff at Mid Coast Hospital on sharps injury and safety, resulting in the hospital becoming a state leader in the switch to many safe devices.

Colleen McKinney

As Patient Services Coordinator at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill., Colleen McKinney leads the IV team and heads the charge for reducing needle sticks. In this effort, she searches out safety equipment and runs trials for safe and easy-to-use equipment.

Fran Pagen

Fran Pagen is the Nursing Program Specialist, Communicable Disease, at Sarasota County Health Department in Sarasota,

Fla. Initiating a Safer Sharps Committee, with members across the different departments within the organization, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership. The committee has met over the course of a year recommending, purchasing and evaluating various improved sharps, including cost analysis.

Michael Poole

As chair of The Poole Organisation in Jersey in the Channel Islands, Michael Poole was involved with the development of the Auto Disable Syringe with the World Health Organization, Unicef and the White House from 1991 to 1993. Mr. Poole is currently registered for engineering services, legal services and intellectual property services. Previously he was a civil engineer working in bridge design and construction in the United Kingdom.

Linda Rose



As a 23-year employee with SSM St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis, Linda Rose has well-rounded nursing experience in General Ortho, Telemetry, Post Partum and serving 2,500 employees as Employee Health Nurse. Ms. Rose is currently the hospital's Workers Compensation Coordinator. Membership in the

Safety Program, Sharps Safety Team, Infection Control and Safety committees have enhanced her current role for situations in which she investigates employee injuries and makes recommendations for safer needles and syringes.

Lynda Ruckman



Lynda Ruckman, RN, MS, COHN-S, is the Director of Employee Health Services and Chair of the Occupational Exposures Committee (OEC) at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla. She is involved with all aspects of employee safety, infection control, wellness, human resources and workers compensation.

In 1989, Ms. Ruckman became "the Health Nurse" working in collaboration with the Infection Control Nurse. Follow-up investigations and screen of occupational exposures became a priority. Root cause analyses indicated many of these exposures could be prevented by safer practices/processes.

In 1994, Ms. Ruckman created the OEC to formally analyze each occurrence. The work of the committee, prior to safer technology, culminated in a significant reduction of body

fluid exposures. She is extremely proud of the OEC in accomplishing its primary goal by “preventing needlesticks and sharps injuries one healthcare worker at a time.”

Lillian Salerno



Lillian Salerno serves as a Health Policy Advisor in Washington D.C. In the early 1990s, she assisted in starting Retractable Technologies Inc., through a SBIR grant from the National Institutes of Health, and she vigorously pushed for state and federal safe needle legislation. Upon passage of the Federal Needle Stick Safety and Prevention Act, Ms. Salerno founded

the International Association of Safe Injection Technologies (IASIT), a Switzerland-based nonprofit that promotes the use of safe injection technologies throughout the world. A long-term HIV/AIDS prevention advocate, she successfully worked with legislators to direct monies under President Bush’s AIDS Initiative to programs which encompass safe healthcare.

Cameron Schmidt

Chairperson of the Needlestick Prevention Committee at Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, N.Y., Cameron Schmidt has worked with staff to evaluate and implement new safety technology as it becomes available. Focused on nursing education, Ms. Schmidt is a respected educator dedicated to improving processes and preventing injuries.

Kay Stauffer

Currently the Infection Control Practitioner at Shands AGH in Gainesville, Fla., Kay Stauffer has been with the Shands Healthcare system for nearly 10 years. In her role, she introduces all new employees to safety devices during their initial orientation. Ms. Stauffer has served as chairperson of the Shands Healthcare Safety Device Evaluation Team for the past two years. The team assesses effectiveness of current devices, coordinates end-user evaluations of new/updated safety devices and oversees implementation of new devices.

Dorothy Thomas



Miami Children’s Hospital in Miami, Fla. has been a needleless system since 1985, a hospital-wide effort led by Dorothy Thomas, Director of Infection Control. She has been a champion for patients and staff in supporting the needleless environment. Ms. Thomas

has been a selfless leader in advocating a successful decrease in needlesticks.

Elaine L. Watson



Elaine L. Watson, RN, CIC, has been an Infection Control Nurse with the VA Western New York Healthcare System for the past 24 years. She is recognized as a content expert in the field of infection control and has been actively involved in the arena of Sharps

Safety. Ms. Watson has been nationally certified in Infection Control since 1985 and plays an active role on many hospital committees and inservice education of staff. She is a member of the Association of the Professionals in Infection Control (APIC); current program co-chairman of the APIC Greater Buffalo Chapter; former board member of the Western New York State Infection Control Training classes for professional re-licensure; and past recipient of the NYS Legislature’s Nurse of Distinction Award and the VA Secretary’s Hands and Heart Award.

Lisa Weber

Lisa Weber, RN, BSN, has worked at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill. for the past six years. Past Safety Ambassador for the Cardiac Intensive Care unit, she is a dedicated proponent of making the environment safer by looking for methods to reduce needlesticks. Having taken the lead on implementing an arterial line with a needleless system, she introduces the new system to new employees as well as teaching the current staff.

Susan Wilburn

Susan Wilburn, MPH, BSN, RN, is a Nurse Consultant with a specialty in occupational and environmental health. She has worked for the American Nurses Association (ANA) for 10 years as a labor educator and director of Occupational and Environmental Health, leading the ANA program when the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) prioritized healthcare worker safety and Congress passed the 2000 Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act.

For the past six years, Ms. Wilburn has represented Health Care Without Harm and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) at the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Safe Injection Global Network (SIGN). For the past two years she has been a consultant with WHO and ICN, managing their joint project to Prevent Needlestick Injuries among healthcare workers. She directs the ANA/ANF RN No Harm project whose goal is to develop nurses as environmental health advocates. Ms. Wilburn speaks and writes extensively on occupational and environmental health issues. †