AAMI Honors Healthcare Technology’s ‘Best and Brightest’

An impressive lineup of healthcare technology experts and innovators, along with clinicians, patient safety champions, standards volunteers, young professionals, and students is set to receive an AAMI award or scholarship. The honors recognize these individuals’ leadership, dedication, and contributions to the association and to the healthcare technology community as a whole.

AAMI President and CEO Robert Jensen offered his congratulations to all the winners.

“Being able to recognize the best and the brightest in healthcare technology is an honor,” Jensen said. “This year’s recipients have demonstrated exemplary passion and dedication to helping make healthcare technology safer and more effective. It’s our pleasure to offer our thanks for all of the incredible work they have done and all that they continue to do to elevate and grow the field.”

The AAMI Foundation’s Laufman-Greatbatch Award

Lauren C. Thompson, PhD, director of the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office

AAMI’s most prestigious award 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 to Lauren Thompson, PhD, for her support of national health data-sharing efforts and promotion of interoperability among the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and their private partners.

Thompson was greatly influential in leading the DoD’s and VA’s collaborative efforts to ensure both departments’ electronic health records were fully interoperable and shared an integrated display of data. According to colleagues, the realization of this goal continues to promote patient-centric healthcare experiences, seamless care transitions, and improvements in health outcomes for the more than 15 million patients who receive care from both departments.

“I truly am grateful to receive recognition from a prestigious organization such as the AAMI Foundation,” Thompson said. “For over 30 years, I have been dedicated to serving others, including our brave heroes in uniform, and am pleased to be recognized for my contribution to the enhancement of healthcare for service members, veterans, and their families.”

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

Robert M.S. Dickinson

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, Robert Dickinson, grew up in Zimbabwe and spent his more than 30-year career as a biomedical engineer providing training on healthcare technology management (HTM), anesthesia, and critical care systems in more than two dozen countries, working with groups such as the World Health Organization, International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering, Engineering World Health, Orbis Flying Eye Hospital, Operation Smile, and the Gradian Health System. Dickinson was told of his award before he died of cancer on April 6. See related story on page 19.

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

A multidisciplinary team from Beebe Healthcare, which serves Sussex County in southern Delaware, and RENOVO Solutions, which is based in Irvine, CA

This award honors a healthcare technology professional or group that has applied innovative clinical engineering practices or principles to solve a significant patient care problem or challenge facing a patient population or community. The winner of this year’s award is a multidisciplinary team that is meeting the challenge of supporting and securing medical devices and systems from ever-growing cybersecurity threats while simultaneously meeting interoperability and clinical needs.

“Beebe’s IT team considers all aspects of cybersecurity—across our entire healthcare system—and the partnership with RENOVO Solutions for medical equipment and management proves this,“
said Michael J. Maksymow, vice president of information systems and CIO of Beebe Healthcare. “This collaboration adds to our comprehensive security program, which includes security for medical devices and systems. In this way, Beebe continues to be innovative, as many other organizations in the healthcare industry overlook the importance of medical device and system security.”

AAMI & Becton Dickinson’s Patient Safety Award
Frank Overdyk, MSEE, MD, professor of anesthesiology

This award, which recognizes outstanding achievements by a healthcare professional who has made a significant advancement toward improving patient safety, will be presented to Frank Overdyk, MD, who has dedicated his career to studying opioid-induced respiratory depression (OIRD) and seeking to prevent OIRD-related injuries and deaths through continuous electronic monitoring.

Overdyk is an internationally recognized expert and advocate and has served as the clinical lead for the AAMI Foundation’s National Coalition to Promote the Continuous Monitoring of Patients on Opioids since 2014. He has published numerous scientific articles and is the medical director of an ongoing international study designed to assess the frequency of this issue and the impact of continuous monitoring on patient safety.

AAMI’s HTM Leadership Award
Jennifer Jackson, director of connectivity at Masimo

This award, which honors individual excellence, achievement, and leadership in the HTM field, will be presented to Jennifer Jackson for her work to bring device integration to the forefront of the HTM profession.

In 2015, Jackson led one of the first enterprise-wide deployments of bidirectional infusion pump integration in the country, further closing the medication administration loop. She also has worked with industry leaders to promote the adoption of flexible and open device integration platforms, which allow for more seamless and vendor agnostic connectivity, serving on the inaugural Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise Patient Care Device and Medical Device Plug-and-Play committees.

