



Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's 2008 Champions in Women's Health Award Winners

Alcohol/Smoking Cessation

Julie Wallace, BS, CHES, Marshfield, WI

Julie Wallace is a health educator at Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc. (Marshfield), with over seven years experience addressing tobacco use within Security Health Plan's membership. Ms. Wallace has experience with phone-based tobacco cessation counseling, health care provider education and, most recently, leading the implementation of full coverage for all FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications. Julie coordinates quality improvement initiatives for the Health Plan's BadgerCare Plus program and works with Security Health Plan insured businesses to support employer wellness program development. Julie has a bachelor's degree in community health education from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and is a certified health education specialist.

Breast Cancer

Melodie Wilson Oldenburg, BA, West Allis - *Achievement in the Area of Breast Cancer*

In 1992, as a well-known Milwaukee-area television news anchor, Melodie Wilson Oldenburg was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her breast cancer journey led her, with the help of other breast cancer survivors, to found ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, a private non-profit organization that provides free, personalized information and one-to-one support to women with breast cancer. Since ABCD's inception in 1999, the organization has reached over 3,000 women, and has trained more than 230 mentors who provide phone support, information on local and national resources, and comfort to those diagnosed with breast cancer. As a direct result of Ms. Wilson Oldenburg's leadership, ABCD now serves newly-diagnosed women in the Fox Valley, Green Bay, Kenosha and Racine, as well as the Milwaukee area. She has also intensified efforts to help African American, Native American and Hispanic women face the challenge of breast cancer with the support of a mentor. Ms. Wilson Oldenburg was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in her lungs, an incurable form of the disease in the summer of 2007. She began chemotherapy in June, and continues her demanding schedule of 25-30 talks a year about breast cancer, and the need for patients to be engaged in their own care.

Bonnie Anderson, LPN, Milwaukee - *Advocacy in the Area of Breast Cancer*

Bonnie Anderson was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993. Understanding how fortunate she was with her particular breast cancer journey, she realized that so many women had far greater challenges than she had experienced. After involving herself in an African American Support Group, she began mentoring women as soon as she completed her cancer treatment. Honored with the Survivor Advocate Award from the National Breast Cancer Coalition in 2007, Ms. Anderson continues to facilitate breast health programs throughout Milwaukee at area churches, low income project housing and drug and rehab facilities. She is employed at Milwaukee Catholic Home as Adult Day Program Manager, and also serves as a consultant for Froedtert Hospital's Community Education Breast Care Program.

Domestic Abuse

Jill Poarch, RN, BSN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Madison - *Achievement in the Area of Domestic Abuse*

Jill Poarch is the Program Coordinator of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at Meriter Hospital, the only program of its kind in Dane County that ensures professional and sensitive examination of patients after a sexual assault. For the past 15 years as a SANE nurse, Ms. Poarch has directly served over 1,000 victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse with professionalism and compassion. Her incredible dedication to educating local law enforcement, criminal justice personnel, University faculty, staff and students, and the general public on the issues of violence against women and the critical role that a forensic examination can have in successful prosecution has made the SANE program an outstanding model for similar programs across the state. Ms. Poarch's presence on a number of boards, including the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA), and as President of the WI Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses has furthered her accomplishments in the area of domestic abuse.

Arline Hillestad, BS, Wisconsin Rapids - *Advocacy in the Area of Domestic Abuse*

A graduate of the University of Maine, Arline Hillestad came to Wisconsin in 1973 and has worked in the area of domestic abuse for the past three decades. As Executive Director of the Family Center for the past 24 years, Ms. Hillestad has been actively involved in developing and implementing family-centered services to meet the complex needs of domestic abuse victims and their families as a whole. These services include outreach in school systems for children affected by domestic abuse, rural outreach, pet safety services, visitation/exchange centers as well as specialized services for older victims and Hmong. Appointed to the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence in 1989, Arline has been active on the Council's Budget Committee, and the Access Committee which works to reach and serve diverse, underserved populations. She has also served as co-chair of the Governor's Council for the past six years.

