



Introducing the New and Improved....

# Arizona Airways

Fall Issue—October 2008

## The Arizona Hospital Spotlight shines on.....

### UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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The Airway's Hospital Spotlight is focused on University Medical Center (UMC). UMC is a 360 bed, nonprofit, teaching hospital located at the Arizona Health Sciences Center, adjacent to The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. University Medical Center is again ranked among the nation's premier hospitals in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual guide to "America's Best Hospitals." Complete rankings appear at [www.usnews.com/besthospitals](http://www.usnews.com/besthospitals). For Southwestern Arizona, UMC is the only organ transplant center, trauma center, and Cystic Fibrosis Center. In addition, UMC is Arizona's first Magnet hospital.

This year, UMC is ranked among the top 50 hospitals in the United States in five of the 16 medical specialties the magazine surveyed:

- Heart and Heart Surgery
- Ears, Nose and Throat
- Geriatrics
- Kidney Disease and
- Respiratory Disorders!

The Department of Respiratory Care at University Medical Center is a leader in the field of Respiratory Care. Since its inception over 30 years ago, this department has continually set the standard for excellence in the profession. Today, the pursuit of this mission is maintained as the department continues to provide the highest quality healthcare while supporting and participating in research and education.

#### **Scope of Care**

The Department of Respiratory Care, a division of Patient Care Services, provides inpatient services to a variety of patients 24 hours per day, seven days per week. for excellence that are recognized nationwide.

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## UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER.... *continued*

In addition to providing care, licensed respiratory care practitioners serve as consultants to nurses, physicians, and other members of the healthcare team. Through research based practice and a commitment to continuing education, the department has remained in the forefront of the profession and continues to set the standards for excellence that are recognized nationwide.

The Department of Respiratory Care provides services to the full range of patients from neonate to geriatric, with an emphasis on acute and critical care. Services provided include care of the critically ill patient including adult ventilation, pediatric ventilation and neonatal ventilation, airway management, delivery of aerosolized medications, broncho-pulmonary hygiene, arterial blood gas sampling and, cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The department also provides nitric oxide administration, heliox therapy for patients with various types of airway obstruction, and high frequency ventilation is provided for adults, pediatric and neonates. Other services include cystic fibrosis, asthma education, bronchoscopy assistance, and aerosolized antibiotic administration. The role of the Respiratory Therapists at UMC will continue to grow as UMC moves toward exciting plans in the near future. They plan to, by 2010, expand their ED/Urgent care and Trauma Services, adding two additional 20 bed critical care and medical-surgical units, as well as launching a full Children's Hospital to include ED Pediatric services.

At the helm of this department is a talented, dynamic, and professional leader: Cheryl Hamilton, MS, RRT. Cheryl has served as the Director of UMC's Respiratory Care Services for almost ten years. Managing over 110 RCPs, Cheryl sets a great tone with her strong commitment to both UMC and her department, and her dedication to ongoing education and excellence in patient care. When asked about her greatest challenges as a Director, Cheryl responds with her 'can-do' attitude. She credits her staff, stating "*I have a great department with wonderful staff.....I make it my priority to take the time to recognize and reward them for the great job they do.....everyday.*"

***Congratulations UMC! Arizona honors YOU!***

## Record Breaking Attendance Reported at the 42nd Annual AzSRC State Conference

The 2008 AzSRC annual seminar in Phoenix reached record attendance! Over 240 attendees and 53 vendors attended the two day educational seminar at the recently renovated Arizona Grand Resort. National speakers, challenging and leading topics, the latest in technology and the opportunity to network contributed to the draw of this considerable gathering.

This conference would not be possible if it were not for all the RCP's that come once a year to celebrate our profession. Every corner of our great State was represented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual AzSRC conference. This is the once a year celebration where we have an opportunity to meet with our peers and discuss the great profession of respiratory care. Thanks to all the RCPs of Arizona for making this conference both educational and fun! Many thanks to the many volunteers who donated many hours to making this conference such a success! Special thanks to Conference Chair Amy Bardin who coordinated the event along with Co-Chair Michelle Johnston. Our recognition and appreciation also goes out to the many vendors who attended and supported this conference.

