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## **Schwartz Center Announces Compassionate Caregiver Award Finalists** *Award recipient to be announced at annual dinner November 8<sup>th</sup>*

**Boston, MA (October 17, 2012)** – The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the relationship between patients and their healthcare providers, has selected five finalists for its prestigious Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award<sup>®</sup>. The award recipient will be announced on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner at the Boston Convention Center before an audience of more than 2,000 people.

The award was established in 1999 to honor healthcare providers who display 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, including 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 2012 finalists are:

- **Konstantin Dragnev, MD, of Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire**, a medical oncologist who cares for patients with advanced lung cancer. Dragnev is known as a role model for other physicians because of his genuine, caring nature and his extraordinary ability to communicate with patients. "I have a dialogue with patients, not a monologue," he says.
- **Mary Harris, RN, CRRN, of Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut**, best known for introducing the concepts of palliative care to staff in the coronary intensive care unit. "Generations of physicians have undoubtedly learned much of what they know about caring for dying patients because of a nurse hero they will remember for the rest of their lives," says a colleague.
- **Kimberly Kelley, RN, MSN, of MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham, Massachusetts**, the nursing director for six nursing departments who always remembers that patients are at the heart of healthcare. A colleague notes instances when "it would have been easier for her to stand at the door and say hello and move on, but she chooses to enter patients' rooms and listen to their stories."

- **Mark Puder, MD, PhD, of Boston Children’s Hospital**, a surgeon and researcher who cares for children with life-threatening liver disease. “Dr. Puder delights in his patients and finds something special in them each day,” says a colleague. “He talks to the parents and loves to tell them how smart their baby is and how well they are doing as parents. He gives families hope when they need it most.”
- **John Zawacki, MD, of UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester**, a gastroenterologist who cares for patients with Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis and irritable bowel syndrome. Says a patient, “He is a compassionate man who gives tirelessly of himself and is an optimist for both of us. He has never given up on me, and I honor him as a guardian angel on earth.”

This year’s 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: **Edward Bond, Jr.**, CEO of BOND; **Jeanette Clough**, president and CEO of Mount Auburn Hospital; **Robert Coughlin**, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council; **Keith Pitts**, vice chairman of Vanguard Health Systems; and, **John Scroope**, vice president of CNA. More information about the dinner is available on the Schwartz Center’s website, [www.theschwartzcenter.org](http://www.theschwartzcenter.org).

The Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award is made possible through the generous support of Genzyme, A Sanofi Company, and Sanofi Oncology.

*The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare ([www.theschwartzcenter.org](http://www.theschwartzcenter.org)) 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 to him most as a patient 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 Schwartz Center Rounds®, which has been adopted by hundreds of hospitals and other healthcare institutions across the country. 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 Rounds, the Schwartz Center develops and funds other innovative programs, recognizes and honors outstanding caregivers, and supports policies that promote and advance compassionate healthcare.*

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