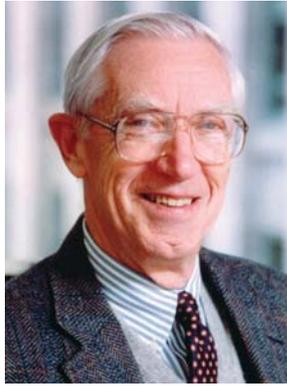


## LUCIAN LEAPE INSTITUTE AT THE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION NAMED IN HONOR OF RENOWNED PATIENT SAFETY EXPERT



Dr. Lucian Leape

The Lucian Leape Institute at the National Patient Safety Foundation has been created and named in honor of Dr. Lucian Leape, MITSS Board member and internationally recognized founder and leader in the patient safety movement. The mission of the Institute is to provide thought, leadership and strategic vision for the field of patient safety. The Institute will function as a “think tank” and define strategic paths and calls to action for the field, intended to

provide vision and context for the many efforts underway within the healthcare system.

The Institute “fills the crucial need of providing overarching guidance to the field as this movement has grown to the extent that it has,” according to Diane Pinakiewicz, President and CEO of the NPSF and also President of the Leape Institute. “We are looking to address some of the macro issues, and the point of the work is to unlock some of the impediments

**Continued on page 2**

# MITSS



Medically Induced Trauma  
Support Services

## LIZ WALKER TO EMCEE MITSS SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER AND FUNDRAISER



Liz Walker

MITSS is thrilled to announce that Boston television icon, **Liz Walker**, will be emceeding our upcoming Sixth Annual Dinner and Fundraiser on Thursday, November 15th, from 5:30 to 10:00pm at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Liz is the host and executive producer of **Sundays with Liz Walker** on WBZ-TV and is an award winning television news journalist, an ordained minister, and an international human rights activist. Liz has long

been actively involved in WBZ's public service campaigns and many community projects. Most recently she co-founded “My Sister's Keeper,” a grassroots organization that supports micro-enterprise and educational projects in southern Sudan. She also helped found the Jane Doe Safety Fund, a multi-million dollar project to support domestic abuse shelters and safe houses around the Commonwealth. Liz has served on a number of committees and boards of the

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## A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A MITSS PRACTICUM STUDENT



During this past year, I had the great fortune to be a practicum student at MITSS. I am a student at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology getting my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. As an incoming first year student, I was required to work at a practicum site for 16 hours a week. MITSS had recently been added to the list of approved field sites, and when I was deciding where

to apply, it was my first choice. I was eager to work with individuals dealing with trauma, and the uniqueness of MITSS appealed to me. It was clear that working with MITSS would allow me to help an underserved population. I did not realize at the time, however, the wealth of unique experience I would receive.

As I began my work with MITSS, my initial impression was the genuine warmth I received from Linda Kenney, Winnie Tobin, and Dr. Susan LaFarge. As I met volunteers, board members, colleagues, and others involved with MITSS, this feeling grew. I had just moved to Massachusetts from Colorado, so being welcomed in this way meant the world to me. As a small organization that leaves large footprints, I had a lot of opportunities that my peers did not. Throughout the year, my presence could be felt in the online research tools, the community outreach activities, the developing group curricula, the growing support referral database, the direct support services, the booth at the NPSF Congress, as well as the live plant in the MITSS office. I could not have imagined a more nurturing and encouraging atmosphere for professional growth. It became apparent that the unofficial office motto was, "Great idea. Run with it!"

### **Dr. Lucian Leape Continued from page 1**

to the rapid deployment of patient safety solutions," added Pinakiewicz.

Dr. Leape will chair the Institute, and members will include Dr. Donald Berwick, MITSS Sixth Annual Dinner Keynote, and fellow MITSS Board Member, James Conway. The Institute will hold two roundtables per year and issue reports on specific topics as well as calls to action. "The NPSF is extremely proud to be launching this important initiative which will provide

With Susan's guidance and supervision, my clinical skills grew, but so did my understanding of myself as an emerging psychologist. I was so fortunate to talk and meet with patients, family members, and clinicians from across the country. They would frequently express how finding MITSS and receiving our support made them realize they are not alone. While their feelings had been ignored or invalidated time and time again, they felt MITSS understood and really cared. During my face-to-face and phone interventions, clients worked with me on a myriad of issues that helped to improve their quality of life. It was not always easy to work with such intensely traumatic stories, but it was always rewarding. Besides, I had Linda, Susan, and Winnie to turn to when the going got rough. One of the most significant lessons I learned through talking with these traumatized individuals was how unique MITSS is and how large of a treatment gap it fills.

