



For Immediate Release

News Release

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Dr. Christopher Heller Memorial Supports Joint Educational Initiative to Benefit Healthcare Quality Professionals

Glenview, IL—May 2011— The Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Midas+ , and the National Association for Healthcare Quality are pleased to jointly announce new educational benefits for members through the creation of the Dr. Heller Memorial.

Beginning this month, the Dr. Heller Memorial will fund subscriptions to the IHI Open School for individual members of Midas+ or NAHQ. The IHI Open School offers courses for students and health professionals in the areas of quality improvement, patient safety, and leadership. IHI developed a customized program for NAHQ members and Midas+ clients, giving them access to Open School content as part of their current membership.

In addition, an annual scholarship to the NAHQ Annual Educational Conference and the IHI National Forum will be awarded as part of the memorial fund beginning in 2012. To receive the scholarship, members will submit a poster presentation based on content learned through the IHI Open School. The individual submitting the winning poster will receive travel expenses and complimentary registration to the IHI National Forum and NAHQ Annual Educational Conference.

NAHQ, Midas+ and IHI are pleased to partner in this member-focused educational opportunity, thanks to this generous donation by Midas+ in the name of Dr. Heller, a healthcare professional committed to quality.

“Dr. Heller was a professional who shared his passion for improving patient care through quality and performance improvement initiatives. We were thrilled to work with NAHQ and IHI to develop the Dr. Heller Memorial. This program will offer NAHQ members and Midas+ clients the opportunity to access the respected content of the IHI Open School in 2011 and for years to come, sustaining his legacy,” says Tom Simas, managing director of Midas+ Solutions.

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Dr. Christopher Jonas Heller was born in Washington D.C. and graduated from Deerfield Academy, Princeton Academy, Johns Hopkins University Medical School and completed his surgical residency at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio.

Chris and his wife, Geneva moved to Tucson in 1970, where he practiced general and vascular surgery for over 20 years. In 1987, Chris co-founded MIDS Inc, which is now known as Midas+ . He worked at Midas+ for the next 23 years as the company grew from six employees to over 200. Chris was also a consultant and CMO for Carondelet Health Network.

Although he never stopped working, Chris was always devoted to his family, community and passions. Over the years, he was a Little League coach, a docent at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, a member of Search and Rescue, and an avid Wildcats basketball fan. Raised on a farm, Chris was passionate about gardening and ranching, and maintained a small farm in Tucson for 35 years. In addition, Chris was a lung cancer survivor of 23 years.

Dr. Heller passed away on August 4, 2010. Chris was an integral member of the Tucson community for 40 years and a man of unlimited generosity, compassion, wisdom, and kindness. His family hopes the Dr. Heller Memorial will serve to keep his memory alive while advancing healthcare through the improvement of quality practices.

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The **Institute for Healthcare Improvement** (www.ihl.org) is an independent not-for-profit organization that works with health care providers and leaders throughout the world to achieve safe and effective health care. IHI focuses on motivating and building the will for change, identifying and testing new models of care in partnership with both patients and health care professionals, and ensuring the broadest possible adoption of best practices and effective innovations. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, IHI mobilizes teams, organizations, and increasingly nations, through its staff of more than 100 people and partnerships with hundreds of faculty around the world.

Founded in 1976, the **National Association for Healthcare Quality** (NAHQ) currently has more than 10,000 quality and patient safety professionals working in healthcare settings both nationally and internationally. These professionals drive the delivery of vital data for effective decision making in healthcare systems by combining technology with their unique expertise in quality management. For more information about NAHQ, visit www.nahq.org.

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