



## HALIFAX 6 CANADIAN HEALTHCARE SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

### News Release

Oct. 19, 2006

#### **Vancouver hosts Canadian patient and health care safety symposium**

Vancouver, BC - Health care experts from across Canada and around the world are convening in Vancouver this week to make health care safer and enhance the overall quality of the health care system.

Halifax 6: The Canadian Healthcare Safety Symposium - "Safety Management: Changing the Way We Do Things" opens today and runs until Oct. 21, 2006 at the Sheraton Wall Centre.

"Providing safer health care goes beyond encouraging everyone to be more careful and appointing safety officers within health care delivery organizations. Only a paradigm shift in the way we do things – how we plan, practice and produce – will effect real changes in patient safety," said Dr. Jan Davies, Symposium co-chair.

Approximately 600 registered delegates (and many more at 65 webcast sites) will attend the Symposium to focus on the following issues through interactive sessions, presentations, panel discussions, keynote addresses and visual research-based displays:

*Safety management systems:* the systematic and comprehensive management of safety philosophy, policies, procedures and practices.

*Designing for safety:* how patient and provider safety and well-being can be integrated into the planning and building of hospitals and health care institutions.

*Barriers to change:* the psychological, professional, legal and societal forces that hinder change and improvement.

*The consumer:* how patients and families can effect change.

*Measurement:* how to know if changes have been made and if the care being provided is safer.

Delegates will hear and engage in discussions from world experts in safety including:

#### **Keynote Presentation: Advice for Leaders and Participants Undergoing Change Initiatives**

Sir Liam Donaldson, Chair, World Alliance for Patient Safety; Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, United Kingdom

*Sir Liam Donaldson will discuss the purpose of and key programs delivered by the World Alliance for Patient Safety (WAPS), a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative that he helped launch in 2004. The Alliance raises awareness and political commitment to improve the safety of care and facilitates the development of patient safety policy and practice in all WHO Member States.*

*He will also discuss the WAPS in the context of Safety Management Systems.*

### **Safety Management Systems In Aviation**

Rob Lee, International Consultant in Human Factors and Systems Safety

*Rob Lee will describe the structure and function of safety management systems used in the aviation industry, and will describe how learnings from both the design and implementation of these may translate to health care.*

### **Problems In Safe Design**

Sven Erik Gisvold, Professor, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care,  
St. Olav University Hospital

*Sven Erik Gisvold will talk about the link between hospital design/architecture and function, quality and safety, using as an example a new Scandinavian hospital with a totally decentralized design (one building for each part of the body). This design is extremely expensive to operate and may also represent a threat to patient safety.*

### **Change Blindness**

Pat Croskerry, Associate Professor, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre,  
Dalhousie University

*We cannot change what we cannot see. In this talk, Pat Croskerry will illustrate the phenomenon of change blindness. Some vivid examples will be shown which directly compromise patient care. Such perceptual failures can also be used as a metaphor for change behaviour inertia in patient safety.*

The Symposium begins at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20 and runs until 4:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21. Two pre-conference sessions take place on Thursday, Oct. 19: one on “Partnering for Patient Safety” at the Sheraton Wall Centre (8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.); and the other on the use of simulation techniques, entitled “Advances in Healthcare Education for Safety” at the Cordula and Günter Paetzold Health Education Centre at Vancouver General Hospital (12:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.).

For more information on the Symposium, go to: <http://www.buksa.com/halifax>

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