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The AMDA Foundation continued its upward evolution and expanded its partnerships, research, and impact during 2006. The Foundation strengthened existing partnerships and took on new ones. The organization’s presence on a national level increased as well.

The AMDA Foundation and its research activities were a topic at several AMDA Annual Symposium sessions. Elsewhere, the Foundation was invited to participate in several national programs. For example, the organization was represented at the NIH Roadmap Inventory and Evaluation of Clinical Research Networks National Leadership Forum to help national research leaders gain a better understanding of clinical research networks. The Foundation also is a member of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network, which involves a group of practicing clinicians asking and answering clinical and organizational questions about primary health care.

Increasingly, government agencies and national organizations have sought out the Foundation for its long term care experience. The AMDA Foundation’s Long Term Care Research Network became a designated partner with the RAND Corporation in the AHRQ ACTION grant, which will enable long term care practitioners to help develop proposals for research projects.

The AMDA Foundation’s LTC Research Network experienced an important first in 2006. The group participated in its first “voting booth” for the Physicians Inquiries Network (PIN). Through this activity, Research Network members had a say in what topics in geriatrics will be addressed by researchers. They also have an opportunity to participate in—or even lead—studies on these topics and write articles and summaries of data in current literature. The Research Network first partnered with the FPIN three years ago, and this activity marks an important landmark in the organizations’ relationship.

Elsewhere, 2006 marked the departure of Larry Lawhorne, MD, as the Research Network Director. Jurgis Karuza, PhD, served as Interim Director for the remainder of 2006 while a search committee worked to identify candidates for the position.

Another important first for the AMDA Foundation in 2006 was the inaugural Art of Caring, Works of “heART” Art Auction to benefit the organization and long term care research. The event attracted over 200 people, and the enthusiasm for the art and the Foundation resulted in lots of fun, excitement, and a few fierce bidding wars. The event featured the works of nursing facility residents, AMDA members, friends of the Foundation, and professional artists. The second annual art auction is expected to attract even more donors and works.

There are many more highlights and firsts for the AMDA Foundation in 2006. This second annual report details all of the key activities, programs, and projects and offers an insight into how far the organization has come and where it may go in the years to come.
Leadership and Staff

Visionary leadership and consistent staff have been the hallmark of the Foundation. In 2006, the Board of Directors saw some fresh faces with new energy and ideas and veterans working to continue the organization’s upward journey. At the same time, the joys of making life and care better for our nation’s elderly led to zero staff turnover in 2006. As a result of these elements and these committed individuals, the Foundation continues to function at maximum productivity in a cost-effective manner.

Foundation Board of Directors
Jonathan Musher, MD, CMD Chair*
Rita Munley Gallagher, PhD, RN Secretary/Treasurer*
David Polakoff, MD, MSc, CMD Immediate Past Chair*
Gwendolyn D. Maddox, MS Executive Director*
Jurgis Karuza, PhD Interim Director, Research Network
  Jonathan M. Evans, MD, CMD
  Mark J. Haumschild, MS, PharmD
  Catherine J. Kiley-Zollikofer, DO, CMD
  Julia Kocal, PsyD
  Leslie Libow, MD, CMD
  Chris Patterson, MD, CMD
  Cheryl Phillips, MD, CMD, AGSF
  Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP
  Mary Tellis-Nayak, RN, MSN, MPH

Research Network Steering Committee
Larry Lawhorne, MD
Conn Foley, MD
Jurgis Karuza, PhD
Cari Levy, MD, CMD
Paul R. Katz, MD, CMD
Chris Patterson, MD, CMD
David Polakoff, MD, MSc, CMD
David R. Zimmerman, PhD
Stefan Gravenstein, MD, MPH, CMD, FACP

Foundation Staff
Gwendolyn D. Maddox, MS, Executive Director
Janet Pailet, JD, Director of Business Development
Barbara Calabrese, RN, BA, Director of Research/Clinical Nurse Manager
Erin Blume, RHIA, Research Projects Coordinator
Patricia Parmelee, PhD, Long Term Care Research Network Methodologist
Christine Danihel, BA, Executive Assistant

*Executive Committee

“The Foundation has always thrived on dedicated volunteer leaders and hard working staff who share their vision. People want to be a part of this group because they know they are doing something to make a real difference in the lives of elderly patients nationwide. There is tremendous satisfaction at the end of a day’s work.”