Although there is much work left to be done, I feel that MITSS has made many strides in the past year and feel fortunate to have been a small part. With each support call or client I see, I am reminded that there are many more out there feeling the same way. I know that I will stay involved with MITSS in some capacity for the foreseeable future. I look forward to a time when a patient or clinician knows they have a place to turn for healing immediately after an adverse event – not five, ten, or forty years later.

Thank you to MITSS and those who allowed me the pleasure of serving them.

*Erin O'Donnell*

Erin O'Donnell

strategic vision for the field by key thought leaders," said Diane Pinakiewicz. MITSS President and Executive Director, Linda Kenney, concurred. "MITSS is extraordinarily fortunate to have patient safety leaders of the caliber of Lucian Leape and Jim Conway on its Board of Directors. As a member of the patient safety community, MITSS will look to the Lucian Leape Institute for further guidance and direction in this most important movement," said Kenney.

## PEOPLE PLACES AND EVENTS IN THE NEWS

MITSS President and Executive Director, **Linda Kenney**, has joined the Board of Directors of Planetree, a non-profit organization headquartered in Derby, Connecticut. Planetree is a membership organization working with hospitals and healthcare centers to develop and implement patient-centered care in healing environments.

MITSS Board member, **Frank Federico**, authored an article published in the September issue of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety. *Five Million Lives Campaign – Preventing Harm from High-Alert Medications* appears in the September 2007, Volume 33, Number 9, edition of the Journal.

Our Sixth Annual Dinner Keynote Speaker, **Dr. Donald Berwick**, President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare

Improvement, has won the 2007 *Purpose Prize*. The *Purpose Prize* provides five awards of \$100,000 each to people over 60 who are taking on society's biggest challenges. The prestigious honor is "for those with the passion and experience to discover new opportunities, create new programs, and make lasting change." Dr. Berwick received the award in recognition of his *100,000 Lives Campaign*, an effort to reduce unnecessary deaths in hospitals. Congratulations to Dr. Berwick!

The MNA Annual Convention is scheduled for October 4-6, 2007, at the Springfield Sheraton. The keynote speaker is **Diana Mason, PhD, FAAN, RN**, editor of the American Journal of Nursing. Her topic is "So Much for Evidence," which speaks to her editorial in the November 2006 AJN.

## PATIENT AND FAMILY THERAPEUTIC EDUCATIONAL GROUPS NOW ENROLLING

MITSS is currently looking for patients and family members interested in participating in our therapeutic educational groups. These groups are intended to assist patients and family members process these events in a supportive environment and will be held under the direction of Susan LaFarge, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist, at our Chestnut Hill offices. If you would like further information or would like to make a referral to MITSS, please give us a call at (617) 232-0090 or toll free at 1-888-36MITSS.

## MITSS PLANNING COMMITTEE AT WORK



### Liz Walker Continued from page 1

Big Sister Association, Boston Children's Museum, and the Pediatric AIDS Charitable Trust of Boston. Acknowledged often for her exemplary work on the air and in the community, Liz has been recognized by the prestigious Gabriel Awards and is the recipient of the Governor's Award from the New England branch of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Please join Liz Walker and MITSS for an exciting and thought provoking evening featuring our wonderful line-up of speakers,

including our keynote, **Dr. Donald Berwick**, President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. There will be an exciting live auction and dozens of great raffle prizes. The cocktail hour begins at 5:30pm followed by a specially prepared Sonesta dinner where "food is art." So, mark your calendars – it promises to be an event not to be missed! If you would like more information, visit our website at [www.mitss.org](http://www.mitss.org) and click on the MITSS Sixth Annual Dinner or give us a call at (617) 232-0090. See you at the Sonesta!

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE MITSS SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER AND FUNDRAISER

There is still time to become a sponsor of the MITSS Sixth Annual Dinner and Fundraiser to be held on Thursday, November 15th, 2007, from 5:30 to 10:00pm at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Visit our website at [www.mitss.org](http://www.mitss.org) and click on the MITSS Sixth Annual Dinner to find out more about our generous sponsors and for details on how to participate. Join the growing list of fellow healthcare organizations, as well as business and community leaders, in demonstrating a true commitment to patient safety by supporting patients, families, and clinicians impacted by adverse medical events. To inquire about sponsorships or to purchase tickets for the event, contact Winnie Tobin at (617) 232-0090 or e-mail to [wtobin@mitss.org](mailto:wtobin@mitss.org).

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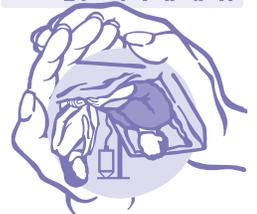


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Medically Induced Trauma  
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