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2014 Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award® Finalists Announced
Award recipient to be announced at annual dinner on November 20

Boston, MA (October 23, 2014) – The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a patient-founded nonprofit dedicated to nurturing patient and caregiver relationships to strengthen the human connection at the heart of healthcare, has selected five finalists for its prestigious Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award®. The 2014 award recipient will be announced on Thursday, November 20, during the 19th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center before an audience of more than 2,000 healthcare leaders, practicing clinicians, patients and family members.

The award was established in 1999 to recognize healthcare providers who demonstrate extraordinary compassion in caring for patients and families. The finalists were chosen by a review committee based on how well they embody the characteristics of compassionate care, which include effective communication and emotional support, mutual trust and respect, involving patients and families in healthcare decisions, and treating patients as people, not just illnesses. The 2014 finalists are:

- **Scot Bateman, MD, of UMass Memorial Children’s Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts**, director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit where he cares for seriously ill children and young adults. A colleague said of Bateman, “I would often see him sitting with families and listening even when he was not the physician on service. He brings a sense of solidarity and comfort to families experiencing the worst moments of their lives.”
- **Cranberry Hospice & Palliative Care Team at Beth Israel Deaconess-Plymouth in Plymouth, Massachusetts**, which provides hospice and palliative care to patients and families in their own home or any other place they call home. “The Cranberry Hospice team goes to some pretty unusual and challenging places at all times of day and night, and in any kind of weather. They represent the best in how humans help others in need,” said a colleague.
- **Deborah Ferretti, MS, APRN, of The Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain, Connecticut**, a nurse practitioner on the Wolfson Palliative Care Team who provides care and works with patients and their families to make end-of-life decisions. “As a colleague and a caregiver, she is exemplary, skilled and tireless in her commitment to patients and their families,” said a co-worker. “She is a great colleague because she helps us all be better caregivers.”

- **Thea James, MD, of Boston Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts**, an emergency medicine physician dedicated to reducing community violence and healthcare disparities among vulnerable populations. “She has a natural ability to normalize events for people in crisis, and provide a safe environment free of judgment, shame and fear,” said a colleague. “It is this very environment that cultivates hope and promotes the physical, mental and spiritual wellness of our patients.”
- **Kathryn Pratt, RN, BSN, of Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven in New Haven, Connecticut**, a nurse coordinator in the stem cell transplant unit who works with cancer patients undergoing autologous transplant. “Kathryn gives patients confidence in their decisions to move forward with transplant and provides the connection and support they need during this very scary time,” said a colleague.

The award recipient will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, and the four finalists will receive \$1,000 each.

Chairing this year’s Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner are: **John Fernandez**, President and CEO, Massachusetts Eye and Ear; **Sharon McNally**, Chief of Staff, Connors Family Office; **Kimberly A. Smith**, Managing Director, Witt/Kieffer; and **Robert G. Urban**, PhD, Head, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Boston.

More information about the dinner is available on the Schwartz Center’s website, www.theschwartzcenter.org.

The Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award is made possible through the generous support of Johnson & Johnson and Novo Nordisk.

About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare (www.theschwartzcenter.org) is a patient-founded nonprofit dedicated to nurturing patient and caregiver relationships to strengthen the human connection at the heart of healthcare. The Schwartz Center was founded in 1995 by Ken Schwartz, a Boston healthcare attorney who died of lung cancer at the age of 40 and found that what mattered most was the compassionate care he received from his caregivers. He established the Schwartz Center just days before his death to ensure that all patients and families receive compassionate care.

The Center’s signature program is the Schwartz Center Rounds®, which has been adopted by more than 400 hospitals and other healthcare organizations in the U.S., U.K. and Canada. The program provides an opportunity for caregivers to come together on a regular basis to discuss the most difficult emotional and social issues they face in caring for patients. It has been found to enhance compassionate care, improve teamwork, and reduce caregiver stress and isolation. In addition to the Schwartz Center Rounds program, the Center develops and funds other innovative programs, recognizes and honors outstanding caregivers, and works to make compassionate care a national healthcare priority.

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