

ThinkFirst

National Injury Prevention Foundation

2018 ThinkFirst Awards

April 29, 2018
New Orleans Downtown Marriott
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. David and Donna Cavanaugh Distinguished Service and Partnership Award
Mark A. Spatola, MD, FAANS and Mihaela Ionescu, MD, Orange Park, FL
Dr. Mark Spatola and his wife, Dr. Mihaela Ionescu, are devoted supporters of ThinkFirst and its mission. Dr. Spatola was drawn to neurosurgery after classmate, Warren West, sustained a C-5 spinal cord injury after falling from his dorm window while reaching to clean the outside panes. Dr. Ionescu is an infectious disease physician who shares her husband's passion for ThinkFirst and injury prevention.

The two became involved with ThinkFirst to promote injury prevention in their community. Dr. Spatola started a ThinkFirst chapter in Orange Park, Florida where he serves as the ThinkFirst Medical Director. He also works closely with neighboring chapter, ThinkFirst Brooks Rehabilitation.

On the national level, Drs. Spatola and Ionescu became involved through sponsoring and attending ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation events. In 2012, Dr. Spatola began serving on the ThinkFirst Board of Directors and quickly became involved in numerous Board committees. He served as Chairman of the Board from 2015-2017 and continues to be an active member of the Resource Development Committee. He also works to promote ThinkFirst worldwide through his involvement with the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Neurotrauma Prevention Task Force. Most recently, Dr. Spatola made it his personal charge to promote ThinkFirst on a broad scale through articles and social media. He has written and co-written several published blogs, articles and studies on ThinkFirst, and frequently posts injury prevention information on the ThinkFirst Facebook group page.

Drs. Spatola and Ionescu are devoted, giving sponsors of ThinkFirst conferences and events. Together, they work to support the activities and programs of the national office and promote ThinkFirst at local, state, national and international levels. The distinguished service of Drs. Spatola and Ionescu has made a significant and enduring impact on ThinkFirst and injury prevention!

Thank you to our 2018 ThinkFirst Conference and Events Sponsors!



Dr. David and Donna Cavanaugh



Dr. Mark A. Spatola
and
Dr. Mihaela Ionescu



Capitol Surgical, LLC



Dr. Mark Proctor
and
Dr. Charlotte McKee

Dr. Tetsuo and Cindy Tatsumi



Medical Director of the Year

Hugh Garton, MD, MHSc

ThinkFirst University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Neurosurgeon Dr. Hugh Garton began his passionate service to the ThinkFirst Board of Directors in 2010 as the liaison for the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Since that time, his role on the Board grew to include serving as Board Medical Director and member of the Executive Board. In 2013, Dr. Garton became the Medical Director for ThinkFirst University of Michigan Ann Arbor chapter. He has been instrumental in the areas of chapter development and transition of leadership.

International Chapter of the Year

Piensa Primero, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Neurosurgeons Ena Miller, MD and Angel Velasquez, MD established two ThinkFirst chapters in Honduras after the Maria Catarino Hospital in Cortes State experienced an alarming number of trauma admissions in 2016. As physicians and chapter directors, Drs. Miller and Velasquez developed locally appropriate prevention programs and worked with local leaders and schools to present programs to nearly 4,000 students. This model chapter was featured as an example of best practices in international injury prevention programs at the 2017 ThinkFirst Conference on Injury Prevention.

Chapter of the Year

ThinkFirst Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

ThinkFirst Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak was established in 2008 under the leadership of Medical Director Dr. Daniel Michael and Chapter Director Lori Sheridan, BBA. In 2017, over 8,200 people were served through *ThinkFirst About Concussion*, *ThinkFirst for Teens* and *ThinkFirst for Kids*. Donna Bucciarelli, RN, BSN Trauma Injury Prevention Coordinator at Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, partners with Lori and the chapter to conduct additional innovative programs, including the *Rules of the Road* teen driving program, *CHAMP* concussion education presentations, bike helmet education for third grade students, and an array of bike safety and helmet fitting initiatives throughout the service area.

VIP of the Year—Cecelia Fred

ThinkFirst Navajo Nation—AZ, NM, UT

Cecelia Fred's indomitable spirit embodies the mission of ThinkFirst. Cecilia was instrumental in establishing the ThinkFirst Navajo/Eve's Fund chapter by helping convince Navajo elders to provide injury prevention education to youth and promote quality of life for people with disabilities throughout Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. As a model VIP speaker, Cecilia is deeply admired for her ability to move past her spinal cord injury as a six year old and become a dynamic and respected advocate for injury prevention and disability awareness.

VIP of the Year—Patrick Severin

ThinkFirst Northwestern Medicine, Winfield, IL

Patrick Severin began speaking with ThinkFirst while still a patient at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in the early 1990's. Patrick's enthusiasm and dedication to ThinkFirst have never wavered during his nearly 25 years of service. He has presented over 1,000 programs throughout the state of Illinois, assisted with programs in Wisconsin, and was a featured speaker at the 2016 ThinkFirst Conference on Injury Prevention. Patrick is a beloved and powerful VIP speaker who has made a big difference in the lives of countless youth.

Outstanding Community Involvement—Julie Philbrook, DNP, RN

ThinkFirst Minneapolis, MN

Dr. Julie Philbrook has led ThinkFirst Minneapolis at Hennepin County Medical Center for 27 years. During her distinguished service, Dr. Philbrook has created numerous data-driven community-based injury prevention programs. Community outreach programs offered by this chapter include: *Next Step Youth Gun Violence Prevention* to decrease violence-related injuries among youth, *Teddy Bear Clinic* to reduce anxiety among young children receiving medical care, faith-based safety presentations for parents and grandparents, lunch and learn employee safety presentations for area businesses, and *Stepping On—A Falls Prevention Program*.

Outstanding Research Award

ThinkFirst Missouri—University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO

First Impact is a 90-minute evidence-based Graduated Driver License (GDL) education program for parents of new drivers. A study was conducted to evaluate the understanding of key components of the Missouri GDL law before and after receiving the First Impact program. Pre- and post-test surveys were conducted among 690 participants during a 12-month period. Statistical analysis indicated First Impact was a promising intervention to increase the understanding of the GDL law in Missouri.