I would like to nominate the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program for the IACPR Distinguished Program of the Year. The UIHC Pulmonary Rehab program represents the essence of high-quality individualized patient care, excellent patient outcomes, and high patient satisfaction.

Our program is unique in that we serve pulmonary patients all day, five days per week. The education and exercise are tailored to meet the patient’s specific physical, mental, and educational needs. Our clinic supports Phase 1 inpatient lung transplants, Phase 2 outpatient respiratory service/pulmonary rehab program patients and Phase 3 maintenance patients. We are innovative and are an integral part of the Lung Transplant team, the Pulmonary Hypertension team, and the Post COVID clinic. We work in all phases of the patient’s journey through their lung transplant. Our clinic works with the pulmonary hypertension patients completing walk tests and oxygen titration to aid in medication adjustments and the latest research. We have been on board from day one with the implementation of the Post COVID clinic and continue to be an important part of their recoveries.

The Pulmonary Rehab staff is a dream team! We bring a wealth of experience from the ICU’s, pulmonary and cardiology step down units and physical therapy. Staff members all excel at patient education, they meet the patients where they are at, determine learning styles, and thoroughly complete treatment plan education topics. Patients never fail to comment on the staff members professionalism and competency, kindness and caring attitudes, friendliness and helpfulness, and the educational opportunities and knowledge of the staff.

Communication is key in our clinic and is evident by the camaraderie and teamwork of the staff. The communication between our staff, the physicians, and the departments we work with is essential in providing excellent patient care and outcomes. We are also lucky to be part of the Department of Rehab Therapies where we can rely on help from the different services they provide and can collaborate with them for the betterment of the patient.

In our teaching hospital we are committed not only to patient education, but the ongoing education of staff members at UIHC including pulmonary fellows, we employ pre-PT students as aides to increase their knowledge base and exposure to patient care, we host intern students from the UIHC and RT students from Kirkwood Community College. We pride ourselves as being a resource for local pulm rehab clinics throughout Iowa and allow other pulm rehab staff members to visit our clinic, ask questions, obtain information and possibly improve their workflow. In October 2023 we hosted the Nuts and Bolt of Pulmonary Rehabilitation Conference which was well attended and was reviewed as “one of the best conferences I have ever been to”.

Our Pulmonary rehab outcomes are excellent: Last year our six minute walk tests showed improvement by 30 meters in 85% of the patients that completed the program and quality of life questionnaires showed improvement in 83% of the patients. Patient satisfaction questionnaires revealed 96% of our patients would recommend us to family and friends, 94% were very satisfied with the health care they received, and 98% of the patients thought the manner (caring, friendly, respectful) in which they were treated by the pulm rehab staff was excellent.

I can not say enough good things about our pulm rehab program. I have worked in areas with good teamwork, but I cannot begin to describe the excellence demonstrated by this group of staff members! I am so proud of them and the patients who benefit from them with their incredible progress. I appreciate the opportunity to nominate this group and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Wiebold