

JCC and Hamilton health care organizations capture prestigious awards in quality and innovation

The Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC) and partner organizations were recently honored with awards for two innovative programs designed to improve the breast health of Aboriginal women, and rehabilitation for cancer survivors.

The 2010 Quality and Innovation Awards were presented by The Cancer Quality Council of Ontario, Cancer Care Ontario, and the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society. The annual awards honor those who have made significant contributions to quality and innovation in the delivery of cancer care across the province.

“JCC staff and physicians continually look for ways to improve the cancer journey for our patients. Working collaboratively with our health care partners in Hamilton, the JCC created these innovative programs to meet the needs of two specific populations with unique needs that were previously unmet – Aboriginal women and cancer survivors,” said Dr. Bill Evans, president, Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre.

The CQCO Innovation Award, which recognizes and rewards the development of new processes or products, or organizations which are bold, experimental, risky, or far-reaching and which enhance and improve cancer care performance in Ontario, was presented to the CanWell program.

A collaboration between the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford, Hamilton Health Sciences, the Juravinski Cancer Centre and McMaster University, CanWell is a community-based exercise and education program for individuals with any type of cancer, at any stage of their illness. CanWell was developed to help cancer survivors regain their pre-cancer physical abilities and enhance their physical well being through an exercise and education program offered at the YMCA, which is accessible for many people in the community.

“We are pleased to have been able to work with our partners from Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University in developing this much needed program for those living with cancer, and feel honored to be recognized with the 2010 Innovation Award,” said Genevieve Hladys, general manager community health program development, YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. “The CanWell program has truly been innovative in helping to expand the continuum of care for individuals and families in our community and is helping to increase the awareness of the benefits of exercise in the fight against cancer.”

Created to support patients and families going through the cancer care journey, the Juravinski Cancer Center’s interactive virtual tour also received honorable mention in the Innovation category. It can be viewed online at www.canwellprogram.ca.

“I would like to congratulate all the winning team members and extend my appreciation to all our community partners for their support in working with the JCC to continuously raise the bar in delivering high quality cancer care,” said Bill.



Innovation Award – (from left) Martin Kabat, CEO, Canadian Cancer Society – Ontario Division; Oren Cheifetz, physiotherapist at HHS; Genevieve Hladysh, general manager community health program development, YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford; Jan Park Dorsay, advanced practice nurse; and Neil Stuart, board chair, Cancer Care Ontario.