



# Media Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2017

### **2017 BC Health Care Awards recipients revealed**

VANCOUVER – Recipients of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual *BC Health Care Awards* were announced today at a gala luncheon in Vancouver. Twelve Gold Apple and six Award of Merit recipients were honoured.

Presented by the Health Employers Association of British Columbia (HEABC), the *BC Health Care Awards* recognize British Columbians who are providing outstanding care and support. Awards are given in 11 categories to projects improving health care delivery through innovative and collaborative approaches and to people making a positive impact and inspiring those around them.

### **2017 Gold Apple award recipients**

#### **Provincial Health Care Hero & Health Care Hero – Vancouver Coastal Health**

Dianna Mah-Jones – Occupational Therapist, G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre

Most of us take for granted the ability to glance down and comfortably read a book, prepare a meal or watch our step while walking. However, one GF Strong patient with muscular dystrophy couldn't see past the rigid collar she had to wear to hold her head upright. Dianna Mah-Jones responded by inventing the "Lidia Collar" – an inexpensive, easily made device that was inspired by a simple latex balloon. This is just one example of the creativity and innovative problem solving that characterizes Dianna's career as an occupational therapist.

#### **Health Care Hero – Affiliate**

Dr. Victoria Su – Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, St. Paul's Hospital Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic

#### **Health Care Hero – Fraser Health**

Misty Stephens – Registered Nurse, Burnaby and Peace Arch Hospitals

#### **Health Care Hero – Interior Health**

Cheryl Jardine – Home Support Supervisor, Barriere/Clearwater Home Health

#### **Health Care Hero – Island Health**

Griffin Russell – Regional Harm Reduction Coordinator, Public Health

#### **Health Care Hero – Northern Health**

Nancy Viney – Regional Nursing Lead – Tobacco Reduction, Centre for Healthy Living

#### **Health Care Hero – Provincial Health Services Authority**

Hilary Horlock – User Experience Architect, Information Management Information Technology



### **Top Innovation – Affiliate**

Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division (CMHA BC) – Confident Parents: Thriving Kids Program

When a child engages in a pattern of aggressive behavior, their parent or caregiver normally intervenes to try and steer the child back on course. However, the behavior can be worsened if there is an attempt to force the child into compliance. A more effective approach is to engage in positive parenting practices that reward pro-social behavior. CMHA BC has made this training accessible to parents at no charge through their Confident Parents: Thriving Kids Program.

### **Top Innovation – Health Authority**

Royal Jubilee Hospital, Island Health – Integrated Smartphone Communication Technology Project

Nearly everyone has a smartphone, and yet paging systems continue to be used by the majority of hospitals. Pharmacists and physicians, in particular, report that pagers are frustrating because they don't indicate who is paging and why, and whether or not the call is urgent. At Island Health, they knew there was a better way and set out to prove it by launching the first pilot project in Canada to test an integrated smartphone application in place of pagers in a hospital setting.

### **Workplace Health Innovation**

BC Emergency Health Services, Provincial Health Services Authority – Critical Incident Stress Program

Paramedics and dispatchers experience significant occupational stress. The incidence of complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in those professions is an estimated 30 per cent compared to 6 to 9 per cent among the general public. There is also a higher incidence of suicide among first responders - both those who are working and those who have retired. BC Emergency Health Services has acted to provide better support to first responders by implementing the Critical Incident Stress (CIS) Program.

### **Collaborative Solutions**

Interior Health – The Insulin Safety Initiative

Insulin is among a group of “high-alert medications,” which carry a heightened risk of serious patient harm if used in error. Technologies and practice changes designed to reduce the risk of medication error are critical components of patient safety initiatives. Interior Health Authority's Insulin Safety Initiative (ISI) was a large collaborative, multi-stakeholder, multi-site project designed to mitigate serious medication errors involving insulin and to standardize practice in this area.



Awards of Merit were also presented in each of the four project-oriented award categories. This year's Award of Merit recipients are:

**Top Innovation – Affiliate**

- Agency for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, BC Clinical and Support Services – Test Review Committee

**Top Innovation – Health Authority**

- Facilities Maintenance and Operations, Fraser Health Authority – Ceiling Lift Program Team
- Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver Coastal Health – Surgical Site Infection Cardiac Surgery Quality Improvement Working Group

**Workplace Health Innovation**

- Fair Haven United Church Homes – Gentle Persuasive Approach Video Learning Support Tool

**Collaborative Solutions**

- Provincial Health Services Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health – Mobile Medical Unit Deployment, Downtown Eastside Overdose Crisis Response
- Victoria General Hospital, Island Health – Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic

Since the awards launched in 2007, more than 200 Gold Apples and Awards of Merit have been awarded to health employees who are improving BC's health care system and patient care.

The 2017 *BC Health Care Awards* are generously supported by Great-West Life, Healthcare Benefit Trust, and Pacific Blue Cross.

Visit [BCHealthCareAwards.ca](http://BCHealthCareAwards.ca), [Twitter.com/BCHealthAwards](https://twitter.com/BCHealthAwards), [Facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards](https://facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards) or [YouTube/BCHealthCareAwards](https://youtube.com/BCHealthCareAwards) to learn more about the 2017 awards winners.

*The Health Employers Association of British Columbia (HEABC) is the accredited bargaining agent for most publicly funded health employers in the province, representing denominational, proprietary and affiliate health employers, as well as the province's six health authorities. HEABC coordinates the labour relations interests of 230 publicly funded health care employers and negotiates five major provincial agreements covering more than 115,000 unionized health care employees.*

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