

Teamwork accelerates improvement

The Fine Foundation, JHF distribute Fine Awards to area hospitals

Laurie Gottlieb, Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Every day, across numerous health care settings, you can find frontline staff – physicians, nurses, medical assistants, techs, quality improvement specialists and others – working together to make care safer, more reliable and less costly.

Since 2008, The Fine Foundation and Jewish Healthcare Foundation have invited regional teams to turn their hard work and data into a *Fine Award for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care* submission, to be acknowledged for their excellence and dedication to delivering the best possible care, raise awareness of the need for organizational commitment to patient safety and quality, and to inspire others to increase their efforts to improve patient care.

The most recent *Fine Award for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care* recognized health care teams that elevated the level of care and disseminated their best practices beyond a single unit or department on one or both of two key quality measures: infection control and pain management.

According to the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prevalence survey, about one in 25 hospitalized patients gets a health care-associated infection (HAI), which can be mild to devastating, with about 75,000 hospital patients with infections dying each year as a result.

“The recent Ebola outbreak in Africa, and isolated cases in the U.S.,” noted JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, “has raised public awareness of the need to control infection, but this certainly is not a new issue – health care-associated infections (HAIs) have been a major threat to patient safety since there was health care.

“We do, however, know that most HAIs can be prevented through strict adherence to evidence-based practices – JHF’s Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (a regional health improvement collaborative that is an operating arm of the Foundation) has demonstrated that quite successfully in a number of settings. Progress has been made in HAI prevention; but, as the CDC statistics show, there is still much room for improvement.”

The second area of focus, pain management, was selected because of the ubiquity of pain. One in four Americans lives with pain, some only for brief periods (e.g., following injury or around surgery), some chronically. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports that 100 million Americans suffer from chronic pain. “The prevalence of chronic pain,” notes the IOM report, “is growing and likely to continue to do so.”

“Infection control,” noted Mr. Fine in his opening remarks at the Nov. 21 Award ceremony, “prevents unnecessary pain, expense, and death. Pain management relieves suffering, and it gives patients hope and a greater measure of control of their lives. Both

processes relieve the anguish of patients’ families and caregivers.

“Working together with the energy, the creativity, and the enthusiasm that we celebrate through the *Fine Award for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care*, we can reach clarity, sanity and effectiveness in our health care. The values that drive your work will inspire others; and your leadership will move us toward a better health care system.”

2014 Fine Award for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care recipients include:

Platinum Award

- **AHN Allegheny Valley Hospital** – Eliminating Hospital-Acquired Clostridium Difficile

- **VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System** – Regional Anesthesia and Pain Prevention for Joint Replacement

This is the third Fine Award that VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System has earned.

Gold Award

- **St. Clair Hospital** – Surgical Site Infection Prevention

This is the third Fine Award that St. Clair Hospital has earned.

Silver Award

- **Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC** – Creating a Culture of Excellence in Central Line Care

Bronze Award

- **Allegheny Health Network’s Saint Vincent Hospital** – Improving Safe Use of Opioid Therapy



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY THE JEWISH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Members of the AHN Allegheny Valley Hospital team accept their Platinum Award. At far right are Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, JHF president and CEO; Sheila Fine; and Milton Fine, chairman of the Fine Foundation.



Members of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System team accept their Platinum Award. At far right are Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, JHF president and CEO; Sheila Fine; and Milton Fine, chairman of the Fine Foundation.

Other 2014 Fine Award finalists included AHN Forbes Hospital, Excelsa Health, The Bone and Joint Center-Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC, UPMC McKeesport, and UPMC St. Margaret.

Visit the JHF website, jhf.org, to view videos for each of the 2014 winners, as well as videos for past recip-

ients of the *Fine Award for Teamwork Excellence in Health Care*.

Laurie Gottlieb is chief communications officer for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is a grantmaking foundation with two operating arms: the Pittsburgh Region-

al Health Initiative and Health Careers Futures.

Through research, education and training, grantmaking, program management, and project execution, they work to move our region and nation to patient care that is as perfect as possible in decision making, execution, and outcome.