“Jennifer is one of the best and brightest in our field,” said Steve Grimes, managing partner of Strategic Health Care Technology Associates, LLC. “Through her leadership and example, she has helped to secure a role for clinical engineering in information technology, clinical education, and equipment planning.”

AAMI & GE Healthcare’s BMET of the Year Award
J. Scot Mackeil, CBET, senior anesthesia biomedical engineer at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston

This award is given to a biomedical equipment technician (BMET) to recognize his or her dedication, achievement, and excellence in the HTM field.

J. Scot Mackeil, CBET, has been on the front lines of hospital biomedical engineering for more than 26 years, most recently as a member of the anesthesia clinical engineering team at Massachusetts General Hospital where he supports anesthesia and surgical systems in the operating room. Mackeil is a vocal advocate for the HTM field and spoke at the FDA’s 2016 workshop on the refurbishing, reconditioning, rebuilding, remarketing, remanufacturing, and servicing of medical devices by third-party entities and original equipment manufacturers. He also is an outspoken supporter of two pending pieces of “right to repair” legislation in his home state, proposals which he believes would “greatly benefit” the HTM field.

“As an AAMI BMET of the Year, I hope to honor the traditions of excellence and service to the profession this award represents. I also want to say thank you to my mentors and ask those whom I have mentored in the past to carry the BMET banner forward,” Mackeil said.

AAMI’s Young Professional Award
Clarice Holden, chief biomedical engineer at the VA North Texas Healthcare System

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, Clarice Holden, has already made a lasting impact during her short career in the Veterans Health Administration (VA). Holden, 28, was recently promoted to chief biomedical engineer at the VA North Texas Healthcare System. In her previous role as supervisory biomedical engineer at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, she oversaw a team of 15 BMETs and biomedical engineers at one of the VA’s largest healthcare facilities, as well as an inventory of medical equipment valued at more than $130 million.

Holden is committed to advancing HTM as a profession, chairing ACCE’s Advocacy Committee and serving as a member of AAMI’s Annual Conference Program Committee and the VA National

Continued on next page
Documentation of Services National Advisory Board. She also works with high school and college students, encouraging them to enter the HTM field.

“I am incredibly humbled and thankful to be recognized by this excellent organization which gathers so many essential voices in healthcare technology management,” Holden said. “I am very grateful to my countless colleagues both within the Department of Veterans Affairs and without for the opportunities and learning moments they have provided me at the beginning of my career. I hope to continue to serve America’s veterans to the best of my ability as a biomedical engineer—they are not just my customers, they are my heroes.”

The Spirit of AAMI Award
David Giarracco, vice president of global market development at Medtronic

David Giarracco has been selected to receive the Spirit of AAMI Award based on his passion for patient safety and his championing of three AAMI Foundation initiatives: the National Coalition for Alarm Management Safety, the National Coalition to Promote Continuous Monitoring of Patients on Opioids, and the National Coalition to Promote the Safe Use of Complex Healthcare Technology. In order to transform healthcare further together, Giarracco made the case to financially support these coalitions, and he also volunteered his time and biomedical engineering expertise to produce deliverables that healthcare organizations could use.

“I have spent more than 10 years of my career in the respiratory space, collaborating with excellent colleagues who continue to work to improve patient safety and monitoring technology, an ongoing goal of AAMI and its Foundation,” Giarracco said. “I am deeply honored to receive this award, as it has been my sincerest pleasure to support AAMI over the years, an organization at the intersection of technology and healthcare.”

AAMI’s HTM Association of the Year Award
California Medical Instrumentation Association (CMIA)

This year’s winner, CMIA, promotes the education and development of its more than 300 members through bimonthly local chapter meetings, workshops, training sessions, and the association’s annual conference and vendor fair.

In 2017, CMIA’s nine local chapters hosted nearly 70 educational events, covering topics such as infection control, cybersecurity, alternative equipment management strategies, and networking. In addition to education and training, CMIA provides its members with resources such as a leadership guide book and assistance in meeting standards, as well as gives back to its local community through scholarships and donations to organizations such as Toys for Tots.

Volunteer with AAMI!
You can help shape the future of healthcare technology.

- Participate in standards development.
- Become a mentor.
- Write for AAMI’s publications.
- Join a committee.

Visit www.aami.org/connect to review the available opportunities.

You’re Invited
Who: All registered AAMI 2018 Conference attendees
What: AAMI Awards Celebration
When: Saturday, June 2, 6–7:30 p.m.
Where: Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom, Long Beach, CA