FY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The most dangerous poison is the feeling of achievement. The antidote is to every evening think what can be done better tomorrow.
—Ingvar Kamprad, IKEA founder

This year’s Annual Report reflects a number of significant achievements driven by our passionate commitment to our mission. First and foremost, we save lives. Second, we are extraordinarily efficient in what we do, costing taxpayers little and saving Iowans millions of dollars every year. This coupled with a fiercely loyal and motivated workforce will help us continue to deliver on our promise to provide exceptional service and outstanding value to the residents of Iowa.

With pride we look back at the exciting highlights and accomplishments of the year:

• Earned the maximum five-year reaccreditation by the American Association of Poison Control Centers, placing Iowa among 54 accredited poison centers in the nation.

• Launched a new website with improved functionality, design and navigation. Check us out at www.iowapoison.org.

• Three RNs passed the Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSP) national examination bringing the percentage of RN staff certified to 100%—a rare feat among the nation’s poison centers.

• Moved into a new suite in the MidAmerican Energy building in Sioux City—space that has allowed us to grow and develop.

• Upgraded our telecommunications and surge response capabilities with implementation of a grant-funded Unified Communications system.

• Hired first-ever pharmacist to join our multidisciplinary health care team.

• Eliminated thousands of costly ER visits by managing 90% of our public calls at home saving over $12 million in health care costs.

I would like to thank our elected leaders for recognizing the importance of the Iowa Poison Control Center. We appreciate the work that was done by the Governor and the Iowa Legislature last year and we are confident that an ongoing funding solution will be found. I’d specifically like to recognize the HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, as well as our local Siouxland State Legislators and the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, who supported our efforts for sustainable funding.

We are extremely grateful for the support we received last year from Iowa hospitals, Wellmark, sponsoring organizations Unity Point Health and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa Department of Public Health, and U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. We sincerely appreciate all of the support from our local community. Special thanks to UnityPoint Health-St. Luke’s Sioux City for its generous in-kind support. I’m extremely grateful for the leadership and dedication of our Board of Directors. Finally, thank you to our amazing staff who gives 100% every day.

As you read this report, I hope you will feel a sense of pride for the part you have played in making our achievements possible. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

With Appreciation and Best Wishes in 2015,

Linda B. Kalin
The Iowa Poison Control Center has earned its reaccreditation as a regional poison center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. The designation by the national association places Iowa among 54 accredited poison centers in the nation.

“Accreditation represents a major accomplishment and means the center has met national standards of excellence for poison centers,” says Linda Kalin, director for the poison center. “I’m especially proud of the quality of our staff which works 24-hours a day to respond to calls and serve as a vital resource for Iowa health care providers and the public.”

Last year the center handled over 40,000 calls. Nearly half of the poisonings involved a child under the age of six. The IPCC is consulted daily by parents, grandparents, child care providers, teachers, prehospital care providers, pharmacists, and nurses and physicians in every area of practice about poisoning from drugs, chemicals and other toxins.

To be certified by the national association, the Iowa center needed to meet a number of strict standards. They include providing 24-hour poison information and telephone management to the public and health care professionals, employment of nurses or pharmacists certified as poison information specialists, a board-certified medical toxicologist to provide medical oversight and direction, an ongoing quality improvement program, written guidelines for evaluation and management of toxic exposures and public and professional education programs.

The IPCC, based in Sioux City and designated as the official state center by the state health department in 2000, relies on state and federal funding and hospital contributions to support its operations.

The center’s telephone number is 1-800-222-1222. Non-emergency poison information is also available at the IPCC web site at www.iowapoison.org.

Specialists in poison information (SPI) are the individuals who staff the emergency phone lines 24 hours daily. IPCC SPIs are registered nurses with critical care experience who have training in the evaluation and treatment of poison exposures. This year, three of our specialists, Janet Gray, Jenny Smith and Susie Eades sat for the Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSPI) exam and passed, thereby making 100% of the IPCC’s staff being certified specialists.

The CSPI Exam is administered by the American Association of Poison Control Centers and tests a specialist’s knowledge base and problem solving skills regarding management of poison exposures. The exam topics include medications, household products, biological (venomous bites, food poisoning and plants), pesticides, chemicals and metals. Candidates for the exam must be a registered nurse or pharmacist currently employed as a SPI and must have 2,000 hours of experience providing poison center telephone consultations and have handled an accumulated 2,000 cases. Recertification is required every seven years. Congratulations to these CSPIs!