—Lorraine Tarnove,
Executive Director
American Medical Directors Association
Message from the Chair

This annual report is a testament to the accomplishments of the AMDA Foundation during the 2006 Fiscal year. I wish to personally thank the Foundation Board, the AMDA Board, the AMDA membership, Gwendolyn Maddox, Foundation Executive Director, Lorraine Tarnove, AMDA Executive Director, and the Foundation and AMDA staff for their continued support of the Foundation's mission and goals. I would also like to extend my and the board’s appreciation to the entire AMDA and Research Network membership for your dedication and support of the Foundation’s research initiatives, programs and mission. As the Foundation Chair, I consider it an honor to work with such dedicated staff, volunteers and members.

Though 2006 brought challenges in our efforts to support new endeavors, the Foundation continues to operate under fiscally sound principles and meet budget expectations (see page 16). I am pleased that many of our industry partners continued their support of many of our well established programs. The Foundation staff and leadership continue to search and engage new partners on an ongoing basis to support new projects as they are developed.

The year continued to bring success in several program areas. The continued support of the Foundation's volunteers made each success possible.

The 2006 Futures Program was very successful with 60 residents and fellows from across the country participating in the program held during the AMDA Annual Symposium. The evaluations from the program continue to validate the importance of the program and the quality in which the material is presented. I would like to thank the Futures Co-chairs Cheryl Phillips, MD, CMD, and Cari Levy, MD, CMD for their dedication, time and leadership. I would also like to thank Janssen L. P. for their generous sponsorship of this exciting program.

The AMDA Foundation/Pfizer Quality Improvement Award program continues to attract talented individuals who develop important projects designed to improve the quality of care of residents in their respective facilities. I wish to thank all of the individuals who take the time to submit for this award. And I also wish to thank Pfizer for their continued generous support for this award program.

We continue to develop our partnerships to uncover more external and internal avenues for fundraising. We continue to meet with industry and strengthen our relationships. In addition, we continue to explore other avenues for funding including expanding our market research capabilities, assisting with recruitment of physicians and facilities for pharmaceutical companies and other research organizations.

Change is inevitable in any organization and the year brought about a significant change with Larry Lawhorne, MD resigning his long tenure as the Foundation's Research Network Director. Larry nurtured and directed the Research Network for several years in developing studies and in creating the Foundation's Annual Research Network Meeting. I would like to thank Larry for an incredible job over these many years as the Foundation Research Network Director and “father of the Research Network”. I would also like to thank Jurgis Karuza, Ph.D for stepping in as Interim Research Network Director and providing a smooth transition for the Network.

Finally, we have been actively interviewing for the position of Research Network Director and I hope to be making an announcement in the first part of 2007. I look forward to the coming year and the continued successes of the AMDA Foundation.

Jonathan Musher, MD, CMD
AMDA Foundation Chair
Message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to present the AMDA Foundation’s 2006 Annual Report. The year marked the beginning of an evolutionary period for the AMDA Foundation. It brought about challenges as support for our programs became much more difficult to obtain. However, our corporate partners continued to support well established programs such as the Futures Program and the AMDA Foundation/Pfizer Quality Improvement Awards. The continued and committed support of these programs, I believe, reflect our partners’ confidence in the importance of these projects toward improving the care of long term care facility residents from coast to coast.

While we faced our share of challenges this past year, there also were numerous successes. For example, the 2006 Futures Program attracted 60 enthusiastic residents and fellows who had an interest in the field of geriatrics and long term care. I had the opportunity to speak to them during the program and was encouraged and inspired by their excitement about the field. I would like to thank Cheryl Phillips, MD, CMD, and Cari Levy, MD, CMD, for their continued leadership and dedication in presenting a program where participants receive a wonderful introduction to this important and exciting field.