Please save the date! Next year's Arizona State Conference will be held again at the beautiful property, Arizona Grand, on August 18th-20th, 2009. Information and registration details will be posted on our website at [www.azsrc.org](http://www.azsrc.org) as the date approaches.

Chuck Ramirez, RRT AzSRC President



# Congratulations to 2007/08 Award Winners!

Announcements for the 2007-08 Awards were made at the Annual State Conference. Congratulations to all award winners and many thanks to all who voted and contributed.

## 2007 Awards

- RCP of the Year ~ Gary Lynch, RRT
- Department of the Year ~ Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, Bullhead City

## 2008 Awards

- RCP of the Year ~ Amy Bardin, RRT
- Department of the Year ~ Banner Estrella Medical Center
  - Educator of the Year ~ Laura Hadley, RRT
- Best Booth Award ~ Professional Respiratory Care Services, Inc. (PRCS)

## 2008 Golf Tournament results

1st place ~ Don Vollette, Lin Ah Sing, Ralph Whittemore

2nd place ~ Scott Suaracci, Chris Bollinger, Kyle Silk, Andy Jacobs

3rd Place ~ Brett Petersen, Dave Block, Jeremy Beem, Eddie Smith

Longest Drive ~ Scott Suaracci

Closest to the Pin ~ Lin Ah Sing

Longest Putt ~ John-Mark Steubing

## 2008 Scholarship Awards

Kathleen Kangethe ~ Gateway Community College

Germaine Sawadogo ~ Gateway Community College

Jessica Miles ~ Pima Medical Institute, Mesa

Alyssa Sivertson ~ Pima Medical Institute, Mesa

The Scholarship Awards are made possible by the Arizona Society for Respiratory Care Foundation, a non-profit foundation started by Dave and Pamela Artibey to support respiratory students and respiratory therapists by providing scholarships to help them in their educational goals. What a gift! Thank you to the Artibey's for their generous contribution to Respiratory Therapy Education!

\*Please note that 2008-09 Award nomination forms are now available on-line!

## ***Nominations for 2009 AzSRC Officers Are Being Accepted Until October 5, 2008***

Elections for 2009 Arizona Society of Respiratory Care Officers will be held this fall. Nominations are currently being accepted, but ***only until October 5th, 2008***. Nomination forms are available online. Please make your nominations now!

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### **NEWS FROM THE AARC!**

## **Pulmonary Patients and RTs Celebrate Passage of a National Medicare Package!!**

In a stunning show of unity in mid-July, the U.S. Congress overrode President George W. Bush's veto of H.R. 6331, the Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008. The passage of this legislation ushers in the creation of a specific national Medicare pulmonary rehabilitation benefit—something the American Association for Respiratory Care has been working toward for the past 20 years!

“Comprehensive pulmonary rehabilitation aimed at helping patients return to the highest level of function and independence is the most effective weapon we have against nihilistic views of chronic pulmonary disease that hold our patients hostage. Passage of this legislation is good for our patients, and what's good for our patients is good for our profession,” says AARC President Toni Rodriguez, EdD, RRT. “The rendering of respiratory care services as an element of pulmonary rehabilitation has been problematic because of the lack of a national Medicare policy. But this legislation marks the beginning of a new era of access for our patients that will be made complete with the passage of our Part B Initiative.”

“There are significant wins for our patients in this bill that was passed,” says AARC Federal Government Affairs Committee Chair Frank Salvatore, Jr., BS, RRT, FAARC, explaining that first and foremost is the fact that we have eliminated inconsistent local coverage policies and will have in place by 2010 a new national pulmonary rehabilitation benefit. “I believe the historical significance of the passage of H.R. 6331 is high in relation to other legislative events. But more so than the historical significance to our past, I see this as being something that will be looked at in the future as the beginning of our successes in legislative advocacy. I look forward to our future successes with quite a bit of anticipation,” Salvatore says.