L to R: Jenny Smith and Susie Eades. Not pictured: Janet Gray
CONSULTANTS

The IPCC maintains a relationship with a number of expert consultants in many areas related to toxicology should a question be found that our usual and customary resources cannot handle. We would like to acknowledge their contributions to the program.

Iowa Department of Public Health
Michele Catellier, MD
Rebecca Curtiss, RN
Randal Dahlin
Ann Garvey, DVM, MPH, MA
Rita Gergely
Julia Goodin, MD
Dennis Klein, MD
John Kraemer, PA
Patty Quinlisk, MD, MPH
Stuart Schmitz, MS, PE
Ken Sharp, REHS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Kathy Lee

Iowa State University
Steve Ensley, DVM
Leonor Leandro, PhD

Siouxland District Health Department
Michelle Clausen-Rosendahl, MPH, REHS
Chuck Cipperly
Kevin Grieme

State Hygienic Laboratory
Chris Atchison, MPA
Don Simmons, PhD
Mike Wichman, PhD

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Dennis Firchau, MD
Kenneth Goins, MD

Marcus Nashefsky, MD
Shawn Simmons, MD

Iowa Hazardous Materials Team Leaders
Asst. Chief Jim Clark, Sioux City

Woodbury County Emergency Management
Gary Brown

REAC/TS, Oak Ridge, TN
Ronald Goans, MD, PhD

UnityPoint Health-St. Luke’s, Sioux City Pathologists
Julie Breiner, MD
Thomas Carroll, MD
Mike Kafka, MD
James Quesenberry, MD

POISON CENTER UTILIZATION BY COUNTY*

Poison Center utilization and awareness of its services directly results in decreased injury or deaths and reduces unnecessary emergency department visits and inappropriate use of medical resources. •
NATIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTER BOARD

Linda Kalin, executive director of the Iowa Poison Control Center, has been elected to a three-year term with the American Association of Poison Control Centers’ Board of Directors. The eight-person board is elected by a general membership vote among its 54 U.S. poison centers. Kalin previously served two terms as a Director-at-Large (2000-2003, 2003-2006). The AAPCC’s mission is to actively advance the health care role and public health mission of our members through information, advocacy, education and research.

Kalin has over 25 years of experience in clinical toxicology and poison center activities. After moving to Iowa in 1979, Linda began her career as an emergency room nurse at UnityPoint Health-St. Luke’s (Sioux City) and in 1989 became Iowa’s first Certified Specialist in Poison Information. She was instrumental in the development of the statewide poison control center established in 2000. She is an adjunct faculty member and preceptor for the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and Drake College of Pharmacy and was awarded Preceptor of the Year by both universities. Linda has held leadership and service positions in many national and local professional organizations and currently serves on the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Linda has been honored as one of 100 Great Iowa Nurses for 2012.

IPCC HOSTS FIRST EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENT

In June, 2014, Dr. Amy Maule, a third year Emergency Medicine resident from the University of Iowa, completed an intense two week elective at the Iowa Poison Control Center. The rotation provided Dr. Maule with in-depth education covering the entire breadth of toxicology and poison center operations. The main components of the rotation were morning case review of all open cases being managed by the center, twice daily lectures covering the core-content of toxicology, and topic-specific worksheets. The rotation concluded with Dr. Maule giving a presentation to the IPCC staff titled “Top Ten Things Every ED Doctor Should Know About Toxicology.”

