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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAYADA and Drexel Announce Recipients of the 2012 BAYADA Award

\$20,000 awarded for innovative use of technology in nursing education and practice

MOUNT LAUREL, NJ — June 21, 2012 — Valerie Sabol, PhD, ACNP-BC, GNP-BC, CCNS CCRN, Robert Blessing, DNP, ACNP, and Karen Adamson, WHNP-C, earned the international BAYADA Award for Technological Innovation in Nursing Education and Practice. The award acknowledges those who have made significant contributions to the field of nursing through the development or adoption of a new technology, and was presented recently by Drexel University's College of Nursing and Health Professions at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute's annual conference in Savannah, GA. The award is sponsored by BAYADA Home Health Care, a leading provider of home health care and hospice services.

A simulation challenge created by North Carolina residents Sabol, an associate professor at the acute care nursing program at Duke University, and Blessing, a faculty member at Duke University, received the nursing education honor. Their collaboration, *SimWars: The Ultimate Test of Clinical Management*, challenged a group of students to interact with a standardized patient and their family. As the symptoms progressed, the standardized patient was replaced with a high-fidelity simulator so students could practice more advanced clinical skills. A panel of judges provided students with feedback on their communication and teamwork skills in addition to their clinical performance. The competition increased the students' engagement in the simulation while allowing faculty members to evaluate the students' response to a crisis situation.

The nursing practice honor was awarded to Adamson, a Colorado resident and women's health nurse practitioner at the Pueblo City and County Health Department. Her innovative public health initiative, *Ask Tara*, enabled teens to anonymously text and email their questions about contraception and sexually transmitted diseases to a nurse practitioner who would respond within 24 hours. The initiative helped dispel the myths that could lead to teen pregnancies and enabled medical professionals to identify trends and develop health education programs for this at-risk population.

Created in 2004, the BAYADA Award is sponsored annually by BAYADA Home Health Care to recognize and reward nurses who are using new technology to improve patient care through improved nursing education and practice.

Founded in 1975 by J. Mark Baiada, BAYADA Home Health Care provides nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, hospice, and assistive care services to children, adults, and seniors in the comfort of their homes. Headquartered in suburban Philadelphia, BAYADA employs more than 18,000 nurses, home health aides, therapists, medical social workers, and other home health care professionals who serve their communities in 25 states from more than 250 offices. For more information, visit www.bayada.com.



Laura Patrick (BAYADA), Robert Blessing, Valerie Sabol, and Gloria Donnelly (Drexel)



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