

2023 Award Winners

CSHP MERITORIOUS TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HHC Medical Mission Pharmacy Team: Brianne Nichols, Eric Arlia, Colleen Teevan, Bill Whittaker, David Girouard, Sara Shermer, Gina Christakos, Jon Blais

"I am excited to nominate the Hartford HealthCare Medical Mission Pharmacy team for this award, represented by the pharmacy leaders/planning committee listed above, but encompassing of over 100 pharmacists, technicians, and interns.

For quite some time, St. Vincent's Medical Center has run a Medical Mission at Home in Bridgeport. This mission provides healthcare services and more to the underserved community, including everything from visits with providers, mental health screening, winter coats and shoes, and pharmacy services that provide medications and vaccinations. There is a huge amount of planning and preparation in advance, culminating in a day of serving the community. In 2022, the pharmacy filled 100 prescriptions and administered nearly 150 vaccines.

In 2023, the Medical Mission at Home is expanding to all HHC regions, with 6 Mission sites across the state. The pharmacy team is preparing to fill prescriptions and administer vaccines to hundreds of patients across the state on November 4th. The planning team is working hard on medication procurement, preparing supply kits, outlining workflows, and scheduling to maximize the impact of that day. In speaking with pharmacists and technicians who have participated in the past, it is one of the most impactful and fulfilling activities they participate in."

PAUL G. PIERPAOLI AWARD

Amanda Volpe, PharmD, BCPS

Medication Safety Officer, Hartford HealthCare

I wish to nominate Amanda Volpe, PharmD, BCPS for CSHP's 2023 Paul G. Pierpaoli Award. Amanda has positively influenced the practice of pharmacy in Connecticut for over twenty-three years. She has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmacy for the University of Connecticut since August 2000 and served on the Experiential Education Advisory Board from May of 2019 through April 2021. Amanda has been a pharmacist at Saint Vincent's Medical Center since August 2000 and was instrumental in the creation and development of a wide array of clinical services including pharmacist-led interdisciplinary rounding, vancomycin dosing, renal dose-adjustment protocols, antibiotic stewardship program, automatic therapeutic interchange program (and many others). She founded the hospitals Investigational Drug Services Program and established an ASHP-accredited PGY1 pharmacy residency program.

In 2021 Amanda was selected as Hartford HealthCare's first Medication Safety Officer (MSO). Her impact in improving medication safety system-wide has been nothing short of phenomenal. Her combination of clinical expertise, operational skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships have fostered improved safety of medication-use throughout the system. Amanda has worked tirelessly in her pursuit of safety and is at ease in working with top system level administration as she is with the new nurse on the patient-care unit. She has moved the system to top decile performance in a number of areas

including bar-code medication administration and use of drug error reduction software for smart infusion pumps. Amanda maintains a focus on prevention and to that end has worked to dramatically increase the reporting of “near-miss” events in every system hospital. She then uses this information to spearhead design and implementation of medication-use system improvements that directly improve patient safety. Amanda has also developed a multidisciplinary system-wide communication strategy that highlights specific improvements resulting from near miss/error reporting. This feedback promotes additional reporting as staff can see the results of their error reporting efforts.

To summarize I believe Amanda Volpe embraces the requisite qualities envisioned when the Paul G. Pierpaoli was created. She is a person of the highest integrity who throughout her twenty-three -year career has demonstrated excellence in the practice of pharmacy."

PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Katarzyna (Kasia) Szablowski

Hartford HealthCare, Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Manager

"I am nominating Kasia for the Pharmacist of the Year award in recognition of her tireless work in advancing the profession of pharmacy in many ways, for both pharmacists and technicians.

Kasia is the Ambulatory Care Manager at Hartford Healthcare, which is a role that was newly created and she took on about a year ago. In that time, she has grown HHC's ambulatory care pharmacy services from just a handful of pharmacists to over 25 pharmacists and new positions being added multiple times per year. Patients in many specialty areas and disease states are now receiving care from a pharmacist due to Kasia's work, and they're seeing improved outcomes, such as A1c reductions.

Kasia has also been instrumental in advancing opportunities for pharmacy technicians within the state. Within HHC, she started a technician apprentice program, which allows individuals with no prior pharmacy experience to spend a month learning about and working in the role before committing to a job as a pharmacy technician. This helps to maximize resources and ensure the role is a good fit. Additionally, she has developed a PTCB prep program for technicians who are preparing for national certification. Kasia also serves as the advisor to CSHP's pharmacy technician task force. Under her guidance, they have conducted a survey (with a fantastic response rate!) to look at pharmacy technician advanced roles and opportunities, which is in the process of being written up for publication. In collaboration with the Education Committee, Kasia also led the task force in setting up a technician career panel CE and job fair. This highlighted the roles of technicians in health-systems and allowed for networking opportunities, with incredibly positive feedback. Her leadership and mentorship is essential to the strong work our technician task force is able to accomplish! She is definitely deserving of this award."