



## News Release

### HERO SELECTS WILLIAM BAUN AS RECIPIENT OF THE BILL WHITMER LEADERSHIP AWARD

**EDINA, Minn. (Aug. 12, 2015)**—HERO, (the [Health Enhancement Research Organization](#)) announced today that William (Bill) Baun, wellness officer of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, has been chosen as the recipient of the [HERO Bill Whitmer Leadership Award](#) for 2015.

“The employee health management field has made great advances due to the commitment of innovative leaders like Bill Baun,” said [Jerry Noyce, president and CEO of HERO](#). “Bill has been at the forefront of wellness program development for years, teaching, speaking and publishing what he has learned along the way. Not only is he a wellness leader, he is a cancer survivor and thriver, and lives each day to inspire others to live healthy lives.”

With more than 35 years of experience in worksite health, Baun was chosen for this award based on his sustained leadership in enhancing the practice of employee health management and for fostering measurable improvements in health-enhancing behavior change and workplace health.

As a member of the startup wellness team at Tenneco in 1981, he planned and launched more than 25 health promotion and fitness programs in a variety of work settings during his 16-year tenure. Under his leadership, the program received national recognition.

As wellness officer, Baun is involved on both employee and patient/caregiver wellness programming and research efforts at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is past-president of the National Wellness Institute (NWI), and serves on the board of the International Association of Worksite Health Promotion, the Mayor’s Go Healthy Houston Task Force, and CAN DO Houston, a childhood obesity program.

Other honors and accomplishments include receiving the AWHP (Association for Worksite Health Promotion) Exceptional Leadership Award, Regional AWHP Leadership Award and the NWI Lifetime Achievement Award. Baun has authored many published articles and book chapters about managing wellness programs, serves on the editorial board of *ACSM Health & Fitness Journal* and the *International Journal of Workplace Health Management*. He has held adjunct professor positions at both the University of Texas Public Health School and the University of Houston.

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**About HERO** – Based in Edina, Minn., HERO (the Health Enhancement Research Organization) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the creation and dissemination of employee health management research, education, policy, strategy, and leadership. HERO was established in 1996 as a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 corporation to create high quality employee health management (EHM) research, especially that dealing with the impact of modifiable health risks on health care costs. To learn more, visit [hero-health.org](http://hero-health.org). Follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter: @heroehm.

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