



*Ron Dunn, Vice President, Sales,
McKesson Information Solutions,
McKesson Canada*

*Ron is the Vice Chair of the Board of
CHITTA, a Division of ITAC*



First For Canada's Health Informatics Industry – The Awards Gala !!

Step aside Oscar – there's a new Gala in town. Last year the premier Gala honoured the winners of established and new COACH awards and also introduced new CHITTA awards honouring excellence in the VENDOR community. So roll out the Red Carpet, start thinking about "who" you will wear to the 2006 event and read on about the newest awards show to sweep the health informatics community.

Everyone knows that the established COACH awards recognized the leaders in our industry, those who have made a mark in Health Informatics by advancing any number of innovative healthcare ideas. But does everyone know the contributions made by the vendor community? Likely not. So why not recognize the vendors who so willingly contribute not only their investment of time and money but who also toil and sweat, expending efforts to achieve leadership status in their field of expertise. In 2005, CHITTA, the voice of the vendor community, did just that and introduced 4 awards to recognize achievements by health informatics vendors in Canada.

To celebrate these awards and to recognize excellence in leadership, quality and service in the health informatics community in Canada's first and only Health Informatics Awards Gala was created. The inaugural event was co-hosted by COACH, Canada's Health Informatics Association and CHITTA, the Canadian Healthcare Information Technology Trade Association and was held on November 24, 2005.

Attended by more than 200 of the "who's who" in the Canadian Health Informatics scene, it was a night to remember - an incredibly successful inaugural event. On the heels of that successful night, COACH and CHITTA are again hard at work preparing for this year's event.

The Gala is about the health informatics community and about recognizing those contributors whose efforts stand out among the crowd. Would you like a voice? Who will you nominate? Who are the innovators and the leaders who have performed far above your expectations and who stand out in comparative measures? This is your opportunity to be heard. To be able to stand up and be counted among those whose interest in healthcare informatics goes beyond the current project or implementation. That is the real value of these awards.

The CHITTA Awards focus on the performance of the vendor community in relation to work that they do for their healthcare provider customers. The COACH Awards focus on individual contributions to the overall health informatics community. Two very different approaches to rewarding the industry at large but a collective approach that allows broad recognition directed at the various sources of contribution.

So, the challenge to this readership and the community at large is to invest your time and effort to identify potential award winning contributions. Then access the website for the awards and submit your nominations. Talk to your peers and encourage them to nominate as well. As they say, nominate early and nominate often !!! Make your voice heard and make a statement to the industry when you see meritorious conduct by your colleagues and/or your vendors. The more we reward excellence, the more excellence there will be as potential award recipients strive for recognition against their peers. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy that we can collectively initiate through keen interest in these awards.

Let's all contribute to innovation, quality, better patient care, high levels of service, patient and customer satisfaction, technological and business process advances and on and on the list goes. In order to contribute we must all come forward and demonstrate leadership in our industry by recognizing outstanding performances and achievements.

See you in November 2006 at the 2nd Annual Health Informatics Awards Gala !!!

The Award

Through the diligent efforts of the Awards Gala Committee in 2005, a suitable award sculpture was commissioned. The result of those efforts is shown in the accompanying photo and the following description elaborates on the creation and creative genius behind this striking memento given to each award winner.

All recipients of the Canadian Health Informatics Awards are presented with a commemorative statue in honour of their excellence. Stephen Booth, a promising Canadian sculptor

who explores the human figure as a “narrative instrument,” was commissioned to design a sculpture that would represent those aspects of the Health Informatics Community being celebrated. The resulting Award Statue, as interpreted by the Artist, shows the elevated arms of the “Bearer” raised in both victory, support and offering, in concert with the bowed head reinforcing the notion of accomplishment, prosperity and service.

Listed below are the awards themselves with a brief explanation for each. Detailed information is contained on the awards gala website, www.HealthInformaticsAwards.ca.

COACH Awards

The President’s Award recognizes an individual who has made a major contribution to the Association through their involvement and support at a national or local level.

The Steven Huesing Scholarship was established in 1999 to recognize the long-time contribution of founding president Steven Huesing to COACH. This Award reflects the spirit, dedication and innovation that he has brought to the field of health care informatics. Any student enrolled in a recognized post-secondary, Canadian health informatics or health care information management program may apply for this annual award. Applicants must be of sound academic standing and must demonstrate their involvement and achievement in health informatics.

The Emerging Leader in Health Informatics Award recognizes individuals who are in the first five years of their career and have clearly demonstrated leadership and achieved early success in health informatics.

The Innovation in the Adoption of Health Informatics Award recognizes individuals or teams that have, through innovation and commitment, successfully integrated

information technologies into the health system.

Leadership in the Field Award recognizes the outstanding ongoing contributions by an individual, whose leadership is broadly recognized in the industry and whose contributions to the field of Health Informatics are in excess of 5 years.

CHITTA Awards

The Corporate Citizenship Award recognizes leading for-profit healthcare ICT companies that are both committed to and passionate about health informatics and who have heavily invested in contributing to the industry in Canada.

The Project Implementation Team of the Year Award recognizes a for-profit healthcare ICT company/client team that has successfully implemented a health-IT solution at a healthcare organization within the past 12 months.

The Healthcare Transformation Award recognizes a for-profit healthcare ICT company that has fundamentally transformed healthcare in Canada through the use of health informatics.

The Company of the Year Award was established to recognize a distinguished for-profit healthcare ICT company that has demonstrated excellence in the Canadian health informatics industry within the past twelve months. ●

