AMDA Foundation Announces 2015 QI Award Winners

Columbia, MD — The AMDA Foundation presented its 2015 Quality Improvement Awards during the AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine Annual Conference 2015, held in Louisville, KY, March 19-22. Foundation Board Chair Paul Katz, MD, CMD, presented the honors during the opening General Session on Friday, March 19.

The Quality Improvement & Health Outcomes Award (QIHO) is designed to recognize programs implemented by medical directors and care teams that have demonstrated quality improvement and enhanced the quality of life for their residents. This year, the recipient received a $1,000 award and presented his project at an educational session held during AMDA’s 2015 Annual Conference. The 2015 recipient of the AMDA Foundation Quality Improvement & Health Outcomes Award is:

- Zachary Palace, MD, CMD, Medical Director at Hebrew Home at Riverdale, Bronx, NY, for “Development of an Outpatient Transfusion Program to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations.”

The Quality Improvement (QI) Awards are designed to encourage the development of innovative projects that help make a distinct impact on the quality of post-acute/long-term care. These awards support initiatives that focus on staff education, quality improvement programs, research on interventions and treatment, and health literacy to directly enhance the quality of care provided to patients in this setting. Each recipient receives a $3,000 award and will present their project findings at AMDA’s 2016 Annual Conference. The 2015 recipients of the AMDA Foundation Quality Improvement Awards are:

- Phyllis Gaspar, PhD, RN, National Director of Research and Development for The Goodman Group (The Commons on Marice), Chaska, MN, for “Implementation of the Prevention of Avoidable Hospitalizations for Assisted Living Facilities: A Pilot Study.”
• Arif Nazir, MD, CMD, Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Medicine and Medical Director for Westpark Rehab & Nursing Facility; Gina Couch, Administrator, Westpark Rehab & Nursing Facility, Evansville, IN, for “POISe-Care: A Unique Model for Rehabilitation Patients.”

Dr. Palace lauded the value of these quality awards toward moving forward on initiatives that can improve care. He said, “Improving the quality of care to the elderly is a fundamental cornerstone of the practice of geriatric medicine. An important aspect of quality improvement involves rethinking current practices and seeking ways to bring about changes.”

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*The AMDA Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization. The Foundation’s mission is: “The AMDA Foundation advances the quality of life for persons in post-acute/long-term care (PA/LTC) through inspiring, educating and recognizing future and current health care professionals.” Visit the AMDA Foundation at [www.amdafoundation.org](http://www.amdafoundation.org).*