

Above and Beyond . . .

Six Honored for Efforts to Enhance Medical Technology

They make their contributions in different ways, including cutting-edge research and training biomed in poverty-stricken countries.

The AAMI Awards Subcommittee has selected five medical technology professionals, one healthcare facility, and a manufacturer as 2012 AAMI and AAMI Foundation award winners. They will all be honored at this year's Annual Conference & Expo in Charlotte, NC. Here is a look at the winners and their accomplishments:

David Bates

'Someone We Admire'

David Bates is regarded in the healthcare community as a passionate advocate for patient and medication safety, taking the lead on comprehensive projects to identify problems—and develop solutions—with smart pumps and other technologies.

Despite his professional stature, colleagues say that Bates, senior vice president for quality and safety at Brigham and Women's Hospital, is a gracious and modest man.

"He never fails to say 'thank you' or 'job well done' to those who work alongside him, always acknowledging each individuals' contribution and efforts," Carol Keohan, assistance vice president of the liability company CRICO, wrote in a letter of recommendation.

For his numerous achievements in patient safety, Bates was awarded the **AAMI Foundation Laufman-Greatbatch Prize**.

In other letters of recommendation, colleagues described the vital contributions Bates has made to the use of smart pump technology. He was, for example, the principal investigator on a comprehensive study which evaluated an early version of smart pumps.

The study identified issues with unsafe practices, poor compliance with the new technology, and significant human factors problems.

"Because of his research, the human factors issues were resolved, it became much easier to do the right thing, poor compliance was addressed, and improvements were made in the completeness and accuracy of physician orders," wrote Timothy Vanderveen, vice president of CareFusion's Center for Safety and Clinical Excellence and the 2011 Laufman-Greatbatch Prize winner. "The adoption rate of smart infusion pumps is now approximately 70% in the U.S., and growing rapidly abroad."

Bates' early research on system analysis of adverse drug events was important input for the Institute of Medicine's landmark 2000 study *To Err is Human*, according to Michael R. Cohen, president



David Bates

of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices.

"In a world filled with skeptics and distrust, David Bates is someone we admire, want to be like, and most importantly someone who we know we can absolutely trust," wrote Charles Denham, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

Bates said he is honored to receive the award, and he is excited about the future of medical technology in general and for improving safety in particular.

"I believe that new technologies and devices will play an enormous role in improving safety in this country, especially medication safety in the near term, and that we are on the threshold of quantum improvement in this area," he said.

Demetrius Dillard

Embracing the Future

Demetrius Dillard is blazing a new trail.

He is the first equipment interface specialist for Community Health Network in Indianapolis, IN, overseeing the launch of the healthcare system's electronic medical record program.

"His experience with medical equipment, combined with his pursuit of knowledge on the information technology side of healthcare, clearly demonstrate his awareness of what the future of our profession will look like," wrote Karen Waninger, director of the Clinical Engineering Department at Community Health Network, in a recommendation letter.

"He has embraced that future vision of the profession, and embodies what we need the technicians of the future to be able to accomplish," she said.

Dillard also helps shape the future as an instructor at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

He received the **AAMI/GE Healthcare BMET of the Year Award** for his contributions.



Demetrius Dillard

Arif Subhan

A Dedicated Clinical Engineering Motivator

Arif Subhan has never shied away from using his extensive knowledge to motivate and teach others about clinical engineering.

"Arif is an ideal model for a teacher and speaker in clinical engineering," said Frank Painter, clinical engineering program director at the University of Connecticut, where Subhan guest lectured. Subhan also has taught clinical engineering certification exam review courses, and mentors students around the world, Painter wrote in a recommendation letter.



Arif Subhan

Malcolm Ridgway was Subhan's supervisor at the independent service organization Masterplan. Subhan, now the chief biomedical engineer at the U.S. Veterans Administration Nebraska–Western Iowa Health Care System, was responsible for standards, accreditation, and quality assurance.

"He is resourceful and creative, and a very solution-oriented person who frequently came up with innovative approaches to his assigned projects," wrote Ridgway, now chief clinical engineer for ARAMARK Healthcare Technologies, the company that acquired Masterplan.

Subhan won the **AAMI Clinical/Biomedical Engineering Achievement Award** for his efforts.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected for this award by my peers," he said. "My sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone who has helped me in my career."

Karen Giuliano Striving for the Best of Both Worlds

When Karen Giuliano designs a medical device, she wants to incorporate the clinical user's perspective, which isn't hard since Giuliano is a former nurse.

Giuliano, vice president of product marketing for infusion pump maker Fluidnet in Amesbury, MA, has performed numerous research projects to determine how technology can address a specific clinical need.

"Karen's goal is always to come full circle by using the results of her research to inform both clinical practice and continued product development," wrote Mary Jahrsdoerfer, who performs clinical outcomes research for Philips Healthcare, in a recommendation letter.

Citing one example, Jahrsdoerfer said Giuliano and her research team created a monitoring application to help clinical staff identify and treat unrecognized patient decompensation in the medical–surgical inpatient setting.

For her efforts to help both clinicians and the device industry, Giuliano received the **AAMI/BD Professional Achievement Award**.

Bill Teninty A Teacher and an Advocate Abroad

Bill Teninty has led so many education programs that you can find one of "Billy's Biomed's" in nearly every corner of the globe, colleagues say.

Teninty, biomedical engineering technician for International Partners in Medical Equipment Training, not only teaches technical skills, but also how to run a program with scarce resources.



Karen Giuliano



Bill Teninty

"He has lobbied hospital administrators and ministries of health to make a greater investment in biomedical engineers, and to view them as a valuable asset in the provision of quality healthcare," wrote Robert J. Pagett, president of Assist International, which facilitates medical, infrastructure, education, and other types of projects.

For his tireless work in advocating for biomed's around the world, Teninty is the recipient of the **AAMI Foundation/ACCE Robert L. Morris Humanitarian Award**.

Lancaster General Hospital and Hospira A Commitment to Innovation

The staff at Lancaster General Hospital knows what it's like to live on the cutting edge of healthcare technology.

Aided by infusion pump manufacturer Hospira, which is the co-award winner, the Pennsylvania facility was among the first providers to use barcode technology to identify medications and specimens.

"Subsequent efforts to achieve true interoperability between their barcode system and smart infusion devices took medication safety to unprecedented levels of possibility," according to Jamie Kelly, founder of the unSUMMIT for Bedside Barcoding, a meeting focused on barcode point-of-care technology.

The facility also worked to present and publish the project so "colleagues across the globe can accelerate the prudent adoption of technology—the right way, the first time," Kelly wrote in a recommendation letter.

The facility and manufacturer received the **AAMI Foundation/Institute for Technology in Health Care Clinical Application Award**, given to an individual or group who has applied innovative clinical engineering practices or principles to solve patient care problems. ■



Lancaster General employees **Richard Paoletti**, left, **Norma Ferdinand**, **Amanda Prusch**, and **Tina Suess** helped their facility win the Clinical Care Application Award.