



# Media Release

March 23, 2021

## 2020 BC Health Care Awards recipients announced

VANCOUVER – Recipients of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual BC Health Care Awards were announced today in a [pre-recorded video awards presentation](#). Six Gold Apple and seven Award of Merit recipients are being honoured.

Presented by the Health Employers Association of British Columbia (HEABC), the BC Health Care Awards recognize individuals and teams who work to ensure that BC's health care system remains among the best in the world, by providing outstanding care or contributing to improved practices. Awards are given in six categories to projects improving health care delivery through innovative and collaborative approaches and to people making a positive impact and inspiring those around them.



### 2020 Gold Apple recipients

#### Health Care Hero

Linda Warner, Clinical Research Manager, BC Children's Hospital, Provincial Health Services Authority

Linda Warner is a champion and advocate for those in need in her own community and abroad. A humanitarian at heart, Linda believes in effective health care for everyone, everywhere. In addition to her work in BC, she has volunteered with charities in marginalized communities devastated by destruction and poverty, including Dominican Republic, Mexico, Haiti and Tanzania. Her crowning achievements include volunteering as a pediatric nurse in Haiti with Rose Charities, a Canadian charity helping people overcome poverty through education, community support and health care, and working to improve growth and development among children, especially with regards to improved immune systems, as Clinical Research Coordinator for the national CHILD Study.

#### Outstanding Health Care Volunteer **\*NEW category\***

Joe Wittkofski, Volunteer, Nanaimo Travellers Lodge Society o/a Eden Gardens

Joe Wittkofski is a retired photographer/videographer who has captured the hearts of Eden Gardens residents and their family members for the past five years by volunteering his talents to brighten up and the care home and record special events that can then be shared with loved ones who are not always able to attend in-person. His 'joie de vivre,' sense of adventure and spontaneous nature has captured many hearts and smiles, and enriched the lives of residents, resulting in laughter, joy and happier days at the care home.

## **Dianna Mah-Jones Award of Excellence in Person-Centred Care**

### **Scholar in Residence Program of Research: Mobilizing Person-Centred Care and Patient-Oriented Research in Mental Health and Substance Use**

Island Health

Island Health's Scholar in Residence (SIR) program is building the organization's research capacity by engaging patients as partners to answer the health care questions that matter to them, with the broader aim of improving health systems. With overdose deaths at crisis levels across the province, Dr. Bernadette Pauly and the SIR program team are working with people with lived experience to learn how best to reduce stigma so people feel safer and more willing to access care and services when they need it the most.

## **Top Innovation**

### **Open Heart Surgery Surgical Site Infection Program**

Island Health

The rate for open heart surgery wound infections in Island Health was well above the average in Canada, resulting in patient care concerns and costing the organization \$900,000 dollars per year. Recognizing that improvements were needed, the multidisciplinary Open Heart Surgery Surgical Site Infection (OHS SSI) Prevention and Reduction program was created. The work of the OHS SSI program has resulted in a significant reduction in infection rates and has reduced organizational costs by \$500,000 per year. Patient experience has improved significantly, decreasing the length of hospital stays and restoring confidence for future patients.

## **Workplace Health Innovation**

### **Mindfulness for Psychological Health Study**

Fraser Health

Mindfulness training is one of the ways Fraser Health is creating a workplace where team members are supported in taking care of their personal psychological health and well-being. An organization wide mindfulness study was created to find out whether practicing mindfulness had a direct impact on work performance, engagement and well-being. Participants from the study showed improvements in well-being, engagement, job satisfaction, performance and reported reduced feelings of job "burnout." Some participants reported feeling ongoing increased engagement with their work, a clear indication of the lasting impact mindfulness has on employee wellbeing.

## **Collaborative Solutions**

### **'One' System of ECLS Care – Partnering To Save Lives in BC**

Vancouver Coastal Health

'ECMO,' or Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, is a collaborative program developed by 42 health partners from more than 10 organizations that is resulting in better care and outcomes for patients with significant heart or lung conditions. ECMO is an advanced form of life support that pumps and oxygenates blood outside the body so a patient's heart and lungs can rest while they transition to other lifesaving devices, or potentially wait to receive transplants. It is a safer alternative to using a ventilator, which can lead to permanent damaging effects and even death. This collaboration has resulted in the creation of effective new clinical protocols and patient management pathways that are holistic and address all the steps in a patient's journey, from survival to safety to quality of life.

## **Award of Merit recipients:**

### **Health Care Hero**

- Dr. Richard Merchant, Royal Columbian Hospital, Fraser Health
- Suzanne Lehbauer, Executive Director, Castlegar Hospice Society, Interior Health

### **Outstanding Health Care Volunteer**

- Doug Morris, Leadership Volunteer, Medical Imaging, Victoria General Hospital, Island Health

### **Dianna Mah-Jones Award of Excellence in Person-Centred Care**

- Intensive Care Unit Patient & Family Advisory Council, Royal Inland Hospital, Interior Health

### **Top Innovation**

- Emergency Relocation and Receiving Guide, Northern Health

### **Workplace Health Innovation**

- Investigation into the Cleaning Methods of Smartphones and Wearables from Infectious Contamination in a Patient Care Environment (I-SWIPE), Royal Jubilee Hospital, Island Health

### **Collaborative Solutions**

- Emergency Network - Model of Care, Fraser Health

The 2020 BC Health Care Awards are generously sponsored by Healthcare Benefit Trust, Pacific Blue Cross, Roper Greyell, George & Bell, Boyden Global Executive Search and Doctors of BC.

Visit [BCHealthCareAwards.ca](http://BCHealthCareAwards.ca), [Twitter.com/BCHealthAwards](https://twitter.com/BCHealthAwards), [Facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards](https://facebook.com/BCHealthCareAwards) or [YouTube/BCHealthCareAwards](https://youtube.com/BCHealthCareAwards) to learn more about the 2020 award winners.

*The Health Employers Association of British Columbia (HEABC) is the accredited bargaining agent for most publicly funded health employers in the province, representing denominational, proprietary and affiliate health employers, as well as the province's six health authorities. HEABC coordinates the labour relations interests of more than 200 publicly funded health care employers and negotiates six major provincial agreements covering more than 138,000 unionized health care employees.*

### **Media contact**

Roy Thorpe-Dorward  
HEABC Communications  
604.767.2307 or [Roy.Thorpe-Dorward@heabc.bc.ca](mailto:Roy.Thorpe-Dorward@heabc.bc.ca)