

November 19, 2014

RVH nurse wins national award of excellence

Clinical Nurse Educator Karin Poole, with the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program (SMRCP) at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is the recipient of the Pfizer Award of Excellence in Nursing Clinical Practice for 2014.

This significant national award from the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO) is given to someone who demonstrates leadership in the development of oncology patient care and who has made significant contributions to the improvement of such care.

As the director of the SMRCP Karin's nomination and subsequent win came as no surprise to Tracey Keighley-Clarke.

"Karin is an exceptional oncology nurse who demonstrates a strong commitment to our patients in her daily practice," says Keighley-Clarke. "Karin is focused on advancing clinical practice and works collaboratively with the healthcare team to develop evidence based policies and procedures to ensure we meet the RVH mission of *Exceptional Care is our Passion. People are Our Inspiration. Safety is our Promise*. Karin is approachable, collaborative and a strong member of the regional cancer program team. She was a solid candidate and is thoroughly deserving of this award of excellence."

Karin's nomination included many letters of support and 146 signatures from colleagues as well as a very touching letter from a patient's family member.

"Karin Poole is one of the most wonderful nurses I know. Karin is a very kind and gentle soul, my mom and I took to her very quickly. She not only helped us deal with the shock of confirming that my mother's diagnosis was cancer, but encouraged my mom and our family to fight a strong fight. Karin was an inspiration to my mom," says Rosa Santaera, daughter of patient Maria Santaera.

Karin recently accepted her honour during a special awards ceremony in Quebec City.

"I'm both honoured and humbled by this award. I believe in providing our cancer patients with the best experience possible. I consider it a privilege to come alongside our patients, like Maria Santaera, and support them in their cancer journey," says Karin. "The award is a tremendous accomplishment, but what makes it even more special is that fact my colleagues took the time to write letters of support. Those letters mean as much to me as this award. I am proud to be a part of the SMRCP/RVH team as the staff amaze and inspire me, there is truly no other place I would want to be."

The Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre (SMRCC at RVH), which opened in 2012 has 34 chemotherapy treatment spaces, three radiation suites, and receives 100,000 patient visits annually serving people throughout the region.

-30-

For more information:

Jane Cocking
Manager, Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

Donna Danyluk
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41610

About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca