National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology

Awards

Presented by the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology
2018 CityMatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference

Portland, Oregon

September 12-14, 2018

Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology is...

The systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of population-based and program-specific health and related data in order to assess the distribution and determinants of the health status and needs of the maternal child population for the purpose of planning, implementing, and assessing effective, science-based strategies and promoting policy development.

Purpose of the Awards

To recognize individuals, teams, institutions and leaders of institutions for making significant contributions to one or more aspects of this definition with the aim of improving the health of women, children and families by:

- Advancing public health knowledge through epidemiology and applied research,
- Improving public health practice through effective use of data and epidemiology and training in the field, and
- Enhancing the political will to support practice and advance knowledge through effective use of data, epidemiology and applied research.

The Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology

The National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology Awards recognize individuals, teams, institutions, and leaders for making significant contributions to improve the health of women, children, and families by:

- Advancing public health knowledge through MCH epidemiology and applied research;
- Improving public health practice through the effective use of MCH data and epidemiology;
- Strengthening MCH public health practice through excellence in teaching and training in the use of data, epidemiologic methods and applied research; and
- Providing leadership to enhance the political will to advance public health knowledge and practice and the effective use of MCH data, epidemiology, and applied research.

No one organization represents MCH Epidemiology as a profession from both an academic and practice perspective. MCH Epidemiology, however, is a major contributor and participant in many health organizations and professional groups. To better recognize the field as a whole and to promote excellence in MCH Epidemiology, 16 national health organizations have formed the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology to sponsor the National MCH Epidemiology Awards.

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Epidemiology Section
- American Public Health Association (APHA), Maternal and Child Health Section
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), Maternal and Child Health Council
- Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Reproductive Health
- CityMatCH
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Maternal and Child Health Journal
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
- National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)
- National March of Dimes Foundation
- National Institutes of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER)

For 2018, the Coalition recognizes six individuals or organizations for their excellent contribution to Maternal and Child Health in five categories: Lifetime Achievement, Effective Practice, Early Career Professional Achievement, and Advancing Knowledge.

Event Emcee

Charlan Kroelinger, PhD

Dr. Charlan Kroelinger emcees today's event on behalf of the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology. Dr. Kroelinger is the lead for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology Program housed in the Division of Reproductive Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of the program is to provide direct assistance to states, territories, localities, and tribes on issues related to pregnancy, infant, and women's health. This direct assistance is provided by senior MCH epidemiologists placed in agencies, health departments, and epidemiology centers to build capacity and increase infrastructure in the development of MCH programs and policies.

Before taking leadership of the program, Dr. Kroelinger was the senior scientist for the program ensuring production of high quality science, and prior to that, was assigned in the field to the Delaware Division of Public Health as the State Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist. In Delaware, she worked as a Director of Science with the state health department to implement the Governor's Infant Mortality Initiative to decrease the rate of infant deaths in the state. She has spent her career working with mothers and infants, and is dedicated to improving the health of women, children, and families. Dr. Kroelinger received her doctorate in epidemiology and biostatistics from the University of South Florida, and her Master's Degree in applied medical anthropology from The University of Alabama. Questions about nominations should be sent to:

Dr. Charlan D. Kroelinger
Chair, National MCH Epi Awards Committee
MCH EPI Team Lead
Division of Reproductive Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Hwy. NE. MS F-74
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717
Phone: 770-488-6545 | Fax: 770-488-6291
mchepi@cdc.gov

Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser Award for Lifetime Achievement

The purpose of this award is to recognize an internationally or nationally known expert or team of experts who have contributed broadly and substantially to the advancement of the field of MCH epidemiology throughout their career, and whose work has significant and lasting impact. This award is considered to be a capstone award; hence its recipient(s) should be at or near the end of their career. The proposed lifetime achievement in MCH epidemiology award will be given only when deemed appropriate, and is not expected to be awarded annually. No more than one lifetime achievement award will be given in any calendar year.

2018 Recipient

Marie Clare McCormick, MD, ScD

Dr. Marie McCormick has actively promoted and substantially improved maternal and child health through her research, policy development and training of young Maternal and Child Health epidemiologists. After nearly 40 years as a scientist and a scholar, she will retire as the first Sumner and Esther Feldberg Professor of Maternal and Child Health in September 2018.

Her research has two main foci: elucidating the outcomes of high-risk, especially premature infants and the evaluation of programs designed to reduce infant mortality and improve the outcomes of vulnerable infants. An early summary of the existing literature in the New England Journal of Medicine signaled what work she was to accomplish. She was among the first to report on the increased risk of rehospitalization after discharge from the NICU, the lower risk of injuries and the impact on the family of having a premature infant, including costs. She was among the first to indicate the higher risk of behavioral problems in these children, and the joint effect of prematurity and behavior on lower school achievement. She has also made methodological contributions, such as demonstrating the equivalency of telephone and face-to-face interviews and maternal recall of events in the infant's first year. She brought attention to the fact that Very Low Birth Weight/prematurity is not a syndrome but a risk factor for a variety of childhood morbidities, and, more importantly, that the risk factors for this morbidity are similar to those for term children emphasizing the importance of socio-economic status and parental health. More recently, she has critiqued the reliance on standardized and restricted measures of neurodevelopment as the major indicators of outcomes and emphasized the importance of functional outcomes, to predict what children can achieve regardless of IQ scores.

Dr. McCormick believes that describing the outcomes and risk factors is insufficient unless accompanied by the identification of evidence-based interventions critical to improving outcomes. Thus, in addition to her scientific work, Dr. McCormick has served as the Research Steering Committee Chair for the Infant Health and Development Program, evaluating the effectiveness of early education for low birth weight and premature infants as the principal investigator of the 18-year follow-up. Based on her expertise, Dr. McCormick has been asked to serve on several committees and has had a direct and lasting impact on children's health. Most notably, she has been active in a number of Institute of Medicine/ National Academy of Medicine panels. Her work on vaccine safety also has led to her being on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee where she chaired the Working Group overseeing the safety of the epidemic H1N1 influenza vaccine in 2009. She has played significant leadership roles in academic societies, especially the Academic Pediatric Association for which she was the Chair of the Communications and Research Committees and Senior Associate Editor of the association's journal. In that capacity, she developed an annual report on the health care use and expenditures of American children, both overall and for various conditions, in collaboration with Lisa Simpson and the Agency for HealthCare Research and Quality.

For this work, Dr. McCormick has received numerous awards, including the David Rall Medal for exemplary service to the Institute of Medicine, and two life-time research achievement awards. Perhaps one of her most telling awards, however, is the A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award from the Harvard Medical School. This award captures her impressive legacy in MCH Epidemiology through her teaching and mentoring of young investigators and public health professionals, all of whom have gone on to notable careers themselves. Dr. McCormick supports her mentees with evidence-based recommendations, drawing from her rich experience publishing papers and fostering collaborations, advocating for the recognition her mentees deserve and as a model of self-advocacy.

Dr. Marie McCormick exemplifies the broad, substantial, career-long advancement of the field of MCH and significant and lasting impact celebrated by the Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Effective Practice Award at the Community Level

This awards category recognizes individuals, organizational leaders, organizational units and institutions who make significant contributions to public health practice in MCH at the community, state, tribal or national levels through the effective use of data and epidemiology. The award can be given to the organization or individuals primarily responsible for the contribution. For organizations, the actual plaque will go to the individual(s) or leader(s) personally or most closely responsible for the work leading to the contribution. In any one year, these awards are given for the specific level of contribution–community, state, tribal and national. The criteria for this award include: 1) significance of work, 2) contribution to public health practice, and 3) level of impact on the intended population. This award is not necessarily based on publications, but is based on contributions that impact on the MCH population.

2018 Recipient

Aileen Alfonso Duldulao, PhD, MSW

Dr. Aileen Alfonso Duldulao is the Maternal & Child Health Epidemiologist at the Multnomah County Health Department in Oregon. Dr. Duldulao is widely recognized as an expert on advanced quantitative statistical analysis, data modeling, and survey and sampling methodologies within decolonizing, community-based participatory frameworks. Dr. Duldulao is spearheading the advancement of a humanistic, person-centered approach to the essential public health function of epidemiology. She has played a critical role in building trust among community members in the Future Generations Collaborative (FGC), which uses a trauma-informed collaborative model to address MCH inequities among Multnomah County's American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population. Dr. Duldulao's commitment to decolonizing theoretical frameworks and community-based participatory methods is making it possible to host the AI/AN community in producing a comprehensive report detailing MCH outcomes where the community decides what is most relevant to promoting their wellness and resilience.

Dr. Duldulao is an innovative leader in improving public health practice through effective use of data, epidemiology, and applied research, where her expertise in quantitative and qualitative methods has been sought by policymakers, researchers, the community and public health professionals. She is instrumental in high profile, upstream public health projects, such as using the life course model to explore the link between housing displacement and adverse birth outcomes. Not only is she assessing the data to identify root causes of homelessness, but she is developing a compelling framework to address the issue in a multi-faceted, humane way.

