

→ AAMI Exchange Preview

AAMI Honors Leaders Who Inspire the Field to 'Aim Higher'

This year, AAMI will honor an extraordinary group of talented individuals at its annual Awards Celebration for their leadership, dedication, and contributions to the association and the wider professional community.

AAMI President and CEO Robert Jensen lauded the winners for representing the best in health technology. "Collectively and individually, these professionals are helping advance the cause of safe and effective health technology," Jensen said. "They push all of us to aim higher and find innovative solutions to the challenges we face. It is AAMI's great pleasure to honor and thank them for their achievements and extraordinary work."

The AAMI Foundation's Laufman-Greatbatch Award

Lawana Bryan, RN; Carol Means, RN; Timothy Rausch, RN; Tina Hayes, RN; Penny Robertson, RN; and Christina Van Den Handel, RN; Northeast Georgia Health System

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 winners, a team at Northeast Georgia Health System, is leveraging simulation technology to help improve performance and outcomes related to medical devices and systems across its region. From its humble beginnings using manikins in a basement closet of an old building, the team has grown the program into a multimillion-dollar "simulation center of excellence," and is poised to launch the first mobile simulation unit in the state of Georgia this summer.

AAMI Board Member Michael Appel, MD, chief patient safety officer for Northeast Georgia Health System, described the team as "pioneers." He said: "The team's approach is bold and raises the standard for delivering world-class medical care to our community. They have the passion and vision necessary to persuade our community that simulation is the new frontier in healthcare quality and safety."

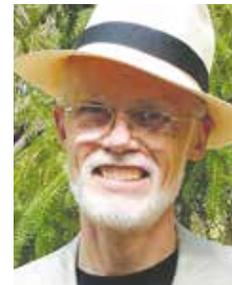


From left to right: Christina Van Den Handel, Tina Hayes, Timothy Rausch, and Carol Means. Not pictured: Penny Robertson and Lawana Bryan.

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

William Gentles, PhD, PEng, CCE, vice president of BT Medical Technology Consulting in Toronto, ON, Canada

This award recognizes an individual or organization that has leveraged healthcare technology to improve global human conditions. This year's winner, William Gentles, is described as "a positive role model" with "a passion and dedication" for both humanitarian and clinical engineering (CE) efforts around the world.



William Gentles

Gentles, who has 50 years of experience in the healthcare technology management (HTM) field, has been the leader of the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society's "Tools for Techs" project since 2017, which has provided crowdsourced cash grants to frontline HTM professionals in Ghana, Mongolia, Tanzania, and Rwanda to purchase badly needed tools so they can be more effective in their roles.

He also has administered the INFRATECH International Email Discussion Group on CE/HTM sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization for nearly 20 years. This resource, which connects more than 400 subscribers from about 50 countries, has resulted in collaboration and information sharing across national boundaries that have contributed to improvements in quality, safety, and equipment access.

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

JoAnne Phillips, DNP, RN, CNS, CPPS, director of clinical practice for Virtua Health System in southern New Jersey

This award honors a healthcare technology professional or group that has applied innovative practices or principles to solve a significant patient care problem or challenge facing a patient population or community. This year's winner, JoAnne Phillips, has played an integral role in developing multidisciplinary approaches to reducing alarm fatigue and has championed the significant, but often overlooked, role that nurses play in the delivery of safe and effective patient care.



JoAnne Phillips

Phillips is a member of the AAMI Foundation's National Coalition for Alarm Management Safety and a recognized leader in the nationwide effort to improve alarm management in hospitals. She has published foundational articles on alarm management issues in clinical settings and the related patient safety problem of alarm fatigue. Phillips also led the development



of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists' alarm fatigue toolkit, which includes a comprehensive list of alarm management competencies, case studies for hands-on learning, and resources for evaluation.