A host of other students rotate through the poison center throughout the year—pharmacy students from Drake University and University of Iowa, family medicine residents from the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation, and nursing students from St. Luke’s College of Nursing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FY 2014

Michael Brownlee, PharmD
Associate Director and Chief Pharmacy Officer
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Ken Cheyne, MD
Medical Director
Blank Children’s Hospital
Des Moines, IA

Ken Fisher
Associate Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Jim Gobell
Chief Financial Officer
UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s
Sioux City, IA

Andrew Nugent, MD
Chair and Department Executive Officer
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Stephen Stephenson, MD
Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President
UnityPoint Health Des Moines
Des Moines, IA

Carey Gehl Supple
Director of Strategic Growth
UnityPoint Health
West Des Moines, IA

Ted Townsend
President and Chief Executive Officer
UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s
Cedar Rapids, IA

David Weetman
Assistant Director, Acute Pharmaceutical Care
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Brian White
Senior Assistant Director/Legal Counsel
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
Iowa City, IA
PHARMACIST JOINS IPCC STAFF

The Iowa Poison Control Center (IPCC) has hired Dr. Kimberly Zellmer, Pharm. D., BCPS, as the center’s first staff pharmacist. This is a long-awaited addition to the poison center as the IPCC was only one of only a few poison control centers that did not have at least one pharmacist on staff.

Dr. Zellmer earned a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) degree in 2008 from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. After graduation, Dr. Zellmer worked in the hospital pharmacy at UnityPoint-St. Luke’s Sioux City from 2008-2014. Her job responsibilities included: order verification; dosing of aminoglycosides and vancomycin; supervising and teaching pharmacy students and residents; compiling and investigating reports on medication errors and adverse drug reactions for the hospital’s Pharmacy, Therapeutics and Nutrition committee; overseeing quality assurance activities; monitoring and dosing of TPN; and pharmaceutical compounding. She also rotated through the Sunnybrook Medical Plaza, providing patient counseling to clinic patients there.

In 2014, Dr. Zellmer passed the difficult Board of Pharmacy Specialties’ exam to become a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).

Dr. Zellmer’s initial responsibilities at the IPCC include becoming a Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSPI), providing consultation on pharmaceutical side effects and drug-drug interactions, working with the FDA’s MedWatch program, and compiling information regarding medication safety errors. Future plans for Dr. Zellmer include becoming a diplomat of the American Board of Applied Toxicology and taking on administrative responsibilities in the IPCC.

Dr. Zellmer was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa. She is married and has two daughters. In addition to raising two daughters and tending to the numerous animals on their farm, she and her husband participate in rodeo competitions around the Midwest.

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FY 2014 FATALITIES

The deaths listed below (<1% of all human exposures) are those cases where the IPCC received confirmation of a fatal outcome. In those cases where several substances were ingested, the cause of death is ascribed exclusively to the substance that was deemed to have had the most toxic effect. The relatively small number of deaths reported to the IPCC does not accurately represent the true extent of poisoning as a cause of acute injury and death in the state. Poisoning-related deaths continue to rise at the national level. There are several reasons that the majority of death cases may go unreported to the IPCC. Patients that are found dead on arrival or whose history indicates treatment with a known EMS protocol may not be reported to the IPCC by first responders, law enforcement, medical examiners or other health care providers. Overdoses of abused substances may also go unrecognized as a poisoning case.

- 29 y/o male, toilet bowl cleaner, bupropion, fluoxetine
- 34 y/o male, heroin, alcohol
- 84 y/o female, acetaminophen, aspirin
- 51 y/o male, methamphetamine, unknown substance
- 22 y/o male, unknown substance, diphenhydramine
- 83 y/o female, morphine, citalopram, lorazepam, clonazepam
- 79 y/o female, oxycodone, fentanyl, acetaminophen
- 67 y/o female, unknown substance, aspirin
- 18 y/o male, synthetic cannabinoid
- 27 y/o male, synthetic cannabinoid, marijuana, acetaminophen
- Child, synthetic cannabinoid
- 51 y/o male, carvedilol, carisoprodol, amlodipine
- Unknown age adult male, unknown gas
- 25 y/o male, prescription amphetamine, alprazolam
- 44 y/o female, quetiapine, alcohol
- 48 y/o female, duloxetine
- 23 y/o male, heroin
- Child, alcohol
- 57 y/o female, hydrocodone/acetaminophen, diazepam, carisoprodol

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SAVING LIVES
AND SAVING MONEY

America’s 54 poison control centers (PCCs) play a hybrid role, functioning as part of the public health infrastructure and as direct-service providers. As the sophistication of the PCC system has increased, the role of PCCs has evolved over time to include involvement in health-care cost reductions and public safety by toxico-surveillance, as well as serving as a repository of valuable research data on product safety and toxicity.

