



## **NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CATHY KRIER RECEIVES 2007 SWE EMERGING LEADERS AWARD FOR QUALITY**

*Cathy Krier recognized at SWE National Conference for her leadership in quality assurance*

**CHICAGO, Oct. 23, 2007** – The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) today announced that Cathy Krier is the recipient of the 2007 Emerging Leaders Award for demonstrated leadership in quality.

Krier, a corporate commercial release manager, is responsible for providing corporate commercial release oversight for product and therapies developed and commercially released by Medtronic, Inc. headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn.

“Cathy has integrated a combination of clinical setting experience, biomedical education, high standards of quality and service, and interpersonal skills, resulting in a very successful career,” said Michelle Tortolani, president of SWE. “Her attention to detail regarding safety and quality issues has benefited not only her employer, Medtronic, but the many patients who have used these medical devices.”

Krier began her career in the biomedical industry in 1990 as a clinical engineering assistant for Children’s Hospital, which leveraged her network and experience. In this position, Krier generated reports on product features and pricing information for evaluating new equipment contracts and procurements. She also facilitated in-service support to floor nurses and other hospital staff on new equipment.

Krier began work as a service representative at Ohmeda (now GE Medical Systems) in 1992, where she attained competitive advantage in overall performance indicators, such as customer satisfaction and new business growth, while meeting and exceeding budgeted revenue and non-revenue projections.

In 1996, Krier started working as a quality engineer at Datex-Ohmeda. In this role, she had oversight responsibility for manufacturing engineering support where she provided the voice of the customer, root

cause analysis guidance, and statistical process control support during investigations of line issues and process change activities requiring revalidation. She also performed on-site and worldwide supplier manufacturing audits after being certified as ISO 9000 lead auditor.

In 2000, Krier joined Medtronic as a quality/reliability engineer. In this role, she worked with system engineers to support released systems, such as a device that programs implanted devices and an external pulse generator, and on a new development project for the next generation lead analysis tool. These projects involved adding mechanical robustness requirements due to a changing usability environment, addressing hardware dendrite growth, and conducting firmware analysis.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Krier founded SWEnet, an internal women's engineering group supporting the SWE and the Medtronic Mission. She also created the Women Exchange Mentoring program that has evolved into a program for other workplace inclusion groups.

“Cathy has a strong ability to engage and influence others as an emerging leader,” said Bev Hinkel, senior corporate commercial release manager for Medtronic. “She works to stay in touch with people and is successful in getting people to support the Medtronic Mission with her proactive, energetic, self-assured approach. She successfully leverages her strengths and savvy in technical and business situations. We are thrilled that Medtronic employs people like Cathy who possess and share their exceptional talents.”

Krier received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering and her Masters in Business Administration from Capella University.

The Emerging Leader Award honors women engineers who have demonstrated outstanding technical excellence as an individual resulting in significant accomplishments in the following areas: academia; manufacturing and construction; procurement/logistics; product research, design, and engineering; quality, safety, health and environment; and sales and marketing.

The 2007 Emerging Leader Award recipients will be formally recognized Friday, October 27 at the Society of Women Engineers' National Conference Awards Banquet in Nashville, Tenn. The National Conference, “Women in Tune with Technology,” is being held at the Nashville Convention Center October 25-27. The 4,000 attendees include professionals from every discipline of the engineering profession and a large number of engineering students and educators. The 2008 Conference is scheduled for November 6-8 in Baltimore, MD.

## **About SWE**

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization. SWE is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and receive the recognition and credit for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders. For more information about the Society please visit [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) or call (312) 596-5223.

## **About Medtronic**

Medtronic, Inc. ([www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology – alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world.

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