AAMI & Becton Dickinson's Patient Safety Award

Shelly Crisler, CCE, biomedical engineer at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Engineering, Occupational Safety and Health in St. Louis, MO, and Katrina Jacobs, CCE, biomedical engineer at the VA National Center for Patient Safety in Ann Arbor, MI

This award recognizes outstanding achievements by healthcare technology professionals who have made a significant advancement toward improving patient safety and will be presented to Shelly Crisler and Katrina Jacobs for their efforts to enhance the quality and safety of care provided to patients within the VA health system.

Crisler and Jacobs redesigned the VA's management system for medical equipment safety recalls and advisories, and continually analyze the medical equipment inventory, maintenance data, usability data, patient incident reports, near-miss reports, and other databases for trends and safety concerns, escalating issues for possible enterprise-wide actions when necessary.

Most recently, the duo developed the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA's) *Medical Device Incident Investigation Guidebook* in collaboration with the Office of HTM. The guidebook, which was published in August 2018, is intended to ensure that VHA personnel can organize an effective rapid response to any medical device incident, preserve evidence, and capture detailed information so appropriate action can be taken to improve patient safety across the health system.

AAMI's HTM Leadership Award

Heidi Horn, a healthcare technology management (HTM) executive based in Chesterfield, MO

This award, which honors individual excellence, achievement, and leadership in the HTM field, will be presented to Heidi Horn for her commitment to ensuring that HTM professionals not only add value to their organizations but are recognized for that value.

Horn is an active volunteer leader in the HTM community, serving as a member



Shelly Crisler



Katrina Jacobs



Heidi Horn

of the AAMI Board of Directors and Technology Management Council Executive Committee, as well as chair and/or member of nearly a dozen other AAMI committees over the past 13 years. In addition, Horn has written numerous articles, presented at conferences, and participated in national initiatives affecting the HTM field, such as AAMI's Future Forums; the FDA's 2016 workshop on refurbishing, reconditioning, rebuilding, remarketing, remanufacturing, and servicing of medical devices; and the development of the Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance's draft American National Standard for servicing of medical imaging devices.

AAMI & GE Healthcare's BMET of the Year Award

Jovito "Jojo" Gonzales, CBET, CHTM, lead biomedical equipment technician for Kaiser Permanente Hospital in San Diego, CA

This award, which is given to a biomedical equipment technician (BMET) to recognize dedication, achievement, and excellence in the HTM field, will be presented to Jovito Gonzales, who is described by his peers as a "compassionate and dedicated leader" and "a highly skilled technician."

Gonzales was instrumental in the launch of a new 253-bed medical center in San Diego that was touted as one of the most technologically advanced when it opened in April 2017. He provided mentorship and training to the BMETs hired for the new facility, deployed more than 7,000 pieces of medical equipment, and assisted in the deployment of new technologies and several medical device integrations.

With a background in information security, Gonzales exemplifies the skills and knowledge that BMETs need to stay relevant in the healthcare technology ecosystem. He was a member of Kaiser Permanente's (KP's) Compliance Action Plan Task Force, which reviewed and developed a national medical device security and privacy plan for the health system. He also traveled to several KP facilities throughout southern California to assist in the ransomware remediation of more than 4,000 devices.

AAMI's Young Professional Award

Benjamin Esslinger, CHTM, CBET, administrative director of clinical engineering for Franciscan Alliance's Central Division in Indiana

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, Benjamin Esslinger, 30, is an emerging leader in the field, serving as a role model for his peers and the students he seeks to inspire.



Jovito "Jojo" Gonzales



Benjamin Esslinger

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Throughout his career, Esslinger has demonstrated the importance of lifelong learning and professional development. After entering the HTM field, he earned an associate degree and then continued to enroll in classes part-time, obtaining his bachelor's degree in 2013. Esslinger also has self-acquired expertise in cybersecurity, working closely with the Medical Device Innovation, Safety & Security Consortium to better understand the cutting-edge challenges of software vulnerabilities and how to mitigate them.

Esslinger's passion for the HTM field is contagious. As president of the Indiana Biomedical Society, he has injected new energy and enthusiasm into the group, increasing conference participation and community engagement. He also is always ready to reach out to potential students and others who want to learn more about HTM.