Elsewhere, the AMDA Foundation/Quality Improvement Awards attracted a talented field of physicians who develop quality improvement research projects in their facilities. The program was revamped during 2006, and the 2006 winners received larger awards than in past years as we strive to attract larger and more detailed projects. Three outstanding applicants were chosen for awards and we look forward to hearing the results of their projects.

The year marked the end of Dr. Larry Lawhorne’s impressive tenure as the AMDA Foundation’s Research Network Director. Dr. Lawhorne developed the Network from a mere idea to a viable network of nearly 400 AMDA members who have an interest in long term care research. His leadership has been steadfast, and we are thankful for his dedication to the AMDA Foundation. I also would like to thank Jurgis Karuza, PhD, who took up the helm as Interim Research Network Director. His leadership provided a seamless transition; and I would like to acknowledge and thank him for all his hard work and dedication to helping the Network as it continues to move forward.

I also would like to thank the AMDA Board of Directors and Lorraine Tarnove for their continued support of the AMDA Foundation. Of course, my heartfelt thanks go out to the AMDA Foundation Board members for their continued support, hard work, and dedication. Finally, many thanks to the AMDA Foundation staff whose hard work is evident in our many programs and projects.

I look forward to the challenges, opportunities, and rewards that 2007 will bring. As the funding climate changes, we will continue to find ways to expand our programs and adjust the way we raise funds to meet the goals we set for ourselves. And we will continue to pursue our passion for and commitment to quality long term care research that impacts patient care and quality of life.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwendolyn D. Maddox, MS
Executive Director

“The AMDA Foundation continues to extend its reach into long term care, by expanding our partnerships and participating in research activities on a national level. This continued commitment to long term care research will not only benefit AMDA members but will also benefit the residents of our nation’s long term care facilities.”

—Gwendolyn D Maddox, MS
Executive Director
AMDA Foundation
When Larry Lawhorne, MD, stepped down as Director of the AMDA Foundation Research Network and Jurgis Karuza, PhD, stepped up to the plate as Interim Director in 2006, the organization didn’t miss a step — thanks to excellent direction by both individuals and a smooth leadership transition. The Research Network continues to blaze new trails. In addition to the fall and spring conferences and progress on numerous research projects, the Network took its relationship with the Physicians Inquiries Network (PIN) to the next level.

The first “voting booth” for long term care research questions in the PIN resulted in clarification of several issues that clearly are of interest for practitioners in this setting. Long term care researchers had the opportunity to submit questions that they would like to see studied and answered. A total of 19 questions were submitted and these were presented to PIN’s long term care panel, comprised of AMDA Foundation Research Network members. These individuals had the opportunity to vote “yes” if they thought the question would be most interesting, relevant, and/or useful to them and other physicians; “no” for questions they thought were less interesting, relevant, and/or useful; or “maybe” if they were unsure of the question’s value.

Questions that received 50% or more “yes” votes will become clinical inquiries.

The AMDA Foundation is working to spread the word about PIN and getting more AMDA members and other long term care practitioners actively involved.

The Research Network held two successful conferences during the year. The spring conference, held during the 2006 AMDA Annual Symposium in Dallas, Texas, included presentations on decision-making capacity and “What Constitutes Refusal?”. These two issues are central to obtaining informed consent to conduct research in long term care, a setting in which a large proportion of residents have dementia. Later, the audience broke into two discussion groups to address the topics of capacity and refusal in terms of what might be included in a Research Network white paper or guideline on these topics. Some of this information will be included in a Research Tutorial planned for publication in 2007.

The fall conference, held in Tampa, Florida, brought together novice and veteran researchers with a patient safety theme and speakers as prestigious as renowned researcher Jerry Gurwitz, MD, AGSF, from the Meyers Primary Care Institute. The meeting was more hands-on than ever, and members had input into what research topics will be addressed in the coming months and years and what form these studies might take.

In an effort to equalize participation, develop a sense of teamwork, provide opportunities for members to become more active and train for leadership positions in the organization, the Research Network Steering Committee voted to form five subcommittees. Sub-committees and their chairs are: Membership/Profile, Chair: Chris Patterson, MD, CMD; Education, Chair: Cari Levy, MD, CMD with David Zimmerman, PhD responsible for study dissemination; Scientific Review, Chair: David Polakoff, MD, MSc, CMD; PIN, Chair: Larry Lawhorne, MD and ACTION, Chair: Jurgis Karuza, PhD.