General Women's Health

Michele Geiger-Bronsky, MSN, RN, Bailey's Harbor

Wisconsin-native Michele Geiger-Bronsky is a board certified Family Nurse Practitioner who co-founded the Wellness Center of Door County, Inc. in 2003 to fill a need for women's health services in rural Door County. Her 35 year nursing career encompasses a number of special interests including areas such as asthma, tobacco cessation, and promoting the empowerment of women across their lifespan. Under her direction, the Wellness Center has treated more than 2,000 patients, providing counseling and referrals to other related services that treat the "whole person". Ms. Geiger-Bronsky's passion for reproductive health care remains a focal point in the services provided at the Wellness Center and within community schools. She has completed Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training and ensures that the communities of Door and Kewaunee County have a safe, supportive and secure process for the collection of forensic evidence. Ms. Geiger-Bronsky is a strong advocate for all victims and underserved populations and is a positive voice for women's health issues.

Mental Health

Lila J. Connolly, MSED, APSW, Superior

A native of Duluth, Minnesota, Lila Connolly received her BS in History and Masters of Science in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern California. Over her 29-year career in human services, Ms. Connolly has worked with many client populations including persons who are developmentally disabled, have mental illness, are chemically dependent, and children and families facing abuse and neglect. She spent nine years working at the Los Angeles County jail screening inmates for developmental disabilities and connecting them to the resources they needed. Her most recent work with the Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services has allowed Ms. Connolly to remove barriers and increase successful outcomes for women who go through the chemical dependency treatment process. As part of providing case management, Ms. Connolly has focused on connecting women with community resources, and improving their access to health care. Her primary focus is to help women identify and achieve personal goals, and improve their quality of life.

Parish Nursing

Carol Lueders Bolwerk, RN, PhD, Mequon - *Achievement in Parish Nursing*

Dr. Carol Lueders Bolwerk is the Director of the Parish Nurse program and the BSN Completion program at Concordia University Wisconsin. She holds a Masters in Nursing from Marquette University, a Certificate in Women's Studies from UW- Milwaukee, and a PhD from UW-Milwaukee. Dr. Lueders Bolwerk's background in critical care nursing, cross-cultural nursing, wellness assessment, nursing research, women's health, and parish nursing are just some facets that enrich her role as a nurse educator. She has led workshops across the country supporting nurses in parish nursing, offers herself as a mentor to parish nurses via distance learning, and has conducted several research projects on parish nursing. Dr. Lueders Bolwerk has also developed materials to help nurses serve their churches. She is one of 35 parish nurses involved in the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's GrapeVine Project, a program that trains parish nurses to provide health information and resources to rural women.

Rural Women's Health

Rhonda Strebel, BS, Shawano

Rhonda Strebel is Executive Director of the Shawano County Rural Health Initiative, whose work the past 5 years has helped improve the health and safety of the Shawano farming community. Raised on a dairy farm near Cecil, WI, Ms. Strebel makes house calls to farm families in Shawano County, providing free health assessments, information about free and low-cost social services, and referrals to other types of important programs dealing with financial support and other issues critical to farmers. Ms. Strebel serves her community by volunteering her time on steering committees for Healthy Shawano County (2010 Initiative) and Shawano Area Dairy Promotions. She also holds a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management, and is a chef.

Lifetime Achievement in Women's Health

John R. Milbrath, MD, FACR, Milwaukee

Dr. John Milbrath is a pioneer in the area of breast cancer prevention, detection and treatment.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Dr. Milbrath is one of only seven radiologists trained in mammographic interpretation funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the mid-1970's and has continued to cement himself as a prominent breast cancer diagnostician, serving as President of the Wisconsin Division Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society from 1997 to 1998.

Since the inception of the City of Milwaukee's Mobile Care Unit in 1990, Dr. Milbrath has volunteered to read over 100,000 films for approximately 25,000 clients. His work to provide services to women otherwise unable to receive mammograms due to lack of health insurance and financial resources has earned him much respect in the Milwaukee community. In 1991, Mayor John O. Norquist declared August 15 "Dr. John Milbrath Day" in the City of Milwaukee, and in 1992, Dr. Milbrath was awarded the 538th "Point of Light" award by President George H. Bush for his volunteerism.

Dr. Milbrath founded the Breast Diagnostic Clinic, S.C. in Waukesha in 1983, the first private breast cancer detection program in Wisconsin. He continues to work at the clinic, touching the lives of countless Wisconsin women.