

Contact Najja Howard
312-906-6175 Phone
312-806-9893 Alt Phone

For Immediate Release

Poison Center Chief Specialist Awarded Top Honor

Anthony Burda recognized as UIC College of Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year

Chicago, IL (October 25, 2011) – Anthony “Tony” Burda, chief specialist of the Illinois Poison Center, was selected as the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy’s 2011 Alumnus of the Year. One of the highest honors given to an alumnus by the College of Pharmacy, the Alumnus of the Year Award recognizes a graduate who stands as an innovator, exhibits leadership and has contributed significantly to the pharmacy profession. Burda receives this year’s top honor in recognition of an exceptional career.

“It is an honor to be recognized by my peers and colleagues, says Tony Burda. “However this award not only represents my personal accomplishments, it is also a reflection of the team I work with everyday at the Illinois Poison Center, family and friends.”

Tony Burda was also recognized for his thirty year service anniversary with the Illinois Poison Center. He remains committed to reducing the incidence and injury of poisoning in communities throughout Illinois. Tony has provided immediate expert telephone treatment recommendations, to over 150,000 families and healthcare professionals during his 30-year poison center career. He is revered by students and medical residents for his expert knowledge offered through the Illinois Poison Center’s experiential learning program. He is well-regarded among his peers for his unwavering dedication to the field. A true thought-leader in toxicology, Tony has authored or co-authored 43 peer-reviewed publications, 19 book chapters, 133 non-peer-reviewed publications and 40 abstracts and poster presentations.

“Every day at the Illinois Poison Center brings new opportunities to help the people of Illinois,” proclaimed Burda. “And after 30 years, I still find my work exhilarating, challenging and rewarding!”

Preceding his current “Alumnus of the Year” award, Burda is also a recipient of the August W. Christmann Award, the Eugene J-M.A. Thonar, Ph.D. Award, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Gwendolyn Williams Service Award and the Phi Delta Chi Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition, the Illinois Poison Center and Metropolitan Healthcare Council were recognized by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children with the Ron W. Lee, M. D, Excellence in Pediatric Care Award in the community service category.

###

The Illinois Poison Center is a non-profit health service that provides the people of Illinois with comprehensive and trusted information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour hotline staffed by specially trained doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

The nation's oldest and largest poison center, the IPC is the state's leading source of advanced toxicology training and consultation to healthcare professionals. The IPC also educates the general public on poison prevention and potentially harmful substances via community outreach and online training programs.

Through its services, the IPC saves lives, improves patient care and saves the people of Illinois an estimated \$50 million annually in unnecessary healthcare costs by reducing 911 calls, doctor and ER visits, and time spent in hospitals.

The IPC is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.