The Research Network received broad attention at the 2006 AMDA Annual Symposium in Dallas, Texas, included presentations on decision-making capacity and “What Constitutes Refusal?”. These two issues are central to obtaining informed consent to conduct research in long term care, a setting in which a large proportion of residents have dementia. Later, the audience broke into two discussion groups to address the topics of capacity and refusal in terms of what might be included in a Research Network white paper or guideline on these topics. Some of this information will be included in a Research Tutorial planned for publication in 2007.

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The AMDA Foundation also presented at several meetings during 2006 including:

**AMDA Annual Symposium: Translating Research into Practice Session**
J. Ouslander and P. Parmelee (Emory University; Birmingham/Atlanta VA GRECC), L. Lawhorne (Michigan State University; GEC of Michigan), B. Resnick (University of Maryland), and members of the AMDA Foundation Long Term Care Research Network.

**American Geriatrics Society: Poster Presentation**
J. Ouslander and P. Parmelee (Emory University; Birmingham/Atlanta VA GRECC), L. Lawhorne (Michigan State University; GEC of Michigan), B. Resnick (University of Maryland), and members of the AMDA Foundation Long Term Care Research Network.

**Academy Health: Poster presentation**
J. Ouslander and P. Parmelee (Emory University; Birmingham/Atlanta VA GRECC), L. Lawhorne (Michigan State University; GEC of Michigan), B. Resnick (University of Maryland), and members of the AMDA Foundation Long Term Care Research Network.

**NADONA: Poster presentation**
Presented: June 10-14, 2006, Cincinnati, OH. Nursing Beliefs and Expectations about Continence Care in Nursing Homes.
Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP (University of Maryland School of Nursing), Linda J. Keilman, MSN, APRN, BC (College of Nursing at Michigan State University), Barbara Calabrese, RN, BA (American Medical Directors Association Foundation), Patricia Parmelee, PhD (Emory University Center for Health In Aging), Larry Lawhorne, MD, CMD (Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine), Janet Pailet, JD, (American Medical Directors Association Foundation), Joseph Ouslander, MD, CMD (Emory University School of Medicine and Nursing)

**NCGNP: Poster presentation**
Presented: September 27-October 1, 2006, Ponte Vedra, FL. Improving UI Care: An Opportunity for GNP Role Modeling.
Linda J. Keilman, MSN, APRN, BC (Michigan State University), Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP (University of Maryland School of Nursing), Larry Lawhorne, MD, CMD (Geriatric Education Center of Michigan), Barbara Calabrese, RN, BA (American Medical Directors Association Foundation), & Patricia Parmelee, PhD (Department of Psychiatry, Emory University School of Medicine)

**Publications**

**Journal of Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing Manuscript**
Published December 2006. Nursing Beliefs and Expectations about Continence Care in Nursing Homes.
Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP (University of Maryland School of Nursing), Linda J. Keilman, MSN, APRN, BC (College of Nursing at Michigan State University), Barbara Calabrese, RN, BA (American Medical Directors Association Foundation), Patricia Parmelee, PhD (Emory University Center for Health In Aging), Larry Lawhorne, MD (Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine), Janet Pailet, JD (American Medical Directors Association Foundation), Joseph Ouslander, MD, CMD (Emory University School of Medicine and Nursing)

“"We continue to make progress and move forward with our research activities, and these conferences are an important part of our progress. The discussions, the questions, and the comments make it clear that our members have a true vision of what long term care research can be and where we need to go as an organization.”
—Jurgis Karuza, PhD
Interim Research Network Director

sium when Bernard Ewigman, MD, MSPH spoke about the group’s activities and long term care research developments at the meeting’s Opening General Session. “Every AMDA member should join the Foundation’s Research Network,” he told the standing-room-only audience, adding, “Your patients deserve it, and we need your clinical questions, your clinical judgment, and your patients to participate in studies.” After his inspiring presentation, the Network gained 70 new members who signed up during the symposium.