The Spirit of AAMI Award

Paul W. Kelley, CBET, director of biomedical engineering, the Green Initiative, and asset redeployment for Washington Hospital Healthcare System in Fremont, CA

Paul Kelley was selected to receive the Spirit of AAMI Award based on his outstanding contributions as an AAMI member and his numerous volunteer efforts within the association. For more than two decades, Kelley has exemplified what it is to be an AAMI volunteer leader through his professionalism, selfless commitment, and willingness to share his expertise.



Paul W. Kelley

Since joining AAMI in 1992, Kelley has contributed to several AAMI publications, given presentations at conferences and events, participated in the development of AAMI standards, been a member of the AAMI Foundation Board of Directors, and served on numerous committees, including the Awards Committee, Sustainability Committee, and Annual Conference Program Planning Committee. Kelley, who was AAMI & GE Healthcare's 2011 BMET of the Year, is currently vice chair of BMETs on the AAMI Board of Directors and chair of the Technology Management Council.

Kelley has been instrumental in establishing strong relationships between AAMI and external organizations, such as the California Medical Instrumentation Association and The Joint Commission (TJC). Since 2010, he has served as a representative to TJC's Patient Safety Advisory Group, acting as a two-way communication channel to ensure AAMI constituents have a voice in the TJC standards process and that they receive timely, accurate information from the committee.

AAMI's HTM Association of the Year Award

Colorado Association of Biomedical Equipment Technicians (CABMET)

This year's HTM Association of the Year, CABMET, exemplifies the qualities this award promotes: outstanding society operations and meetings, as well as a commitment to elevating the HTM field at a local level.

Each year, CABMET hosts bimonthly educational meetings and a three-day symposium that provide continuing education on topics of interest to its members, including ultrasound repair and troubleshooting, sterilizer processes and quality assurance, leadership in the HTM field, alternative equipment maintenance programs, and information technology security.

The association is a leader in preparing HTM professionals for AAMI Credentials Institute certification exams. By using remote-learning tools and collaborating with other HTM societies, CABMET has helped thousands of BMETs review for the CBET, CHTM, CRES, and CLES exams.

CABMET also helps give back to the community through an annual work day at Project C.U.R.E's Denver warehouse to check and repair equipment which will eventually be donated to low-resource countries. In addition, members of the association have participated in several career days at high schools throughout Colorado to promote the HTM field to the next generation of professionals.



You're Invited

Who: All registered AAMI Exchange attendees

What: AAMI Awards Celebration

When: Saturday, June 8, 6–7:30 p.m.



Standards Developers Recognized for Contributions to Safety, Effectiveness of Health Technology

Five dedicated standards developers will be recognized for their leadership, service, and contributions with an AAMI Standards Developer Award. The recipients are:

Bruce S. Alpert, MD, retired pediatric cardiologist and Plough Foundation Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and former program director for the UTHSC General Clinical Research Center, for his many years of contributions to the AAMI Sphygmomanometer Committee and his expertise and leadership in the development of two standards for noninvasive sphygmomanometers: AAMI/ISO 81060-2 and IEC 81060-4.

Richard Dart, emeritus researcher at the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, for his dedication to the AAMI Sphygmomanometer Committee and the integral role he played in securing essential external organization support for motion artifact data collection efforts for the international development of IEC 81060-4.

Nupur Jain, manager of validation engineering services at Intuitive Surgical and co-chair of ST/WG 93, for her leadership and vision in the development of ST98, an important U.S. standard for the development and validation of medical device cleaning processes.

John Murray, co-chair of the AAMI Software Committee and the AAMI Software and Information Technology Committee, for his pioneering work in the development of standards and guidance related to software in medical devices and interoperability, including AAMI SW68:2001, *Medical Device Software—Software Life Cycle Processes*. Murray retired from the Food and Drug Administration earlier this year after 32 years of federal service.