H.R. 6331, called the “Medicare Package” by most health care groups, contains many different provisions, including three of critical importance to pulmonary patients and the respiratory care community:

1. The creation of a new national Medicare pulmonary rehabilitation benefit for Medicare beneficiaries with COPD and other conditions.
2. The repeal of the Medicare requirement regarding Medicare pulmonary patients assuming ownership of their oxygen equipment after 36 months of continuous rental. While home care providers may again retain ownership of the equipment, rental payments end after 36 months. Many unanswered questions still remain on implementation, which won't be resolved until regulations are released.
3. An 18-month delay of the durable medical equipment competitive bidding program, which began in 10 parts of the country on July 1. This delay is to provide CMS the time to reform the flaws in the original program.

## Access Critical Information for Long Term Oxygen Patients

By Stephanie Diehl, RRT



The **National Home Oxygen Patients Association (NHOPA)** is devoted exclusively to improving the lives of people who require supplementary oxygen on a regular basis and the respiratory therapist is an integral member of our association.

Recently the AARC and NHOPA have worked together, quite successfully, on patient related issues, ensuring that home oxygen patients have access to appropriate home oxygen equipment. NHOPA is also active in supporting the efforts of Respiratory Therapists at the national level.

NHOPA, formed in the late 1990s, is devoted to improving the lives of people across the country who require supplemental oxygen on a regular basis. The NHOPA officers and voting Board of Directors are all oxygen users. Industry and allied health professionals round out the Board with Tom Petty, MD and Kent Christopher, MD currently serving as medical advisors to the association.

Annual membership for oxygen users is \$15.00 and \$25.00 for healthcare professionals. User Members receive a booklet titled "Understanding Oxygen Therapy". All members receive a monthly newsletter which is a continuing source for clinical and regulatory information that affects your patients.

The NHOPA website, [www.homeoxygen.org](http://www.homeoxygen.org), offers up-to date information for you and your patients on traveling with oxygen.

For a free copy of the recent NHOPA newsletter or to download a membership application visit the NHOPA website at [www.homeoxygen.org](http://www.homeoxygen.org).

**Make a difference in your patient's lives!**

**The Airways is always accepting  
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**We're on the Web!!!!**

**[www.azsrc.com](http://www.azsrc.com)**

# The AzSRC Introduces....

## Arizona Outstanding Achievement Award

The AzSRC has introduced an Arizona Outstanding Achievement Award designed to recognize and honor Arizona RCPs who have contributed to the growth and development of the Respiratory Care Profession.

This recognition is to be as highly regarded as the Life-time Member recognition. Requests for nominations are not solicited as freely as the annual RCP of the Year, however, nominations can be accepted by the Board at any time.

Recognition will be provided in two categories: Outstanding Achievement Inductee and Honorable Mention

### **Outstanding Achievement Inductees**

- State and/or National recognized leader or author in the profession.
- Recognition for life-time or career-long dedication to the profession.
- Actions by this individual have had a positive impact on the profession.
- Name recognition for Quality and Advancements within the profession.
- Those awarded for Life-time Member of the AzSRC.

### **Honorable Mention**

- Contribution to the profession recognized, but more regional or for less duration than Outstanding Achievement Inductees.
- Impact on the profession of a lesser magnitude and shorter duration than Outstanding Achievement Inductees.

### **Process of Nomination:**

Any member of the AzSRC/ARRC may nominate an individual for recognition. A form available on the website should be completed for each nomination. Nominations are submitted to the President of the AzSRC. The President will appoint a committee of no less than 3 individuals consisting of active board members to review the nominations. This committee will place the names in the appropriate category. Those names which meet the requirements will be submitted to the entire board for final approval.

Those achieving approval of the board will be contacted by the President, or his/her designee, who will obtain more information from them that will be posted on the website with a picture, if possible. A plaque of honor will be awarded to those individuals at the next AzSRC Annual Meeting.

Please stay tuned for the online forms to be available soon!

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