



Philadelphia, PA • 14 - 15 April, 2004

Ford Foundation Minority Health Professionals Scholarship

Scholarship Recipients

Duane Bedley, Director

Security and Chairman of HAZMAT Subcommittee

Northeastern/Temple East Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Duane has been in Healthcare Security for more than 14 years. He is a member of the International Association for Healthcare Safety and Security (IAHSS). He is also involved with the Association for Safety and Industrial Security (ASIS) which focuses on environmental concerns for healthcare organizations and shares educational ideas for improvement in accord with PA laws and JCAHO standards. He helped run the Mercury-Free Philly Campaign, coordinated by the Women's Health & Environmental Network (WHEN), exchanging mercury thermometers for the community. Duane is responsible for helping to keep MSDS sheets up to date for his hospital. He often looks for information to take back "Best Practices" to his facility and to educate employees on environmental concerns.

Aruna Bittle, Director

Quality/Risk Management

Providence Newberg Hospital, Newberg, Oregon

Aruna, a Registered Nurse, became engaged with Health Care Without Harm through the work of the Oregon Center for Environmental Health, a member organization, about three years back. Currently, she is the Director of Performance Improvement and Medical Staff Services at Providence Newberg Hospital in a semi-rural area in Oregon. The hospital is mercury-free and has been working at reducing its red bag waste consistently. About a year ago, this facility started recycling paper and has a 90% success rate thus far. It plans to next tackle cleaning agents.

Sylvia Clagon, Nurse

Infection Control Practitioner

Howard University Hospital, Washington, District of Columbia

Sylvia has practiced in an urban acute care hospital for over 25 years, providing direct patient care in the Emergency Room, Surgical Intensive Care Unit and the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. Currently, she has the task of preventing the spread of infections to staff and patients through compliance with regulatory agency guidelines, staff education, and the use of safe and effective products. She is often challenged with staff complaints of harsh chemicals, gloves that cause irritation to the hands and needle stick injuries. Sylvia is eager to find alternative products that will promote good patient and staff outcomes. Her hospital has been working to decrease the use of mercury, latex products and overall waste reduction.



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Tyrone Dunston, Director

Environmental Services

Northeastern - Temple East Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tyrone brings 18 years of diversified management experience with 10 years spent in Health Care. At Northeastern Hospital, he has initiated a monthly procedure of comparing Pounds of Infectious Waste per patient per day compared to cost per patient per day, with the intent of monitoring this for a year. In day to day operations, he works with employees on proper waste disposal. He is challenged with storage and educating staff on correct procedures. He is proud of the hospital's best practices on implementing integrated pest management.

Stephen T. Kubo, Staff Environmental Scientist

Medical Waste Management Program/Hospital Pollution Prevention Program

CA Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California

Stephen's focus is on reduction of solid, medical and hazardous waste and elimination of mercury by assisting hospitals, medical clinics, and other healthcare facilities to implement pollution prevention programs system-wide. He has implemented mercury elimination; medical, solid, and hazardous waste reduction in individual hospitals and with hospital systems. Waste reduction efforts include Blue wrap (sterilization wrap) recycling, food, lighter plastic bags (solid waste and medical waste bags), reusable sharps containers, and microfiber mops. He is also working with the County Water Quality Department on a program to reduce mercury in wastewater and with the Hospital Pollution Prevention Program (HP3).

Deitra Wynn, Research Nurse and MSN/MPH Student

School of Nursing

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Deitra attended Health Care Without Harm's RX for RNs program for nurses from where she increased recycling efforts at her then community health setting. She has a strong interest in promoting the link between environmental health and breastfeeding. Her work with new moms brings a special focus on reducing plastic waste from water bottles at home and in the hospital. Her efforts are geared to reducing chemical use on postpartum units and in the urban community. She is concerned with the disproportionate cancer rates in minority communities where toxic waste and pollution are prevalent. Deitra's foremost goal is to be an advocate for the health of minority communities by working to eliminate health disparities. Deitra believes that working toward a healthier environment is an important part of working toward a healthier public.

**These scholarships are made possible by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation
with the intent to bring minorities from health care settings to CleanMed 2004.**