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JEFFERSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER AND UPMC SHADYSIDE HOSPITAL TIE FOR 2010 GOLD FINE AWARD
Six Local Healthcare Teams Honored for their Commitment to Quality and Excellence in Patient Care

PITTSBURGH — NOVEMBER 18, 2010 —Six local medical teams were recipients of the third annual ***Fine Awards for Teamwork Excellence in Healthcare*** during a reception at the August Wilson Cultural Center Thursday evening. Sponsored by The Fine Foundation and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), the Fine awards were established to reinforce the critical role teamwork plays in healthcare.

“For decades, hospitals were places to be avoided because of medical mistakes, infections and other misfortunes,” said Milton Fine, president and CEO of The Fine Foundation. “Now we find that healthcare professionals are taking the lead in making the system better, safer, more economical and more patient-oriented. And whereas in the past, crusading individuals were the drivers behind reform, today we see teams of healthcare professionals creating many of these significant improvements.”

A distinguished national selection committee was commissioned to review nearly 40 applications and select three winners. However, a cluster of six teams stood out for their outstanding projects.

“This was an unusually excellent year for our region’s healthcare teams. Our race for Gold, Silver and Bronze was so close that, when the results were tallied we had a tie for Gold,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein, president and CEO of JHF. “To add to our surprise, after we finalized our top winners we still had two teams that ranked close behind. They had received special mention from the judges for their unique contribution. So, we decided to honor those two teams with special recognition awards.”

The first ***Gold Award*** went to a team from ***Jefferson Regional Medical Center for “Eliminating Ventilator Associated Pneumonia in the ICU.”*** Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) is a significant clinical problem that can extend a patient’s length of stay and increase mortality and morbidity. A VAP Swat Team developed a standardized protocol for the treatment of all ventilated patients. The unit hasn’t had a VAP incident since the first quarter of 2009. Team members will share a \$25,000 reward. Jefferson Regional Medical Center will receive \$5,000 for its support.

The second ***Gold Award*** went to a team from ***UPMC Shadyside Hospital for “Breathe in, Breathe out, Off Mechanical Ventilation and Out of the Intensive Care Unit.”*** Research shows that the longer a patient is on a ventilator the higher the risk for complications. A multi-disciplinary team facilitated earlier weaning trials and extubation for patients on ventilators by establishing a protocol that enabled nurses to use a screening tool to determine if patients were ready to be weaned. Ventilator days have decreased 47 percent and length of stay has decreased 24 percent. Team members will share a \$25,000 reward. UPMC Shadyside Hospital will receive \$5,000 for its support.

The ***Silver Award*** went to a team from ***UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside for “VTE: Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Project.”*** Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) is a disease that includes both deep vein thrombosis

(DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). An interdisciplinary team implemented a VTE prevention project and utilized the “Plan, Do, Study, Act” Model to improve prophylactic care and provide patients with better discharge instructions. Team members will share a \$20,000 award.

The **Bronze Award** went to a team from **UPMC Physician Services Division for “Patient Quality Outreach.”** A multi-disciplinary team designed an efficient and cost-effective way to contact chronic disease patients that had not been in the office for six months and did not have a future appointment scheduled. Team members will share a \$15,000 award.

The two **Special Recognition Awards** were given to a team from **Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC for “How Simulation and Practice Led to Safely Transporting 152 Acute and Critically Ill Children across an Urban Landscape,”** and a team from **St. Clair Hospital for “Standardization of Anticoagulation Processes.”**

“We had a special group of applicants this year, a testament to the world-class healthcare teams that the Fine Awards inspire,” said Feinstein. “All of our winning projects are models of excellence. They prove that health reform’s promise—safe, higher quality, higher value healthcare for all American—is attainable.”

Each of the winning projects has been turned into a “Teachable Moment,” a short video produced and developed by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, a supporting organization of the JHF, to help spread best practices in quality improvement. The videos will be distributed to nearly 1,000 healthcare quality leaders in the United States, Canada and Israel. The projects will also be featured on Tomorrow’s HealthCare™, JHF’s new web-based quality improvement tool designed to address the challenge of moving healthcare organizations to meet quality, safety and efficiency targets.

“Our hope is that we can take the lessons that each of these teams learned and share them with healthcare professionals around the globe... setting a new standard of leadership, dissemination and sustainability,” said Feinstein. The Teachable Moments featuring this year’s Fine Awards winners, as well previous winners, can be viewed at www.prhi.org.

About the Jewish Healthcare Foundation

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is a nonprofit, public charity established in 1990 with proceeds from the sale of Montefiore Hospital. The Foundation’s mission is to support and foster the provision of healthcare services, healthcare education and medical and scientific research, and to respond to the medical, custodial and other health-related needs of elderly, underprivileged and underserved populations in the Jewish community and throughout Western Pennsylvania. JHF is a unique institution with a highly trained staff and two supporting organizations whose activities directly advance its mission. It has become a leading national voice in safety, quality and workforce issues. For more information, visit www.jhf.org.

About The Fine Foundation

The Fine Foundation is a Pittsburgh-based family foundation established in 2007 by Milton and Sheila Fine. The Foundation is interested in projects that make a difference in peoples’ lives; are a good investment in the short and long term; and have an impact in four areas of interest — the visual arts, science and medicine, Jewish life, and the enrichment of the Pittsburgh region. Mr. Fine believes that those who have created wealth have a unique opportunity to give back to society. To that end he created The Fine Foundation with proceeds from the 1998 sale of Interstate Hotels Corporation (IHC), the largest independent hotel management company in the United States. Mr. Fine has endowed the Foundation not only financially, but also with the ideals and beliefs that have guided him throughout his life and into his business success.

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Available for Interviews: Karen Wolk Feinstein, President and CEO, JHF
Fine Award Winners upon Request