In 2006 the AMDA Foundation began a new venture designed to provide recruitment services for pharmaceutical and clinical research organizations wanting to conduct research in long term care. The Foundation assisted in the recruitment of study sites as well as potential site investigators with long term care experience.
We have completed the study we submitted in 2004 and are preparing an article for JAMDA. In that study, we learned that a point-of-care International Normalized Ratio (INR) device is not appropriate for all patients. There are lots of variables that must be considered, but the QI Award gave us an opportunity to explore this important issue and to have a national platform for our findings.  

—Daniel Bluestein, MD, CMD  
2004 and 2006 QI Award Recipient

During 2006, the AMDA Foundation utilized creative and strong partnerships to the fullest to fund a wide range of unique and valuable research projects and studies designed to impact practice and improve the quality of geriatric patient care.

The centerpiece of grant partnerships is the AMDA Foundation/Pfizer Quality Improvement Awards program, designed to encourage the development of innovative projects that will help to make a distinct impact on the quality of long term care. In 2006, a record number of researchers sought to be part of this important program and share their research results with their long term care colleagues.

Recipients of this award are committed to improving the quality of long term care. As Dr. Bluestein explained, “My dementia study grew out of an in-service I presented last June. The nurses mentioned that they don’t know if dementia drugs do anything. So I started to wonder what is important to caregivers and what functional improvements they are most concerned about.” These studies not only present an opportunity for researchers to address practical questions; they also are an opportunity for team building.

Now in its sixth year, the AMDA Foundation/Pfizer Quality Improvement program provides $10,000 - $15,000 awards to support initiatives that focus on facility staff education, quality improvement programs, research on interventions and treatment, and health literacy to directly enhance the quality of care provided to patients in long term care settings. The awards are intended to cover salary support, consultant fees, materials, and travel to the AMDA Annual Symposium to present project results. In 2006, the Foundation shifted from awarding 7-8 smaller awards to awarding fewer grants with larger budgets.

**2006 QI Award Recipients**

**Daniel Bluestein, MD, CMD**  
“Measuring Response to Dementia Therapy: What Matters to Caregivers”  
Westminster-Canterbury  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Elizabeth M. Galik, PhD, CRNP**  
“Testing the Feasibility and Impact of the Res-Care-CI”  
Copper Ridge  
Sykesville, Maryland

**Julie Gammack, MD**  
“Oral Health Care in Elderly Demented Patients in the Long Term Care Setting”  
St. Louis University  
St. Louis, Missouri
The 2006 AMDA Foundation’s Quality Improvement Awards Selection Committee

Leslie S. Libow, MD, CMD, Chair
Distinguished Clinical Professor, Jewish Home and Hospital Life Care System
Clinical Professor,
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY

Jacob Dimant, MD, CMD
Medical Director, Lutheran Augustana
Center for Extended Care and Rehabilitation
Chief of Geriatrics, Lutheran Medical Center
Brooklyn, NY

David Nace, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine Director,
Long Term Care
University of Pittsburgh
Division of Geriatric Medicine
Pittsburgh, PA

Dan Osterweil, MD, CMD, MscEd
Professor of Medicine
University of California, Los Angeles,
UCLA School of Medicine
Associate Researcher, Borun Center for Gerontological Research
Los Angeles, CA

David Polakoff, MD, MSc, CMD
Senior Vice President and
Chief Medical Officer
Genesis Health Care Corporation
Concord, MA

Andrew Weinberg, MD, FACP, CMD
Professor of Medicine,
University of South Carolina
School of Medicine
Director of Geriatrics and Extended Care
Dorn VA Medical Center
Columbia, SC

David R. Zimmerman, PhD
Professor of Industrial Engineering, and
Director, Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI

“My interest in the AMDA Foundation QI awards has been longstanding. I am interested in long term care education and feel that the nursing home is a site that often is neglected in medical education and research.”
—Julie Gammack, MD
2005 QI Award Recipient

A Total of $221,270 has been awarded for research in the Quality Improvement Award Program

Total Amount of Grants Awarded $317,270
ENCOURAGING, INSPIRING, AND MENTORING TALENTED AND ENthusiastic YOUNG PHYSICIANS TO CONSIDER LONG TERM CARE CAREERS IS A LONG-TIME COMMITMENT OF THE AMDA FOUNDATION. THE FUTURES PROGRAM DOES THIS CONSISTENTLY AND WITH GREAT SUCCESS. IN 2006, THE PROGRAM DREW RAVE REVIEWS FROM THE 60 PARTICIPANTS.