Rose Seavey, president of Seavey Healthcare Consulting, LLC, and co-chair of ST/WG 42, for her work on key sterilization standards, such as ANSI/AAMI ST79, *Comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in health care facilities*, and ANSI/AAMI ST91, *Comprehensive guide to flexible and semi-rigid endoscope processing in health care facilities*, as well as her advocacy for their consistent use.



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Scholarship Recipients Look to Make a 'Positive Impact on the Healthcare Technology Field'

The AAMI Foundation has awarded scholarships to six aspiring healthcare technology professionals to support their education. While this year's scholarship winners have diverse career goals, they share a passion for improving lives with healthcare technology.

Lauryn Carr

Lauryn Carr, 17, is headed to Mississippi State University to study biomedical engineering, and then she intends to go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist. "While I want to become an anesthesiologist, my dream job is to help people in as many ways as possible, whether that looks like giving back to my community or saving lives," she said.



Lauryn Carr

Carr has been interested in the medical field for as long as she can remember.

"It wasn't until I reached high school that I was able to focus more on healthcare technology," she said. "Instead of choosing to major in biology, I decided that majoring in biomedical engineering would open far more doors. Additionally, both of my parents work for medical device companies, and I have always been interested in their jobs."

The AAMI Foundation scholarship will help Carr achieve her goals. "As cliché as it may sound, receiving this scholarship means the world to me," she said. "More specifically, receiving this scholarship has confirmed that I am on the right path and that my field of study is one to be valued."

Rebecca Halmich

Rebecca Halmich, 24, credits her "Nana," a registered nurse, for inspiring her from a young age to pursue a career in medicine. "Then in high school when I learned about bioengineering, which combined my love for science and math with the medical field, I knew that was the path for me," she said.



Rebecca Halmich

A South Florida native, she earned her bachelor's degree in bioengineering from Florida Gulf Coast University. "While working at a hospital in Fort Myers during my senior year of undergrad, I found my real passion in clinical engineering," Halmich said. "Clinical engineering allowed me to put my engineering degree into practice every day at the ground level of healthcare."

Halmich is pursuing her master's degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Connecticut and interning as a clinical engineer at UMass Memorial Medical Center in

Worcester, MA. Once she graduates in 2020, she hopes to work as a clinical engineer in a hospital, where "every day is a new adventure," and eventually take on a management role.

"I am so grateful for this scholarship," Halmich said. "It gives me the opportunity to focus on completing my master's program and continuing to advance and develop my career in healthcare technology. I also believe the opportunities AAMI will provide me will be helpful for creating a strong network."

Anas Mahmoud

Anas Mahmoud, 35, will graduate this summer from Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Waco with a dual associate degree of applied sciences in biomedical equipment technology and medical imaging systems technology. He found his way into this field through his job as an X-ray technician.



Anas Mahmoud

"As an X-ray technician, I was exposed to the repair and maintenance side of medical imaging equipment. This was really interesting to me, and it led me to consider a career as a biomedical/imaging technician," Mahmoud said. "This career would enable me to work on the technical side of repairing and troubleshooting medical equipment while still being able to help people by ensuring that the medical equipment that patients and the healthcare team rely on is safe and in good working order."

Mahmoud said he was inspired by the stories of previous AAMI Foundation scholarship recipients. "Despite having different backgrounds and aspirations, all were helped by the scholarship to achieve their educational and ultimately career goals," he said. "This encouraged me to do the same. Receiving this scholarship also taught me the importance of setting a goal and the process of putting into action steps to achieve that goal."

Moses Suherman

Moses Suherman, 27, immigrated to the United States after high school in 2010. "While struggling to adapt to a new country, I didn't have a clue about what I wanted to be," he said. "My first job was as a sushi chef. I did not enjoy working as a sushi chef because I wasn't good at handling knives. I preferred screwdrivers and pliers. Then someone gave me an opportunity to work as a biomedical dialysis technician. In the second week



Moses Suherman

of training, I knew that this type of work was the right fit for me. Now after nine years of working in dialysis as a biomed, I still have the same excitement to go to work each day. I love to help others, and with my job, I am able to help our patients feel better and safer during dialysis treatments."



