On Tuesday, October 3, 2006, the Institute for Healthcare Education and the Connecticut Nursing Research Alliance held its 10th Annual Conference. This year’s conference with over 250 nurses and nursing students from across the state featured a conference theme: Caring for Our Patients and Ourselves. In addition to the keynote and plenary speakers, conference participants attended skill building sessions on Evaluating the Strength of Research by Sheryl Horowitz-Kiefer PhD, Interpreting Meta-Analysis by Regina Cusson PhD, Translating Evidence Into Practice by Joanne Roy PhD and the Forces of Magnet by E. Carol Polifroni EdD. A variety of oral abstract presentations were given and ten research posters were presented.

Poster Awards were given to three recipients. First Place: A Collaborative VAP Prevention Project in ICU: From Infection Control CQI to Research by Barbara Stone and MaryLee Oleksiw from Midstate Medical Center. Second Place: Sometimes Kids Don’t Feel Great…Can a Lollipop Make ‘Em Better? by Kathleen Culliton and Janet DeFrancesco from CCMC. Third Place: Prospective Evaluation of Pelvic Floor Symptoms in Women Undergoing Conservative Treatment for Pelvic Organ Prolapse by Colleen Mellen et al.

The Excellence in Nursing Research Award was presented to the Nursing Staff of North 12 and Bliss 8 for the exemplary role played in the study on Practicing Out Loud and the Role of Nursing conducted at Hartford Hospital this year. The Excellence in Research Utilization Award was presented to Paula Rocha RN, CNP for her involvement in the implementation of a hospital-wide evidence-based quality improvement initiative to achieve ‘tight glycemic control’ for patients with diabetes.

Decorating by Carol Albert and her staff at Buds n’ Bloom was outstanding. Food service provided by Wayne Oden and his staff from Hartford Hospital’s Food & Nutrition was the best!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR Hartford Hospital Medical Staff.
Thanks to the Alliance Agencies and the members of the planning committee:

**Hartford Hospital**  
Nancy Bafundo RN, MSN, BC; Dawn Beland RN, MSN; Cindy Belonick APRN, MSN; Laura Caramanica RN, PhD; Janice Cousino RN, MSN, CNS; Eileen Hermann RN, MHS; Lynn Jansky RN, MSN; Karen Cudworth RN, MSN; Amy Schroder RN, MSN; Ruth Zaafian MSN, MA, APRN, BC

**Connecticut Children’s Medical Center**  
Sally Strange, RN, MSN

**John Dempsey Hospital**  
Cheryl Tafas RN, MSN and Gina Reiners, APRN

**Middlesex Hospital**  
Kathleen Stolzenberger RN, BC, MS, MSN

**Midstate Medical Center**  
Kathleen Barta RN, BC, MS, MSN, PCCN-CMC

**New Britain General Hospital**  
Arlene Morin RN, PhD

**Capitol Community College**  
Joanne Anfinson RN, PhD

**Central Connecticut State University**  
Carol Williams RN, PhD

**Quinnipiac University**  
Anne Durkin RN, PhD

**Sacred Heart University**  
Dori Taylor-Sullivan RN, PhD

**Southern Connecticut State University**  
Barbara Aronson RN, MSN, PhD

**St. Joseph College**  
Terry Bosworth RN, PhD

**University of Connecticut**  
Lynn Allchin RN, PhD

**University of Hartford**  
Karen Breda RN, PhD

**VNA HealthCare**  
Tracy Wodatch, RN, BSN

**William Backus Hospital**  
Deb Furtado BSN, MA

**Yale University**  
Margaret Grey RN, PhD

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First Place: A Collaborative VAP Prevention Project in ICU: from Infection Control CQI to Research.  
Barbara Stone BSN, RN, PCCN, CCRN (pictured with Laura Caramanica RN, PhD.) and MaryLee Oleksiw BSN, RN, CIC

Second Place: Sometimes Kids Don’t Feel Great...Can a Lollipop Make ‘em Better?  
Left to right: Laura Caramanica RN, PhD., Kathleen Culliton RN, BSN, C-PON and Janet De Francesco RN, MSN, C-PON

Third Place: Prospective Evaluation of Pelvic Floor Symptoms in Women Undergoing Conservative Treatment for Pelvic Organ Prolapse.  
Left to right: Laura Caramanica RN, PhD, Colleen Mellen CNS, MS, APRN

Research Award Winners:  
Left to right: Bliss 8 staff Claire Quarphin RN and Jackie Dietrich RN, Elissa Ford RN, BSN and two North 12 staff members Cynthia McGarvey RN, BSN (holding plaque) and Lilibeth Warner RN and Laura Caramanica RN, PhD. (far right).

2006 Excellence in Research Utilization Award was presented to Paula Rocha RN, CNP (left) standing with Laura Caramanica RN, PhD.

Submitted by: Amy Schroder RNC, MSN and Janice Cousino RNC, MSN

Photos by: Kevin Hagan

Martha Kemp-Albert, Editor