PCCs assess, triage, manage and follow up with people who are exposed to harmful substances at no direct cost to the caller. Multiple studies have demonstrated PCCs save health care dollars by averting unnecessary visits to health care facilities.

To determine the impact in Iowa, a study was conducted in 2013 (Value of the Iowa Poison Center: Impact on Health Care Costs 2013)* comparing the operating costs of the Iowa Poison Control Center with the costs of alternative sources of poisoning advice and care if the IPCC did not exist. The key findings in this study present clear evidence that the IPCC provides significant health and economic benefits to the State of Iowa and its residents.

- Nearly 90% of calls from the general public are safely managed at home eliminating the unnecessary use of emergency departments, physician offices, and ambulance transports resulting in an annual net savings to Iowa and its taxpayers over $12 million through cost avoidance.

- If the IPCC was not available, 70% of Iowans would go to the ER and 5% would have called an ambulance. 50% of IPCC callers carry private health insurance providing a savings of $6.2 million to private insurance companies. 46% of callers are covered by Medicaid, Medicare or HAWK-I. Their seeking alternative care would result in additional charges of $5.7 million to Iowa’s Medicaid and Medicare health insurance programs.

- The IPCC is a valuable resource for health care professionals. Last year 100% of Iowa hospitals utilized IPCC services for expert consultation in poisonings and overdoses. Patients managed with PCC expertise experience shorter hospitalizations, helping health care providers serve more patients, improving health outcomes and decreasing health care costs.

- Every $1 spent on the IPCC saves at least $16 in health care costs. This is probably an underestimate. PCCs are as cost-effective as childhood immunizations in their ability to provide cost avoidance in public health delivery. •

* A copy of the full study can be obtained by emailing Linda Kalin at Linda.Kalin@unitypoint.org. The first cost effectiveness study was done in 2004, commissioned by the IDPH, specifically focused on the financial effects on Iowa’s health care system if PCC services were not available. The study has been repeated intermittently since 2004, and this report represents the 2013 study results. •

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the beginning of the year, the IPCC was in the midst of a budget crisis with a funding shortfall of $500,000. Facing the threat of elimination, the IPCC was relieved and grateful when the Iowa State Legislature found a solution for funding the IPCC and keeping this critical resource in Iowa.

The IPCC requires a lean operating budget of $1.6 million to maintain its current level of services. Costs have been kept low through efficient management of the center and significant in-kind support from UnityPoint Health. We had an overwhelming success with hospital contributions in FY 2014 collectively generating over $400,000 to support the IPCC. Corporate sponsors, UnityPoint Health and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, provided an additional 14% to fill the budget deficit. Iowa Department of Public Health provided 40% of IPCC funding. Wellmark contributed $50,000.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, our annual federal income tax return, IRS form 990, is available for review on our website, www.iowapoison.org.
In 2013, we decided to reach out to the hospitals in the state for help to support the IPCC. Our Iowa hospitals heard our request, understood our need and stepped up to the challenge. 115 hospitals have been contributing to the IPCC collectively generating $410,000 per year. We wish to recognize and heartily thank our generous hospital partners. Your support will help us continue to advance our mission to improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care costs to our communities.