Dr. Duldulao's deep knowledge of applied and trauma-informed data work has deeply influenced both the practice and programming in MCH activities in Multnomah County. Her skills in translating data to practice has informed shifts in MCH practice as well as the addition of new work that specifically focuses on racial and ethnic health inequities. This is most notable in the work she has completed to support the first ever Multnomah County Health Department Maternal Child Health Data Book, the Future Generations Collaborative, as well as the work she has accomplished to support the development of a Latino Health Strategy across the Department. Dr. Duldulao recognizes that communities are impacted by the data analyses produced, and to that end, she consistently brings a focus on equity, social justice, life course and trauma-informed approaches, and research on community wisdom.

Dr. Duldulao defines her work as a unique combination of academic training, clinical and community direct service infused with the principles of social justice and equity. She continues to work on the front lines of social service in the areas of poverty law, domestic violence, sexual assault, and mental health. She see her work as holistic and heart-centered, particularly her research in health disparities, social determinants of health, and developmental origins of health and disease. Altogether, her contributions to Multnomah County and the field of MCH, highlight how deserving she is of the Effective Practice Award at the Community level.

Effective Practice Award at the State/Territory Level

This award category recognizes individuals, organizational leaders, organizational units and institutions who make significant contributions to public health practice in MCH at the community, state, tribal or national levels through the effective use of data and epidemiology. The award can be given to the organization or individuals primarily responsible for the contribution. For organizations, the actual plaque will go to the individual(s) or leader(s) personally or most closely responsible for the work leading to the contribution. In any one year, these awards are given for the specific level of contribution--community, state, tribal and national. The criteria for this award include: 1) significance of work, 2) contribution to public health practice, and 3) level of impact on the intended population. This award is not necessarily based on publications, but is based on contributions that impact the MCH population.

2018 Recipient

The Puerto Rico Department of Health's Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (PRDH)

The Puerto Rico Department of Health's Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (PRDH) is receiving the Effective Practice award at the state level due to their extraordinary accomplishments in conducting the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Zika Postpartum Emergency Response (PRAMS-ZPER) project. This project, initially designed as a one-time PRAMS hospital-based survey in the context of the Zika outbreak in Puerto Rico, expanded to a 4-part study spanning 2 years with multiple components, including surveillance to assess response and recovery following Hurricane Maria.

The first hospital-based study, which included a large island-wide sample with oversampling by region, was conducted August-December of 2016. The study surveyed women during their hospital stay who had just delivered a live infant and assessed knowledge and concerns about Zika virus, health care provider counseling and testing, and use of measures to prevent Zika infection during pregnancy in an environment with ongoing transmission. Nearly 2,400 women participated for a remarkable 81% participation rate providing the first and only source of population-based information about provider practices, including testing of pregnant

women, and use of preventive measures during pregnancy in Puerto Rico during the 2016 Zika outbreak. This success led to project expansion including a postpartum telephone follow-up survey, and a repeat of both the hospital study and telephone follow-up in 2017. Plans were interrupted when Hurricane Maria devastated the island. PRDH staff and leadership insisted that they move forward despite the major disruption at all levels of infrastructure across the island.

Importantly, this became the first test of this surveillance methodology in an emergency response setting for both an infectious disease outbreak and a major natural disaster. As noted by CDC, the PRDH "demonstrated unwavering dedication to public health in the context of the Zika virus epidemic. Widespread devastation and lack of basic necessities in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria did not stop them from pursuing their work, nor did they allow the challenging circumstances to compromise the quality of their work. These are the qualities of true public health heroes."

This was more than a surveillance project. An educational curriculum on postpartum care, newborn care, and Zika prevention was provided to over 2,500 new parents in the post-hurricane context. This activity was so successful that the presentation and materials have been adopted by the PRDH Visiting Nurses Program, and will continue to be offered to new parents throughout Puerto Rico. Additionally the project distributed crib nets, calendars and brochures with information about infant developmental milestones, mosquito repellent, and condoms to survey respondents numbering over 5,000 throughout the course of the project.

Importantly, the project findings are applicable to other mosquito-borne diseases and natural disasters. Further, the group incorporated surveillance of the male partners of the recently pregnant women (with a similarly impressive 83% response rate), assessment of the impact of Hurricane Maria on pregnant women, and an educational element that had direct impact on the parents of the newborns in Puerto Rico who welcomed their babies in the midst of Hurricane Maria recovery efforts. For this outstanding work, the PRDH is truly deserving of the Effective Practice Award.

Early Career Professional Achievement Award

This award recognizes an early career, outstanding professional leader in the United States and its territories. The awardee's MCH epidemiology work demonstrates significant contribution(s) to the MCH epidemiology field in one or more of the above awards categories, and serves as a model to other early career professionals. To be eligible, the awardee must be professionally active in the field of MCH epidemiology; has worked in the MCH epidemiology field for no more than 10 years; has exhibited significant contribution to the field at the time of the MCH EPI Conference; and may be a professional in academia, government, and/or the private sector. Career accomplishment, evidence of a strong, positive trajectory of career development, and promise of leadership strength are core criteria that are used for selection of the awardee. This award equally recognizes all three types of contributions (as described above) and uses the respective awards criteria in the selection process.

