

Applied Research@BCIT

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT

BCIT RESEARCHERS WIN EXCELLENCE IN BC HEALTH CARE AWARD

For years, the BCIT Product and Process Applied Research Team (PART) has been on the cutting edge when it comes to developing medical devices. On June 25 2012, they were recognized for it.



The BCIT PART team was instrumental in helping the British Columbia Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) team win the Workplace Health Innovation (Award of Merit) at the 2012 Excellence in BC Health Care Awards for their collaborative effort on creating an innovative and ergonomic cancer syringe adaptor.

The need was identified by Richard Hall, an Ergonomic Advisor at the PHSA and Dennis Schweers, a Biomedical Engineer at C&W. The concept of the design was to reduce injuries associated with the repeated administration of chemotherapy drug treatment.

With funding from WorkSafe BC, Hall and Schweers turned to PART to assist in designing an adaptor or interface that would decrease the injury causing strain to nurses. What the researchers at PART (Gordon Thiessen, Yvette Jones, Ernie Janzen, Thom Bellaire) came up with, in collaboration with the PHSA team, was a sleek, functional and compact syringe adaptor that was easy and safe for nurses to use.

All too often, nurses and professionals in the medical field develop their own health issues due to the use of medical devices. PART constantly aims to find safe solutions for health workers.

“We used to work on ultrasound machines and 90 percent of sonographers would end up with lost time injuries on their shoulders over time,” said Nancy Paris, the Director of PART. “It was just because they were badly designed machines.”



The Ergonomic Syringe Adapter that is used to administer chemotherapy.

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