



# THE ALLIANCE *Awards* 2012 Recipient

## Award for Outstanding Educational Collaboration

This award is made in honor of Richard Gorlin, MD, world –renowned cardiologist, educator, clinician and researcher.

**Purpose:** To recognize those organizations best demonstrating innovation or uniqueness in achieving effective CME collaboration.

The 2012 Alliance for CME *Award for Outstanding Educational Collaboration* was presented to the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine – Palmetto Health Richland Continuing Medical Education Organization (USCSOM-PHR CME ORG) in recognition of statewide educational initiative for community pediatric providers who are part of the South Carolina Autism Treatment Network (SCATN) to improve the quality of care for patients diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to work effectively with their families. SCATN is a grant funded project that addresses the need for early identification, therapeutic and educational intervention, and family support in light of the explosion in the prevalence of ASDs, from 0.4-0.5/1000 in 1985 to the current estimate of 1/110.

ASD specialists from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and the Greenville Hospital System have teamed to establish, train, and support a network of community-based pediatricians who provide pediatric medical homes for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The creation of these pediatric medical homes enables the SCATN to work towards bridging the gaps between the initial assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders and the provision of professional medical services for these children.

The USCSOM-PHR CME ORG partnered with the SCATN to develop a series of live educational activities based on adult learning principles. The series are designed to increase the capabilities of the participating pediatric healthcare providers to care for patients diagnosed with an ASD, and to foster a sense of community among these providers. Providers who join the SCATN have access to a secure web-based videoconferencing network with a direct connection to ASD experts from across the state. They are also invited to participate in free educational conferences. The participating providers agree to regularly submit performance data to the SCATN. USCSOM-PHR CME ORG has planned and facilitated multiple live educational activities to accommodate a variety of clinical practice needs and styles of learning. This award recognizes the educational activities that occurred in May and October of 2010.

The USCSOM-PHR CME ORG has incorporated community building as an integral part of the continuing medical education activities developed for the SCATN. Carefully designed educational approaches can facilitate and create a culture that supports a thoughtful focus on practice improvement, while at the same time nurturing a sense of connectedness and collegiality across the network of providers. By cultivating a community of practice, USCSOM-PHR CME ORG has encouraged dialogue among the providers to share their knowledge, tools, and concerns, ultimately to provide higher quality care to patients with these challenging disorders.

The educational interventions have provided considerable value to the SCATN providers. We have observed and measured incremental improvements in clinical practice performance, self-reported knowledge, and competence in the SCATN providers who have attended the accredited CME activities. The focus on specific and measurable outcomes has demonstrated the effectiveness of the educational design for changing providers' practices. Being recognized for this successful educational collaboration is an honor we share with the SCATN members and their key stakeholders.

*For additional information, please visit the SCATN website: <http://scatn.med.sc.edu/>*



From left to right: Brent Denisar, Harry Wright, MD, Ruth Abramson, PhD, Teri Evans, CCMEP, Morris Blachman, PhD