

N e w s R e l e a s e

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PENN STATE HERSHEY HEALTH SYSTEM SHOWCASES AWARDS AND HONORS

HERSHEY, Pa.—To recognize the achievements of faculty, staff, students, and volunteers at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine, the following list of appointments, awards and honors that may be of public interest has been compiled for the quarter of October 1 to December 31, 2011. Photos may be available upon request.

Appointments

Medical Center names new chief medical officer and new chief nursing officer

Carol Freer, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P., C.P.E., has been named the new chief medical officer for Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Freer joined Penn State Hershey in 2008 as associate professor of medicine and director of hospitalist outreach. In 2009, she became vice chair for clinical affairs in the Department of Medicine. Read more about Freer's appointment here: <http://live.psu.edu/story/57259>

Sherry Kwater, M.S.M., B.S.N., was recently named chief nursing officer for the Medical Center. She came to Penn State Hershey in August 2010 and brings more than 25 years of health care executive leadership to the role. Read more about Kwater's appointment here: <http://live.psu.edu/story/56970>

Two doctors to serve on medical society board of trustees

Two Penn State Hershey physicians have been named to the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Board of Trustees. Joseph W. Sassani, M.D., M.H.A., professor of ophthalmology and pathology, will serve a four-year term as the Surgical Specialties Trustee. Thomas J. Weida, M.D.,

professor of family and community medicine, will serve a four-year term as the society's Primary Care (Family Medicine) Trustee. The society's Board of Trustees sets policy for the organization and carries out directives from the society's House of Delegates.

Awards and Honors

Eyster receives Duke distinguished alumnus award

M. Elaine Eyster, M.D., distinguished professor of medicine and pathology at Penn State College of Medicine, received a distinguished alumnus award from the Duke Medical Alumni Association. Eyster was one of only three women to graduate in Duke's 1960 medical school class. She joined the faculty at Penn State College of Medicine in 1970, and became the college's first female division chief three years later when she was appointed to head the Division of Hematology. Her early research focused mainly on infectious complications of hemophilia patients.

Verderame elected to GREAT Group

Michael F. Verderame, associate dean for graduate studies at Penn State College of Medicine, was elected to the position of chair elect of the steering committee for the Association of American Medical College's (AAMC) Graduate Research Education And Training (GREAT) Group. For the past two years, Verderame has served on this committee -- a professional development group that provides a platform for sharing ideas on areas of interest across the research and research training missions for leaders of the biomedical doctoral, medical doctor, doctoral, and postdoctoral programs across the country.

Dillon earns Nightingale recognition

Judy Dillon, R.N., community outreach coordinator for the Department of Nursing at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, recently was awarded the 2011 Nightingale Award of Pennsylvania for Clinical Practice. Dillon has been a nurse for more than 30 years and with the Medical Center for 15 years. This prestigious award recognizes Dillon for her outstanding quality of patient care, superior nursing clinical skills, and extraordinary compassion. She exemplifies the attributes that the Nightingale Awards represents, as well as the outstanding qualities of Penn State Hershey's more than 1,400 nurses.

Medical student earns 2011 Community Service Award

Penn State Hershey's Community Service Team awarded third-year medical student Erica Bates a 2011 Community Service Award. Last year, Bates volunteered at the Farmers Market in Hershey nearly every week to provide free health screenings. She also was instrumental in establishing a program that purchased produce from local vendors each week and distributed it in communities where fresh produce is not available. Bates also played a central role in co-founding the medical student group Food As Medicine (FAM). The group's mission is to increase access to safe, nutritious foods and develop culturally relevant educational outreach.

Multimedia project receives Horizon Interactive Award

A multimedia project led by Tom Lloyd, Ph.D., professor of health evaluation sciences at Penn State College of Medicine, has won a prestigious Horizon Interactive Award. "What to Expect When You Call 911," teaches older adults about the sequence of events that takes place after calling for urgent medical help for chest pain. The video training program integrates an audience response system through which presenters can gauge participants' understanding of the consequences of calling 911. It was produced in collaboration with JPL, a media production company. Horizon Interactive Awards are judged by a panel of multimedia professionals from around the world.

Children's Miracle Network receives national honors

Children's Miracle Network at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital received two fundraising awards at the recent Children's Miracle Network conference in Orlando. The group was honored out of 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals with the 2010 Top Fundraising Award and Highest Per Capita Fundraising Award among markets with a population between 1 million and 3 million. This is the third straight year Children's Miracle Network at Children's Hospital has received these awards. Children's Miracle Network raised \$3.2 million for the Children's Hospital in 2010-11 and nearly \$41 million since the program began in 1984.

Founded in 1963 through a gift from The Milton S. Hershey Foundation, **Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center** is one of the leading teaching and research hospitals in the country. The 491-bed Medical Center is a provider of high-level, patient-focused medical care. The Medical Center campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State's medical school), Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital—the

region's only children's hospital. The Medical Center campus is part of Penn State Hershey Health System, which also includes the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Penn State Hershey Rehabilitation Hospital, and other specialty facilities.