

Canadian Health Informatics Awards 2007 Award Recipients

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
D'INFORMATIQUE DE LA SANTÉ



CANADA'S HEALTH
INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION

Emerging Leader in Health Informatics Award

Dr. Chris O'Connor, Director of Medical Informatics

Trillium Health Centre, Mississauga ON



The Emerging Leader in Health Informatics Award recognizes individuals who are in their first five years of their career and have clearly demonstrated leadership and achieved early success in the field. This Award was established by the Courtyard Group in 2004 to foster leadership in our community.

In order to be considered for this award, the nominee must have demonstrated leadership and achieved breakthrough results in health informatics, been active in promoting and developing the field through participation in industry associations, volunteer boards, publications, conference presentations, or academic organizations and also be recognized by managers and peers for demonstrating innovation, leadership and significant contributions to the field. The Courtyard Group contributes \$3,000.00 to the Award winner to be used for professional development purposes.

The commitment and innovative work of Chris O'Connor, has significantly contributed to Health Informatics. He is an advocate and champion for moving the health informatics agenda forward.

He helped to develop a new wireless protocol to enable the use of cellular communication devices in the hospital by staff and patients - and then led his organizations' ICU team in pioneering the protocol in their busy ICU through a corporate partnership to implement the first use of wireless email in a clinical setting. This innovative, less intrusive, patient-centered initiative has resulted in: faster delivery of medical care; reliable, legible records that reduce the chance of error; and improved team communication that enhanced and improved team morale.



Dr. Chris O'Connor (C) is presented the award by Courtyard's Dr. Matthew Morgan (L) and COACH President, Shelagh Maloney (R).

As a critical care physician in the capacity of a thought leader and project steward for the Order Set Transformation project, Dr. O'Connor led his team in developing innovative approaches to the order set lifecycle and design. These modifications in order set methodology have resulted in very high rates of order set use and significant improvements in quality of care.

In 2006, he founded Open Source Order Sets, a collaborative network of over 50 Canadian hospitals working together to effectively use evidence-based order sets. He chairs Trillium's Physicians User Group and in this capacity is responsible for engaging physicians in the Transforming Health Care into Integrated Networks of Knowledge (THINK) project.

With experience in Emergency, Critical Care and Internal Medicine, and equipped with formal studies in Biomedical Informatics, Dr. O'Connor has been an advocate and a champion for moving the health informatics agenda ahead, not only in his own organization, but in Canada.