

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Health Care Facilities Project

A joint project of Maryland Pesticide Network and Beyond Pesticides
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MARYLAND HOSPITAL HONORED FOR TOXIC-FREE APPROACH TO PEST MANAGEMENT

Environmental department eliminates the use of hazardous pesticides, protecting the health of patients, staff, and the environment

Anne Arundel County, MD – The Integrated Pest Management in Health Care Facilities Project honored the Department of Environmental Services at Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC), for their outstanding achievement in adopting a “green pest management” approach in the facility through implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an approach that eliminates the use of toxic chemicals in managing pests. The award was presented at the Environmental Services monthly meeting on March 9, 2016. Charlotte Wallace, RN, Sustainability Coordinator, and Inar Maharaj, Director of Environmental Services and Security at AAMC accepted the award.

The Integrated Pest Management in Health Care Facilities Project is a partnership between the Maryland Pesticide Network and Beyond Pesticides.

“We commend Anne Arundel Medical Center for their leadership in exemplifying the efficacy of a defined IPM system, focusing on non-chemical pest-prevention and whereby least toxic pesticides are only used as a last resort,” said project partner Ruth Berlin, Executive Director of the Maryland Pesticide Education Network, “The hospital’s Environmental Services department

under Mr. Inar Maharaj leadership exemplifies that it is possible to protect patients and staff from both pests and toxic pesticides.

As outlined in the IPM in Health Care Facilities Project's 2008 report, *Taking Toxics Out of Maryland's Health Care Sector*, the most vulnerable populations are unknowingly exposed to toxic pesticides in most Maryland health care facilities because of their use of toxic chemical pesticides associated with a range of negative health effects, including certain cancers, nervous system damage, respiratory illnesses, birth defects, Parkinson's and Lewy Body Disease, autism and endocrine disruption.

"We know that no one likes the thought of any organization needing pest management, much less a hospital. But, just like any residential homeowner, in order to maintain a high-quality and safe environment, we prioritize environmentally friendly measures to prevent and eliminate pests and use least hazardous pesticides only as a last resort," says Charlotte Wallace, AAMC's sustainability coordinator. "We are proud of our work around providing a patient-centered approach to an environmentally friendly hospital."

"Anne Arundel Medical Center has shown exceptional leadership in advancing facility management practices that eliminate hazardous pest control chemicals with attention to prevention-oriented practices that are key to patient and worker safety," said Jay Feldman, Executive Director of Beyond Pesticides, a national community-based organization of grassroots groups and project partner. It serves as a model for the health care industry and the public in the state of Maryland and the nation."

"By incorporating integrated pest management into Anne Arundel Medical Center's industry-leading green practices they ensure that conditions that can contribute to future pest problems are eliminated with non-toxic preventive measures," said Matt Wallach, Project Director for the IPM in Health Care Facilities Project, "This model for building management leads to no pests *or* harmful pesticides."

The IPM in Health Care Facilities Project's mission is to educate the health care industry about the dangers posed by pesticide exposure and to offer viable alternatives to reduce pest populations and pesticide applications by introducing IPM as a greening initiative that advances an atmosphere of environmental stewardship, social responsibility and fiscal security.

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