

SAFE HOME CARE PROJECT WHAT'S NEW

Our current project:

The Safe Home Care Project is currently developing evidence-based guidance on cleaning and disinfection products and practices that are effective for infection prevention and safe for the respiratory health of home care aides, nurses, and clients.

For more information, visit our website at <https://www.uml.edu/SafeHC>.

Out and about, from Lowell to Dublin

Safe Home Care Project members have been presenting our work to the research community in occupational health as well as other stakeholders in the fields of home care and healthy aging.

ICOH 2018

Drs. Margaret Quinn and Pia Markkanen attended the 32nd International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH) in Dublin, Ireland in April/May 2018.

Dr. Quinn's keynote address entitled "Healthy aging, healthy work: a global perspective on the home care workforce" provided an

overview of the need for international recognition of hazards in home health work grounded in findings from the Safe Home Care Project. The presentation highlighted the worldwide demographic trends that make this a critical workforce and contribute to risk.

Dr. Markkanen presented a poster on Cleaning and Disinfection in Home Healthcare, which focused on the project's work integrating qualitative and quantitative research to assess caregivers' exposure to cleaning and disinfection products. She incorporated the findings from the Safe Home Care Project's focus

groups, field microbiology study, and laboratory exposure assessment study.

Dr. Markkanen's poster is available for download on our website at www.uml.edu/SafeHC. Conference abstracts can be found in the April 2018 Supplement 2 of the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Healthy Aging, Living Well Forum

Closer to home, on April 6, 2018 Safe Home Care Project members took part in the 4th Annual Healthy Aging, Living Well Forum at UMass Lowell. This forum, hosted by the Zuckerman College of Health Sciences, Center for Gerontology Research and Partnerships, welcomed researchers, students, and the public and offered a variety of speakers on current issues in aging. With a keynote speaker from AARP Massachusetts who discussed a recently-passed state law governing the transition from hospital to home, the forum brought together policy, research, and practice across disciplines.

Dr. Quinn presented on Home Care Client and Workforce Safety and Dr. Markkanen presented on Safe Client Mobilization and Lifting. Doctoral students on the project team also presented posters on their work in progress in the areas of harmful client behaviors/violence and health effects of cleaning and disinfectants.



Find more on our website, including:

- Links to our publications
- Resources for Safe Home Care

www.uml.edu/SafeHC

The Safe Home Care Project is a project of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and is funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Grant R01OH008229.

Dr. Margaret Quinn receives Alice Hamilton Award

Safe Home Care Project Principal Investigator Dr. Margaret Quinn was honored for her career in occupational and environmental hygiene by being chosen as the 2018 recipient of the Alice Hamilton Award from the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). The award was presented at the annual AIHA conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this May.

The award is named for Dr. Alice Hamilton, a pioneer of the study of occupational health whose findings were fundamental in driving reforms to improve worker health in the US. In the words of AIHA, the Alice Hamilton Award is presented to “an outstanding woman who has made a definitive, lasting achievement in the field of occupational and environmental hygiene through public and community service, social reform, technological innovation and advancements in the scientific approach to the recognition, evaluation, and control of workplace hazards.” The award is given to someone “recognized by her peers to be competent in her chosen field, dedicated to

scientific truth, and committed to positive change for worker health.”

While this award directly honors Dr. Quinn’s accomplishments throughout her career, it also reflects the growing recognition by the professionals and researchers across the field of occupational and environmental hygiene that a client’s home is also a workplace and that the people who work in others’ homes deserve to be safe — a belief that has motivated Dr. Quinn’s work for well over a decade.



Safe Home Care Project



Safe Home Care Project
University of
Massachusetts Lowell
600 Suffolk Street, Suite
503
Lowell, MA 01854
Phone: 978-934-3386

Email:
SafeHomeCare@uml.edu

Meet Our Team : Recent Doctoral Graduates

In this issue of our newsletter, we would like to introduce you to two recent graduates who conducted their doctoral research with the Safe Home Care Project.

Name: Daniel Okyere

Birthplace: Tamale, Ghana

Academic background: nursing, population health

Focus of dissertation research: evaluating the interpersonal relationship (carebond) between aides and clients

Motivation for dissertation topic: “I started my career in health care as an aide. I treasure many memorable moments in providing care and the bond this created between me and my clients. The quality and nature of the care-bond is an important unique tool that can be used to identify and respond to safety challenges and risks faced by both the aide and client.”

Current position: Health Science Specialist at the Veterans Administration, supporting a program of relationship-based teams to improve person-centered care, communication, and the veteran experience



Name: Natalie Brouillette

Birthplace: Massachusetts

Academic background: occupational and environmental hygiene, biology

Focus of dissertation research: risk of sharps injuries among home care nurses and aides; effectiveness of cleaning and disinfecting products as used in client homes

Motivation for dissertation topic: “I’ve worked many years in the healthcare field and understand the critical role home care workers play in client well-being. If I can be a voice to identify and call attention to the hazards experienced by home care workers as they perform necessary care tasks then I am doing my part to help this essential worker population.”

Current position: Research Scientist affiliated with the Safe Home Care Project

