



AAMI Recognizes Exceptional Healthcare Technology Professionals

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said Jensen, who joined the association this past November. “They represent the best and the brightest in healthcare technology, helping to make it safer and more effective. It’s our pleasure to recognize them and offer our thanks for all of the incredible work they have done.”

The AAMI Foundation’s Laufman-Greatbatch Award

The late **Victoria Hitchins**, research microbiologist for the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) Center for Devices and Radiological Health

AAMI’s most prestigious award is named after two pioneers in the field—Harold Laufman, MD, and Wilson Greatbatch, PhD. It honors an individual or group that has made a unique and significant contribution to the advancement of healthcare technology and systems, service, patient care, or patient safety.

This year’s award will be presented posthumously to Victoria Hitchins, who was killed in a car crash last summer. During her more than 35 years at the FDA, Hitchins helped to improve the regulation of medical devices—specifically in the areas of sterilization, reprocessing, and reuse—through her research. And as a longtime participant in AAMI’s standards program, cochair of the AAMI Sterilization Standards Committee, and leader of the U.S. delegation to ISO/TC 198, which focuses on the sterilization of healthcare products, Hitchins was a trailblazer for medical device standardization and harmonization worldwide.

“The Hitchins family is very happy and grateful that Vicki’s contributions to AAMI’s mission over the years have been honored by the conferring upon her their highest honor, the AAMI Foundation’s Laufman-Greatbatch Award,” said her husband, Tony Hitchins.



Victoria Hitchins

The AAMI Foundation & ACCE’s Robert L. Morris Humanitarian Award

Adriana Velazquez Berumen, senior advisor on medical devices for the Innovation, Access, and Use Unit of the Essential Medicines and Health Products Department at the World Health Organization (WHO)

This award—honoring the late Robert Morris, a longtime AAMI member, cofounder of the American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE), and humanitarian—recognizes an individual or organization that has leveraged healthcare technology to improve global human conditions. This year’s winner, Adriana Velazquez Berumen, has spent her 30-year career developing and leading projects



Adriana Velazquez Berumen

to promote clinical engineering education and professional development throughout the world so more people have access to safe, high-quality healthcare. During her tenure at the WHO, Berumen has authored numerous publications, including guidance on healthcare technology management, and has coordinated three global forums on medical devices.

The AAMI Foundation & Institute for Technology in Health Care’s Clinical Solution Award

Regenstrief National Center for Medical Device Informatics (**REMEDI**) Infusion Pump Collaborative Project Team

This award honors healthcare technology professionals who have applied innovative clinical engineering practices or principles to solve a significant patient care problem or challenge. The award this year goes to REMEDI, a division of the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, which has leveraged the power of data and collaboration to drive up compliance rates with infusion pump drug libraries.

The REMEDI collaboration is the only patient safety improvement program in the country that reaches across manufacturers’ smart pump technologies to create a network of hospitals willing to share data and lessons they’ve learned to improve clinician compliance with drug libraries. One participating hospital noted a 25% increase in compliance within the span of three months.

“We are honored to win this prestigious award. Having the AAMI Foundation, whose primary mission is to serve the public welfare and improve patient safety, recognize the team’s efforts is particularly gratifying,” said REMEDI team leader Richard Zink.

The REMEDI team also includes Daniel D. Degnan III, PoChing DeLaurentis, Kang-Yu Hsu, James B. Graves, Damion A. Junk, Alissa J. Nedossekina, and Michael G. Zentner.



REMEDI Infusion Pump Collaborative Project Team

AAMI & Becton Dickinson’s Patient Safety Award

Michael R. Cohen, president of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices

This award, which recognizes outstanding achievements by a healthcare professional who has made a significant advancement in improving patient safety, will be presented to Michael R. Cohen, a pharmacist who founded the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, based in Horsham, PA.



Cohen was an early champion of protecting patients from accidental over-infusion of intravenous medications by promoting free-flow protection in the tubing lines. This has become an international standard for infusion systems. Cohen also was an early advocate for smart infusion pumps, barcode medication administration, profiling systems for automated dispensing cabinets, and electronic monitoring of patients receiving opioids.



Michael R. Cohen

AAMI's HTM Leadership Award

Matthew F. Baretich, president of Baretich Engineering

This award, which honors individual excellence, achievement, and leadership in the healthcare technology management (HTM) field, will be presented to Matt Baretich for his leadership in developing practical approaches to meeting HTM challenges, including regulatory compliance and benchmarking. Baretich, who helped develop AAMI's *HTM Levels Guide* and ACCE's certification in clinical engineering (CCE) prep course, regularly contributes to AAMI and other industry publications to share his expertise. He also serves as a member of AAMI's Reliability-Centered Maintenance Committee and the *BI&T* Editorial Board. He is the founder of his own consulting company based in Fort Collins, CO.



Matthew F. Baretich

AAMI & GE Healthcare's BMET of the Year Award

Scott Hall, supervisory biomedical equipment support specialist (retired) for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Lexington VA Medical Center in Kentucky

This award is given to a biomedical equipment technician (BMET) to recognize his or her dedication, achievement, and excellence in the HTM field. Scott Hall, who recently retired after being a certified BMET for more than 25 years, led the biomedical engineering department at the Lexington VA for a decade. During that time, he managed the medical equipment management plan and protection program, and collaborated with stakeholders at all levels of the organization.



Scott Hall

"What a way to end your career," Hall said. "I may have been recognized for this award, but it was only possible due to the hard work by everyone on the team at the VAMC Lexington."

AAMI's Young Professional Award

Priyanka Upendra, CHTM, clinical engineering compliance manager for Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, UT

This award is presented to a healthcare technology professional under the age of 35 who has a history of exemplary accomplishments and a strong commitment to the field. This year's winner,

Priyanka Upendra, has assumed a major leadership role within the HTM community with regard to medical device cybersecurity and compliance. Colleagues hold up Upendra's professionalism, intelligence, and hard-working nature as an example for other young professionals.



Priyanka Upendra

"I am thrilled and thank AAMI for recognizing me. This is truly a reflection of the extraordinary support from the leadership and clinical engineering team at Intermountain Healthcare and the strong foundation I received at Stanford," Upendra said.

The Spirit of AAMI Award

Vickie Snyder, a consultant for the Veterans Health Administration SOARD project

Vickie Snyder will receive the Spirit of AAMI award in recognition of her volunteer contributions and tireless encouragement of young HTM professionals. Snyder was one of the founding members of AAMI's Technology Management Council, and served on the Board of Directors for both AAMI and the AAMI Foundation.



Vickie Snyder

"It is such an honor for me to be recognized for the work and passion I have for HTM," Snyder said. "I feel very strongly that as an HTM professional we should share and promote the HTM industry by volunteering. Volunteering gives us the opportunity to learn about ourselves, to learn about those around us, and to build new relationships."

AAMI HTM Association of the Year Award

Indiana Biomedical Society

This new award recognizes an HTM association that distinguishes itself through outstanding society operations and meetings, as well as a commitment to elevating the HTM profession at a local level. The first recipient of this honor, the Indiana Biomedical Society, promotes the education and development of its more than 300 members through bimonthly training sessions, quarterly meetings, and workshops, as well as its long-running annual conference. The society also is dedicated to the development of the field's future leaders, offering scholarships and hosting career fairs for local students. ■



Raise a Glass to Your Peers

WHAT: AAMI Awards Celebration

WHEN: June 10, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

WHERE: JW Marriott, Lone Star Ballroom

DRESS: Business or business casual

