



Dear Mr. Litza,

Since its initial funding in 2004, The Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network, has grown from a group of heart disease and stroke prevention program managers and stroke health care professionals in six states to a large, vibrant and actively engaged membership of over 500 healthcare professionals from many states. Our members have come to view the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network as a resource of reliable, non-biased, evidence-based educational events and timely, useful tools for clinicians. You have been an integral part of the success of the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network and we thank you for all that you have done.

Current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding for all stroke networks, including the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network, ends on June 30, 2010. The State Advisory Board of the GLRSN is discussing future alternatives. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Michael Gaines, MPA, State Advisory Board Chair, at [Michael.gaines@illinois.gov](mailto:Michael.gaines@illinois.gov).

Many of you have never met face-to-face, yet have given selflessly of your time in various Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network teleconferences, events and activities; written letters of support; served on work groups; shared your experiences, best practices and expert clinical opinions. None of this would have been possible without you and I have been honored to work with you.

We should be proud of our achievements! Over 4,000 healthcare professionals have participated in our quality of care events, and an average of 59% plan to change the quality of stroke care based on the information learned. We've built partnerships. We've published. We've developed expert consensus. We've inspired critical access hospitals to develop stroke programs and other hospitals to become certified Primary Stroke Centers. We've created documents and tools – some that were required and others in response to the needs of our members. We've worked hard and we have been recognized for our efforts through the Heart Healthy Stroke Free Award in 2009 from the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention.

Thank you for all that you have done for the Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network, for your state Stroke Task Forces, and for all that you will continue to do for stroke patients and family members!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Bray Hedworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Bray Hedworth, MS, RHEd, CHES  
Program Manager

Cc: Stanton Shanedling  
Barbara Pryor  
Eileen Worden  
Meena Garg  
Michael Gaines  
Fred Petillo