DESIGNED TO EXPOSE RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS TO THE NUMEROUS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN LONG TERM CARE, THE FUTURES PROGRAM IS AN INTENSIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL SPECIALIZED PROGRAM SESSIONS ABOUT THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF LONG TERM CARE, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND AMDA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMS ON A WIDE VARIETY OF CLINICAL, MANAGEMENT, END-OF-LIFE, AND OTHER TOPICS RELATING TO LONG TERM CARE AND GERIATRICS.

THE AMDA FOUNDATION FUTURES APPLICANTS ARE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM BASED UPON THEIR LETTER OF INTEREST AND CURRICULUM VITAE. THE TOP 60 APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. CHERYL PHILLIPS, MD, CMD, AND CARI LEVY, MD, CMD, CO-CHAIR THE 2006 FUTURES PROGRAM.

JANSSEN, L.P. SPONSORED THE FUTURES PROGRAM.

“THIS WAS AN OUTSTANDING PROGRAM. I WAS NOT AWARE OF—BUT WAS PLEASED ABOUT—THE RELATIONSHIP AMDA HAS WITH LONG TERM CARE POLICYMAKERS. I WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE ENTHUSIASM OF ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS. I WAS INTERESTED IN LONG TERM CARE BEFORE I CAME TO THIS MEETING; THIS SOLIDIFIED MY THOUGHTS.”

—STUART KANTER, MD
2006 FUTURES PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

“I LOVED THE ENERGY AND THE GATHERING OF LIKE MINDS. THE PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM I ATTENDED WILL CHANGE THE WAY I TREAT PATIENTS.”

—PRIYA MENDIRATTA, MD
2006 FUTURES PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
Long Term Care
Quality Improvement Partnership

The AMDA Foundation Long Term Care Quality Improvement Partnership entered its fourth and final year in 2006, although the project requested and received a one-year no-cost extension to take it into 2007. Funded by a four-year grant from AHRQ, this project was developed—in keeping with the CMS Nursing Home Quality Initiative—to implement community-based, quality improvement programs for nursing homes that maximize knowledge and resources through collaboration. During years two and three, the project was rolled out in 50 facilities across six states: California, Indiana, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The primary goals of the project include:

- Validation of AMDA’s pain and pressure ulcer CPGs
- Dissemination of evidence-based CPG implementation and training models that can be used in nursing homes throughout the country
- Improved outcomes for the 1.6 million residents of long term care facilities

Lead partners in the project are AMDA, the AMDA Foundation and its Long Term Care Research Network, the American Health Quality Association (representing the state Quality Improvement Organizations) and Quality Partners of Rhode Island. These four organizations constitute the Leadership Team.

In addition to the Leadership Team, a National Long Term Care Quality Coalition consisting of representatives from more than 15 long term care professional and provider groups served in an advisory capacity. Coalition supporters formed the "Partnership" and aided the project by promoting it in their member publications, through presentations and training at their annual meetings, and by providing outreach at the local level in the 6 pilot states.

Both the AMDA Foundation and our subcontractor Quality Partners of Rhode Island eagerly await February 2007, which marks the end of all three data collection periods. The analysis plan and statistical programming and tables in which the data will be presented will be in place. Additionally, pain and pressure ulcer process of care measures will be assessed over time. Each arm of the study received training in one of the two clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) and served as the control for the other arm of the study. The plan was designed to evaluate whether nursing homes had greater improvement in their assigned clinical topic.

