

Lynn Guerriero Robert Wood Johnson Acceptance Speech

“Thank you Jim.

I am truly honoured to be receiving such a prestigious award, one that has been bestowed on some wonderful leaders over the past 49 years. All of my classmates at the University of Toronto are true leaders in their own right. They are some of the brightest, most creative people I have ever met and each of them has a passion for improving the health of Canadians. For this, I truly respect and admire them. To be chosen for the Robert Wood Johnson award from amongst these outstanding individuals is quite an honour.

I would like to commend and thank the faculty at the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto, who develop future leaders in healthcare with a drive and a passion that is infectious to their students. I am thrilled that this particular group has recognized potential in me. I would specifically like to thank Tina Smith and Ross Baker for traveling to the conference and being present with me to accept the award.

In addition, I would like to thank Mr. Hume Martin, a past Robert Wood Johnson award winner, who was my preceptor during my admin residency at the Rouge Valley Health System. He is a superb role model for professionalism, grace and class.

As well, I could not have completed this degree without the support of my employer, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. Toronto Rehab demonstrates tremendous leadership by investing in the development of its employees and by supporting those wishing to achieve advanced degrees. I can honestly say that I have never before worked in an environment that so embraces what an academic health sciences centre is all about. For these reasons, I would like to thank the senior management team there, and encourage them to continue their support in this regard.

Finally, my thanks to Johnson & Johnson Medical Products for continuing to support leaders in health care through this award. I had the opportunity to get to know some of their staff last night during dinner and their commitment to supporting future leaders is very obvious and heartfelt.

Thank you.”