



Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's 2009 Champions in Women's Health Award Winners

Excellence in the area of Cancer

Colette Salm-Schmid, MD, Green Bay

Given roots and wings by parents, Jeanne and Mike Salm, and seven brothers and sisters that surrounded her with laughter and love, Dr. Colette Salm-Schmid, MD, FACS became a passionate leader who inspires all she comes in contact with, while using her passion and drive to influence and execute positive changes in the cancer landscape. She is both a leader in quality cancer care and a role model for others. Her leadership includes being elected as the chair of the Wisconsin Cancer Council for 2009; the NCI funded Comprehensive Cancer Control Program for Wisconsin; and having been honored with an American College of Surgeon's National Physician Liaison Outstanding Performance Award in 2008. With the encouragement supplied by a supportive husband, Derek, and spirited children, Blaine and Sammy, she is a practicing fellowship trained breast surgeon at Aurora Comprehensive Breast Center at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay. Using a team approach with an exceptional, energetic staff, she has been able to maintain national top quartile Press Ganey patient satisfaction scores. Her vision is shown in her participation of a pilot program for a national breast center accreditation and then recently was one of the very first breast centers in the country to receive full accreditation.

Excellence in the area of Cardiovascular Disease

Denise Mitton, RN, Level One Heart Attack Program Coordinator, Madison

As the Level One Heart Attack Program Coordinator at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, Denise Mitton (pronounced ma-THAN), RN was a pioneer in developing the Dean & St. Mary's Level One Heart Attack Program. The idea of Level One (which measures success by the time of arrival at a hospital until balloon angioplasty clears a blocked artery) is that referring hospitals and all professionals in the chain of care eliminate unnecessary repetition and delays that can mean the difference between life and death for patients suffering heart attacks. Since implementation, St. Mary's performance for local patients more than surpasses national standards. Denise also actively seeks opportunities to educate women and health professionals about the atypical signs and symptoms that women experience during a heart attack. Denise is a skilled health care provider, a mission-driven leader, and a passionate advocate for heart health.

Excellence in the area of Domestic Abuse

Leslie Myers, MS, CRC, CDVC, Domestic Violence Specialist, Milwaukee

As a Domestic Violence Specialist at IndependenceFirst, Leslie Myers, MS, CRC, CDVC has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women with disabilities who experience violence and abuse. In addition to providing counseling and advocacy to hundreds of women who have been abused, Leslie has worked with domestic violence agencies in metro Milwaukee to make their facilities accessible to people with disabilities. Today, five area shelters that were previously inaccessible offer shelter and services to women and children with disabilities. Leslie has authored several manuals and provides workshops and trainings in a variety of settings. She was awarded the 2006 Justice Award from the Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse, and 2007 IL Advocate Award from the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers. Leslie holds a MS in Educational Rehabilitation Counseling and a Trauma Counseling Certificate from the UW-Milwaukee and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Certified Domestic Violence Counselor.

Rising Star in the area of Domestic Abuse

Katie Weiss, Community Advocate, Menasha

Katie Weiss is a community advocate working with sexual abuse victims and serving as a community educator and advocate for the safety of women and children in Winnebago County. Katie works with schools to educate the staff and children in recognizing and preventing abuse. She has written grants that have helped to develop an outreach for teens, which included a theatrical performance on date rape and other pertinent teen topics. Katie has been involved in setting up college campus programs at local colleges. Katie also serves as an advocate and support for women who are abused. She assists women through the evidence-based gathering and physical evaluation in the emergency room following an abusive incident. Katie is currently enrolled in a Master's program in family counseling at UW-Oshkosh.

Excellence in the area of General Women's Health

Diane S. Postler-Slattery, RN, PhD, FACHE, President & COO-Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Wausau

Diane Postler-Slattery, PhD, President & COO at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, is concerned about women's health; about family health. Under her leadership, Aspirus Wausau Hospital created a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, now caring for sick newborns and premature babies in her community so they don't need to be transferred far away. She also has spearheaded the creation of The Breast Health Center that features a warm environment where women feel cared for and comfortable. She is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Diane is also the Wisconsin Hospital Association Public Policy Chair, past President of the Wausau Child Care Board, past President of United Way of Marathon County, Performing Arts Foundation Board Member and Fund Drive co-Chair, Rotary Member, Central Wisconsin Progress Board Member, and Wisconsin Manufacturing Commerce Board Member. She was the 2008 Athena Award Recipient, and a past Women of Vision Award recipient. She enjoys spending time with her husband and three children. Diane received her Doctorate Degree in Education Administration from the UW-Madison, and her Master's Degree in Nursing Administration from the UW-Eau Claire.