Suherman, now a biomed supervisor of outpatient and inpatient dialysis clinics at Loma Linda University Medical Center, is set to graduate with a degree in biomedical engineering from Southern California Institute of Technology in 2020. "I am honored and privileged to be awarded this scholarship and be among other talented people," he said. "I already have my dream job, but I would like to expand my professional horizon."

Angie Thai

Angie Thai, 19, is focusing on biomedical instrumentation and digital signal/image processing as part of her electrical engineering degree at the University of Washington in Seattle and is on track to graduate in 2020.

"After seeing the impact medical equipment has made on those around me, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in healthcare technology," Thai said. "I want to be someone who can contribute to revolutionizing the lives of patients around the world, which has driven me to pursue a degree in electrical engineering. I believe that I can use my skills to make a positive impact on the healthcare technology field."



Angie Thai

Thai is the recipient of both an AAMI Foundation and AAMI-HSEA Health Systems Engineering Scholarship. "These scholarships mean a lot to me because it lessens my worries regarding college tuition," she said. "By receiving them, I feel supported and even more motivated to reach my career goals."

Bianca Wyman

Bianca Wyman, 22, is a year away from earning her master's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Connecticut. "I loved being in the clinical environment but found myself most interested in medical devices," she said. Wyman is interning at Middlesex Health in Middletown, CT, and added that she loves solving challenges that help patients.



Bianca Wyman

This scholarship will increase her opportunities to secure her dream job working as a clinical engineer in a hospital, Wyman said. "Not only has this scholarship assisted me financially, but it also has given me the chance to attend this year's AAMI Exchange," she said. "Here I will be able to learn from the various presentations and make valuable connections within this field to help advance my future career."

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First Class of AAMI Fellows Honored for Extraordinary Achievements

Fourteen AAMI members who have provided substantial service and contributions to the association and the health technology industry have been selected for the first class of AAMI Fellows. Individuals who attain Fellow status are leaders in the health technology community and are recognized for extraordinary achievement in their careers. They also promote AAMI's mission to lead global collaboration in the development, management, and use of safe and effective health technology.

"We are extremely proud of this inaugural class of Fellows. These individuals inspire us to contribute more to our professional communities," said AAMI President and CEO Robert Jensen. "Unfortunately, we could not select everyone from the many excellent nominations we received. We're looking forward to this program growing each year."

AAMI recognizes Fellows for the depth and breadth of their accomplishments in seven core areas: professional experience, education, technical contributions, presentations and publications, professional participation, certification, and awards and honors.

Inaugural Class of AAMI Fellows

Matt Baretich

President of Baretich Engineering based in Fort Collins, CO

Dave Braeutigam

President of Braeutigam Enterprises in Arlington, TX

Tobey Clark

Engineering supervisor of instrumentation and technical services at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT

Carol Davis-Smith

President of Carol Davis-Smith & Associates, LLC in Phoenix, AZ

David Dickey

Vice president of clinical engineering at McLaren Health Care headquartered in Grand Blanc, MI

Stephen Grimes

Managing partner and principal consultant at Strategic Healthcare Technology Associates in Swampscott, MA

Heidi Horn

Healthcare technology management executive based in Chesterfield, MO

Paul Kelley

Director of biomedical engineering, the Green Initiative, and Asset Redeployment at Washington Hospital in Fremont, CA

George Mills

Director of healthcare technical operations at JLL, former director of engineering at The Joint Commission

Gerry O'Dell

President of Gerry O'Dell Consulting in Wesley Chapel, FL

Mike Scholla

Global director of regulatory and standards and medical packaging fellow at Dupont in Elkton, MD

Chuck Sidebottom

Managing partner at PPO Standards in Minneapolis, MN

James Wear

Retired consultant, educator, and healthcare technology management leader based in North Little Rock, AR

Axel Wirth

Distinguished technical architect at Symantec Corporation in Cambridge, MA, and adjunct professor in the biomedical engineering program at the University of Connecticut

For more information about the AAMI Fellow Program, please visit www.aami.org/fellow.



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