“A newer generation of administrators has more appreciation for research, especially if these facility leaders have informed medical directors.”
—Marcia Yesko, RN, MA, NHA LTC QI Project Pennsylvania State Nurse Coordinator
RAISING
The Bar: Fundraising

Art Auction

In 2006, the AMDA Foundation added a new—and highly successful—tradition to its fundraising activities. The first annual “Art of Caring, Works of heART” Art Auction raised $35,000 via silent and live auctions of works of art—including paintings, photographs, and ceramic pieces—many of them produced by nursing home residents. Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center in Baltimore, MD, contributed several works of art, including some pieces of pottery from the private collection of one of its residents.

Attendees had the opportunity to bid on more than 100 donated items, including photographs by AMDA members Jeffrey Levine, MD, CMD, and Mario Cornacchione, DO, CMD. Net proceeds from the event are used to support the Foundation and its research studies. Evercare, Amgen, and sanofi-aventis were sponsors for the event, which included live music and a dessert bar.

“This has been a great way to support the Foundation. There is some terrific artwork here that reminds us how creative, talented, and productive many of our residents still are.”

—Dennis Stone, MD, CMD
Winning Bidder at the Foundation’s First Annual Art Auction
Our first annual art auction was a tremendous success. The artwork was amazing to see, and everyone got in on the spirit of the event. We are grateful for the generous support of AMDA members and their commitment to long term care research.

—Jonathan Musher, MD, CMD Chair, AMDA Foundation Board of Directors Speaking of the Foundation’s First Annual “Art of Caring – Works of heART” Art Auction
Wall of Caring

The Wall of Caring continued to be another popular tradition at the Annual Symposium. The overwhelming generosity of our AMDA members and a grant from Ortho Biotech enabled the event to raise $53,060 in 2006. The wall grew tall as AMDA members and friends paid tribute to their patients, colleagues, and family members who continually inspire their work and their commitment to long term care. Some of the tributes included:

- To my patients: their gift of allowing me to learn from them, as I care for them
- To our CMA, Shirley: A light in the lives of the patients on our dementia unit
- For all those in AMDA who do kindnesses to others
- In memory of the joy my patients have given me and all they have taught me
- In honor of Jackie Robinson, my retiring nurse of 17 years - A true heart for the elderly
- Every day is a good day when you are above ground
- In honor of Dr. Leslie Libow, JIGC – who affirmed geriatrics as a profession for me in 1978!
- To my mother who has handled aging and illness with humor and grace
- Thanks to you Billy Dodd
AMDA Foundation Employs Partnerships for Grant Opportunities

The AMDA Foundation undertook several other innovative partnerships in 2006. One, with the RAND Corporation, enables the Research Network—working in collaboration with RAND—to respond to task orders from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. These task orders are requests for proposals to conduct research on a variety of health care topics of interest to AHRQ. The Foundation already has begun work on the project with much success. One task order was received and circulated, a workgroup was organized, and a proposal was written and submitted.

A second partnership represents a non-traditional—and extremely creative—mechanism for seeking a research grant. This activity also demonstrates the Foundation’s tenacity. The organization submitted a grant proposal to the Commonwealth Fund to conduct a study on provider practice patterns in long term care. Even though the Foundation did not receive funding for the proposal, leadership still believed in the value of this project. So they decided to partner with a small business that had a handheld device that could be used to record what providers do and the time spent. The Foundation partnered with TechCode, an Alabama-based company that uses barcode technology to track practitioner actions and submitted a Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) grant to NIH.
“Operating lean and efficiently is key to the AMDA Foundation’s financial success, and 2006 was no different. We set ambitious fundraising goals for the year, and we exceeded our expectations. Fiscal responsibility is an ongoing commitment that drives both volunteer leaders and staff.”

—Jonathan Musher, MD, CMD
Chair, AMDA Foundation Board of Directors

Fiscal responsibility has been the hallmark of the AMDA Foundation from the beginning, and 2006 was no exception. Foundation leaders remain committed to ensuring that the maximum amount of funding goes directly to research. To ensure that this trend continues, the Foundation has streamlined staffing and limited other expenses. Of course, fiscal health also is dependent on donations and funding, and the Foundation has been more aggressive than ever in bringing in money from individuals and organizations alike.
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