Excellence in the area of Mental Health

Luann Simpson, MSW, CAPSW, Consumer Advocacy Team Program Coordinator, Racine

As Consumer Advocacy Team Program Coordinator, Luann Simpson, MSW, CAPSW, advocates on behalf of mental health consumers and their families on all levels of advocacy (legislative, systems, one-on-one) and promotes self-advocacy through education and empowerment. In addition, she's a positive role model for persons when they are in the inpatient unit of the hospital because she herself is a mental health consumer in recovery, living with Bipolar Disorder. Luann has worked in a variety of health care settings, including inpatient mental health and Hospice. Luann is a support group facilitator and peer educator for NAMI-Racine. She is the recipient of the NAMI-Wisconsin Outstanding Consumer Award (2001) and the Gateway Technical College C.L. Greiber Award (2005). Luann is an active member of the statewide Recovery Implementation Task Force, the Inpatient Recovery Task Force, the Racine County Human Development Committee, the WFHC All Saints Mental Health and Addiction Care Recovery Committee, the NAMI-Wisconsin Consumer Council, and was appointed by the Governor to the HIRSP Authority Board of Directors. Luann graduated from the UW-Parkside, cum laude with a BS in Psychology and Sociology. Luann received a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from the UW-Milwaukee and is a Certified Advanced Practice Social Worker.

Excellence in the area of Osteoporosis

Anne Hoch, DO, Director, Women's Sports Medicine Program, Milwaukee

Anne Hoch, DO, is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Surgery. She is studying the "female athlete triad" in order to help educate young women that improper nutrition can create alarming health problems as they age. The female athlete triad is defined as disordered eating; amenorrhea, or cessation of menses, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Hoch serves as Froedtert/MCW's Director of the Women's Sports Medicine Program/Sports Medicine Center. She has a national reputation in women's health issues, specifically for her research related to the triad and cardiovascular disease. She is the Director of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sports Medicine Fellowship. Dr. Hoch initiates and leads program development for both clinical and research related to active and athletic women. She has been named to Best Doctors & Top Doctors several times.

Excellence in the area of Rural Women's Health

Jean Riedasch, RN, Parish Nurse, South Range

As a Parish Nurse, Jean Riedasch, RN knows that women are the caretakers of their family. They establish health and hygiene routines, social activities, dietary habits, and religious practices, but often neglect their own needs and concerns by putting family members first. Jean works with women in her community educating them that while it is important to assure their family's health and well-being, it is equally important to pay attention to their own health and wellness needs. Jean became involved with the development of the Northern Waters Parish Nurse Ministry in northwest Wisconsin after retirement. She took the Parish Nurse Preparation Course, and began serving at her church in that capacity. As a Parish Nurse partner with the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's GrapeVine Project, she gives presentations on women's health concerns at churches, PEO groups, county senior meal sites, health fairs, Family Resource Center play groups, and other women's groups, as well as to individual women. She has conducted weight loss programs, and various exercise programs, and has established yearly women's retreats with a portion of the program devoted to health concerns. Jean graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing with a BSN, and an MS Ed from UW-Superior.

Excellence in Research & Policy in the area of Tobacco Cessation

Lezli Redmond MPH, Assistant Director Intervention, Madison

Lezli Redmond, MPH, is the Director of Education and Outreach Programs; Assistant Director for Intervention Programs, Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. At the UW-Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention she is charged with expanding the Center's outreach program statewide. She developed and now directs a nationally recognized, comprehensive cessation program for Wisconsin. This program features evidence-based approaches including training clinicians to treat tobacco dependence and implementing systems changes to reduce barriers to treatment. She also oversees the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line, which has helped over 122,000 residents since it started in 2001. Lezli has over 20 years experience designing and implementing health education and outreach programs as well as directing research and evaluation efforts. She received her MPH from Hunter College in New York City. Lezli is married to Doug Redmond and they are parents to a daughter in college and a 14-year-old son. She is a breast cancer survivor and enjoys reaching out to other women coping with diagnosis and treatment. She is also active in the autism community as her son is on the autism spectrum.

Excellence in Advocacy in the area of Tobacco & Alcohol Cessation

Carol Lendle, RN, Public Health Nurse, Chippewa Falls

Carol Lendle, RN, a public health nurse in Chippewa County for 25 years, has worked with the state Prenatal Care Coordination program since 1993 to impact healthy birth outcomes for pregnant women in Chippewa County. She has dedicated her career to providing exemplary preventive services to populations in her community. Carol has been a leader in public health in a multitude of ways, demonstrating excellence in practice as well as dedication to improving the practice of others. The My Baby & Me program, a Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation program to reduce alcohol-exposed pregnancies in Wisconsin, is a critical preventive effort in Wisconsin. Carol has been instrumental in identifying and articulating the need for preventing alcohol-exposed pregnancies in the population she works with and in helping others in the region see that this is a critical issue. She has helped with outreach training and networking with local, regional, and statewide professionals to grow the My Baby & Me program, including the encouragement of six additional sites in western Wisconsin. Carol is a graduate of the UW-Eau Claire.