

# CITY SUBURBAN NEWS

PHILADELPHIA & THE MAIN LINE'S FAVORITE WEEKLY

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Year 31, No. 11

Celebrating 31 Years of Community News

November 11 - November 17, 2015

## HEALTHY LIVING

### Philadelphia's Glenna Crooks, PhD, Honored by the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness

Healthcare industry thought leader and SageMyLife™ founder, Glenna Crooks, PhD, has been recognized by the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness (NFC) for being "a trusted advisor on topics of health policy" in government and the private sector, according to their President and CEO, Alice Bast. In conferring the award, Bast described Crooks as a "one-woman think tank" and a staunch ally for NFC and its cause. She credited Crooks for creating "a deeper understanding of the net-

*From left - Alice Bast, NFC Founder and President, of Ambler; Dr. Glenna Crooks, of Center City Philadelphia; and Wendi Wasik, Chairman of the Board, of Villanova.*

works that challenge celiac research and disease management."

The 2nd Annual Samuel Gee Society Reception celebrated NFC's accomplishments over the past year and acknowledged several individuals who advanced the mission to secure early diagnosis, improve effective disease management and increase understanding of celiac disease as a serious autoimmune condition. The event was held at The Union Trust in Philadelphia on October 15.

As an advisor to NFC, Crooks facilitated the first NFC Research Summit this year. Earlier in October she conducted a webinar for NFC: "This Celiac Life: The Realities of Living with Celiac Disease." The webinar contains original material on the importance of network management in controlling celiac disease, which lacks an effective medicine. Dr. Crooks highlighted the significant role a patient's networks of family, friends, colleagues and others play in dealing with the critical need to remove gluten from their diets. The webinar is now archived on NFC's website at <http://www.celiaccentral.org/webinars/archive/>.

On a personal note, Crooks' support of NFC's work has special meaning. She has celiac disease. In a recent article for *Disruptive Women in Healthcare*, she described celiac as a patient-dependent disease management monster. After the NFC awards ceremony, Dr. Crooks noted that, "patients need to control all the food they eat and get little help to do that." She went on to say, "SageMyLife™ network maps have enabled me to manage my disease better by helping me identify the people in my networks who are associated with my meals. I'm very happy that we've been able to share that information with NFC and we hope to help a lot of people better manage their experience with celiac disease."

Information about Dr. Crooks is available at [www.glennacrooks.com](http://www.glennacrooks.com).

