



KH's Paula Guild receives Palmetto APIC Horizon Lifetime Achievement Award

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The Palmetto Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC Palmetto) recently presented KershawHealth Director of Infection Control and Prevention Paula Guild, MN, RN, CIC, with its Horizon Lifetime Achievement Award.

APIC Palmetto is part of an international association dedicated to creating a safer world improving the practice and management of infection prevention, control, and epidemiology.

The award recognizes Guild's commitment to the group's mission and her ongoing dedication of time, resources, leadership and vision to APIC Palmetto. Guild is APIC Palmetto's outgoing president and was named its 2010 Infection Preventionist of the Year.

"Paula Guild raises the bar for all infection preventionists in the state," Greer Medical Center Infection Preventionist Jan Lienau, who chaired the award committee, said. "Her organization, vision, professionalism, and leadership serves as a mentor to others. She devotes her time and knowledge tirelessly to the field. We are honored to have her in APIC Palmetto."

Infection preventionists -- who work not only in hospitals but in long-term, ambulatory and home care settings, as well as public health and emergency preparedness -- are experts in

reducing the risk of infections and related adverse outcomes for patients, visitors, volunteers, employees and healthcare workers.

One of Guild's most significant accomplishments has been reaching new audiences for the group by building innovative relationships with nursing schools in South Carolina to bring awareness of infection control and promote it as a career choice for nurses.

Lienau said due to the magnitude of this lifetime achievement, there are many years in which the award is not presented. She said Guild has led the chapter with high expectations and brought growth and a new awareness of the field, both to medical professionals and to the general public.

"Paula is the most dedicated and hardest working person I have ever worked with," KershawHealth Infection Control Advisor Dr. Karl Kearse said. "The hospital is lucky to have her working for the hospital and doctors."

Greenville Health System Infection Preventionist Kyle Puckett, nominated Guild, saying "you make me want to work harder to do better."

Guild received the award during Infection Prevention Week, which recognizes how dedicated healthcare professionals across the state of South Carolina are committed to reducing the risk of healthcare-associated infections and safeguarding the safety of patients and healthcare providers. With its 2015 theme of "Spread the Word, Not Germs," Infection Prevention Week helps raise awareness of the importance of hand hygiene for healthcare workers, patients, and the public, while recognizing the important contributions of infection preventionists.

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