**HOSPITAL SUPPORTERS**

Adair County Memorial Hospital, Greenfield  
Chil Health Mercy Corning  
Chil Health Mercy Council Bluffs  
Chil Health Missouri Valley  
Audubon County Memorial Hospital, Audubon  
Avera Holy Family Health, Estherville  
Baum-Harmon Mercy Hospital, Primghar  
Boone County Hospital, Boone  
Broadlawns Medical Center, Des Moines  
Buchanan County Health Center, Independence  
Buena Vista Regional Medical Center, Storm Lake  
Cass County Memorial Hospital, Atlantic  
Central Community Hospital, Eldader  
Cherokee Regional Medical Center, Cherokee  
Clarinda Regional Health Center, Clarinda  
Clarke County Hospital, Osceola  
Community Memorial Hospital, Sumner  
Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo  
Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison  
Dallas County Hospital, Perry  
Davi County Hospital, Blooming  
Decatur County Hospital, Leon  
Floyd County Medical Center, Charles City  
Floyd County Medical Center, Le Mars  
Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison  
Franklin General Hospital, Hampton  
Genesis Medical Center, Davenport  
Genesis Medical Center, DeWitt  
Grape Community Hospital, Hamburg  
Greater Regional Medical Center, Creston  
Great River Medical Center, W. Burlington  
Greene County Medical Center, Jefferson  
Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Grinnell  
Grundy County Memorial Hospital, Grundy Center  
Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center  
Guttenburg Municipal Hospital, Guttenburg  
Hancock County Memorial Hospital, Britt  
Hansen Family Hospital, Iowa Falls  
Hawarden Community Hospital, Hawarden  
Hegg Memorial Health Center Avera – Rock Valley  
Henry County Health Center, Mt. Pleasant  
Horn Memorial Hospital, Ida Grove  
Humboldt County Memorial Hospital, Humboldt  
Iowa Specialty Hospital – Belmond  
Iowa Specialty Hospital – Clarion  
Jackson County Regional Health Center, Maquoketa  
Jefferson County Health Center, Fairfield  
Jennie Edmundson Hospital, Council Bluffs  
Keokuk County Health Center, Sigourney  
Knoxville Area Community Hospital, Knoxville  
Kossuth Regional Health Center, Algona  
Lakes Regional Healthcare, Spirit Lake  
Loring Hospital, Sac City  
Lucas County Health Center, Chariton  
Madison County Memorial Hospital, Winterset  
Mahaska Health Partnership, Oskaloosa  
Manning Regional Healthcare Center, Manning  
Marengo Memorial Hospital, Marengo  
Marshalltown Medical & Surgical Center, Marshalltown  
Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames  
Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines  
Mercy Hospital of Franciscan Sisters, Oelwein  
Mercy Iowa City  
Mercy Medical Center – Cedar Rapids  
Mercy Medical Center – Centerville  
Mercy Medical Center – Clinton  
Mercy Medical Center – Dubuque  
Mercy Medical Center – Dyersville  
Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa, Mason City  
Mercy Medical Center – New Hampton  
Mercy Medical Center – Sioux City  
Mercy West Lakes, West Des Moines  
Mitchell County Regional Health Center, Osage  
Monroe County Hospital, Albia  
Montgomery County Memorial Hospital, Red Oak  
Myrte Memorial Hospital, Harlan  
Orange City Area Health System, Orange City  
Osceola Community Hospital, Sibley  
Ottumwa Regional Health Center, Ottumwa  
Palmer Lutheran Health Center, West Union  
Palo Alto County Health System, Emmetsburg  
Pella Regional Health Center, Pella  
Pocahontas Community Hospital, Pocahontas  
Regional Health Services of Howard County, Cresco  
Regional Medical Center, Manchester  
Ringgold County Hospital, Mount Ayr  
Sanford Hospital Rock Rapids, Rock Rapids  
Sanford Sheldon Medical Center, Sheldon  
Sartori Memorial Hospital, Cedar Falls  
Shenandoah Medical Center, Shenandoah  
Sioux Center Health, Sioux Center  
Skiff Medical Center, Newton  
Spencer Hospital, Spencer  
St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll  
Stewart Memorial Community Hospital, Lake City  
Story County Medical Center, Nevada  
Trinity Regional Medical Center, Unity Point Health – Fort Dodge  
UnityPoint Health – Allen Health System, Waterloo  
UnityPoint Health – Blank Children’s Hospital, Des Moines  
UnityPoint Health – Finley Hospital, Dubuque  
UnityPoint Health – Fort Dodge  
UnityPoint Health – Iowa Lutheran, Des Moines  
UnityPoint Health – Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines  
UnityPoint Health – Jones Regional Medical Center, Anamosa  
UnityPoint Health – Methodist West Hospital, West Des Moines  
UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital, Cedar Rapids  
UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital, Sioux City  
UnityPoint Health – Trinity, Bettendorf  
UnityPoint Health – Trinity, Muscatine  
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa City  
Van Buren County Hospital, Keosauqua  
Van Diest Medical Center, Webster City  
Veterans Memorial Hospital, Waukon  
Virginia Gay Hospital, Vinton  
Washington County Hospitals & Clinics, Washington  
Waverly Health Center, Waverly  
Wayne County Hospital, Corydon  
Winnebago County Memorial Hospital, Decorah