



Kathleen O'Rourke/staff photo
 The staff of the Critical Care unit at Stamford Hospital, including, from left, Crystal Amaye, R.N., Michelle Barbour, R.N., Barbara Pastore, R.N., Dr. James Krinsley, Valerie Neary, R.N., Diane DellAngelo, R.N., Susan Callahan, R.N., and Huey-Hwa Huang, has won the 2004 Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Innovation Prize for their glucose management protocol.

How to get a Baldrige award: Save 49 lives

Stamford Health Systems recognized for its efforts in monitoring glucose in ICU

By Richard Lee
 Assistant Business Editor

Three lower Fairfield County enterprises did not have to wait for the Summer Olympics to win their gold medals. Applera Corp. in Norwalk, SACIA in Stamford and Stamford Health Systems have garnered gold from the Stamford-based Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership Inc. for developing innovative programs that improve quality, performance and marketplace competi-

B2B BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS

tiveness. The statewide awards competition is based on the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award for Performance Excellence, established in 1987 and presented by the president of the United States. Development of a glucose management protocol at Stamford Hospital has resulted in a dramatic drop in deaths in the 14-bed intensive care unit and led to the award for Stamford Health Systems. "Our mortality rate has gone from the

21.9 percent range to the 14.8 percent range," said Dr. James Krinsley, director of critical care and professor of medicine at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. As a result, 49 lives have been saved since the protocol was introduced on Feb. 1, 2003, Krinsley said. Hyperglycemia (elevated blood glucose) commonly occurs in acute illness, even among those without diabetes, he said. It has been associated with adverse outcomes in patients suffering a heart attack, unstable angina, stroke, trauma and cardiac surgery. In a paper published by The Mayo Clinic Proceedings in December, Stamford Please see **BALDRIGE**, Page B8

Baldrige

■ Continued from Page B6

Health System reported that before launching the new protocol, the death rate for those with glucose levels above 300 was more than four times the level for patients in the normal range of about 110.

The goal of the new protocol is to maintain glucose levels below 140. It requires frequent monitoring of patients' glucose levels with fingersticks or blood tests and use of insulin injections or continuous intravenous infusions.

"The creation of the protocols has helped foster a culture of collaboration within the unit," Krinsley said.

The ICU achieved national recognition in 2002 from the National Coalition on Health Care and The Institute for Healthcare Improvement as having one of the 11 best practices in the nation.

Applera won its gold award for its Expression Array System, technology that integrates gene detection capabilities with the company's gene expression products and allows scientists to more easily study what particular genes do.

Gene expression is defined as the process by which a gene's coded information is converted into structures in a living cell.

The Expression Array System was developed by Applera's Applied Biosystems unit in Fos-

ter City, Calif., and is available commercially worldwide.

The system allows examination of a more-focused set of candidate genes for molecular biology research and drug researchers, said Michael Hunkapiller, Applied Biosystems' president.

After hearing concerns that its member corporations were missing important fund-raising events hosted by Fairfield County nonprofit organizations because of scheduling conflicts, SACIA, Southwestern Connecticut's Business Council, developed a Web site where non-profits can list their events.

"It can have financial repercussions for nonprofits. We did this as a service to the community," said SACIA Director Lisa Mercurio. "There are times when I've had 100 events on the page. The spring was a heavy-duty fund-raising period. By providing nonprofits with Fairfield County event date information online, critical fund-raising event planning can be done at any time in a matter of seconds."

She credited General Electric Consumer Finance, Pitney Bowes, Purdue Pharma, Thomson Corp. and Xerox Corp. with providing funds for the project.

Area Silver Award winners included Cartesis Inc., Norwalk, for Cartesis Magnitude, a Web-based business performance management application to deliver financial data in real time;

the city of Stamford, for Stamford Healthy Homes' demonstration for children with asthma; Consign-Net, Wilton, which helps consumers and stores sell unwanted items on the Internet; and Creeth, Richman and Associates, Wilton, for software that empowers non-technical spreadsheet users to become developers of sophisticated Web applications.

Also winning silver were Janus Associates in Stamford, for a vulnerability assessment and corrective action process; LifeCare in Westport, for an E-learning course on preparing to breast feed; Northeast Elementary School in Stamford, for sign-language celebration; and Triple Point Technologies in Westport, for development of software methodology and automation tools for quicker, cheaper and more efficient process for global commodity trading.

"CQIA Innovation Prize award winners embody the critical intellect that is the foundation of Connecticut's long-term growth," said Sheila Carmine, founder and executive director of the partnership. "By applying this Connecticut intellect, each of the prize winners is focused on helping humanity and improving our lives with novel and superior products and services. The ingenuity of these award winners attracts more talented people to Connecticut."