2018 Recipient

Catherine Vladutiu, PhD, MPH

Dr. Catherine Vladutiu has made tremendous contributions during her time in the field of maternal and child health epidemiology. She is a dedicated scientist who is meticulous in providing outstanding products, whether it is bolstering the work of important maternal and child health (MCH) programs or conducting research. Dr. Vladutiu first worked at the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) from 2003 to 2006 as an analyst. She obtained her doctorate in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Public Health (2012), and returned to MCHB in 2014 as a Senior Epidemiologist.

One of the easiest measures of productivity is number of publications, and in that area, Dr. Vladutiu has a record that can rarely be matched by anyone, let alone someone at an early stage of their career. She already has 43 papers, either published or in press. These include 14 first-authored papers and 2 book chapters. She has made major contributions to our understanding of child injuries, and her work on maternal health has been stellar. Dr. Vladutiu's many works have the capacity to shift clinical care and public health practice and thereby improve outcomes.

Examining Dr. Vladutiu 's publication output only tells a small part of the story. Her work has been integral to the functioning of two major programs in the MCH field: the MCH Home Visiting Program and the Healthy Start program. Regarding the MCH Home Visiting Program, Dr. Vladutiu led the identification, selection and specification of the revised Home Visiting performance measures. This work required extensive communication with MCHB leadership, stakeholders external to Government, and partners throughout HHS, as well as the incorporation of this varied input into a standardized set of evidence-based measures. Dr. Vladutiu provided critical technical assistance to grantees around the implementation of these measures – a task which she embraced and handled expertly.

After her work with the MCH Home Visiting Program, Dr. Vladutiu began strengthening the infrastructure needed for a stronger evidence base for the Healthy Start program. She provided extensive data management and analytic support onthe current Healthy Start Evaluation as well as consultation and critical, timely feedback on materials for the infant mortality Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks (CoIIN). This work has also included reviewing and analyzing client-level data, modifying the evaluation and analysis plan, and providing consultation on inquiries regarding data elements, record linkage, and outcome measures.

Dr. Vladutiu's work with the Home Visiting and Healthy Start programs are already having an outsized impact on how we deliver and measure MCH services in the US. Her incisive research is influencing the MCH field in other ways. Even at this early stage of her career, Dr. Vladutiu epitomizes the definition of an outstanding and productive MCH epidemiologist.

Finally, in addition to being a talented epidemiologist, Dr. Vladutiu has a generous spirit and a true passion for the field of maternal and child health. Her bright energy, clear communication, kindness, and genuine desire to build capacity and bridge public health and clinical spaces positions her well for a long and distinguished career.

Early Career Professional Achievement Award

This awards recognizes an early career, outstanding professional leader in the United States and its territories. The awardee's MCH epidemiology work demonstrates significant contribution(s) to the MCH epidemiology field in one or more of the above awards categories, and serves as a model to other early career professionals. To be eligible, the awardee must be professionally active in the field of MCH epidemiology; has worked in the MCH epidemiology field for no more than 10 years; has exhibited significant contribution to the field at the time of the MCH EPI Conference; and may be a professional in academia, government, and/or the private sector. Career accomplishment, evidence of a strong, positive trajectory of career development, and promise of leadership strength are core criteria that are used for selection of the awardee. This award equally recognizes all three types of contributions (as described above) and uses the respective awards criteria in the selection process.

2018 Recipient

Sharyn Parks Brown, PhD, MPH

Dr. Sharyn Parks Brown, a senior epidemiologist in the CDC National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's Division of Reproductive Health, leads the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and Sudden Death in the Young (SDY) Case Registry. She is responsible for scientific oversight of the SUID and SDY Case Registry including guidance on a wide range of related, yet diverse, epidemiological and surveillance topics using Registry data. Since joining CDC, Dr. Parks Brown has provided agency and national-level leadership on SUID case identification, compilation of case level data, assurance of data timeliness and quality, analysis of data, interpretation and dissemination of results, and evaluation of associated programs. Dr. Parks Brown's leadership has increased the surveillance capacity and data quality of 16 states and 2 jurisdictions for SUID and SDY case identification. Dr. Parks Brown also led the development, implementation and evaluation of a vigorous program to train awardees on the CDC SUID Case Registry classification system.

In her work on SUID, Dr. Parks Brown has made significant contributions to public health practice. She successfully led the implementation of a robust surveillance evaluation including quarterly data reports for SUID and SDY Case Registries measuring case ascertainment, timeliness, and data completeness. Subsequently, the methodology for this surveillance evaluation system has been included in the federal funding requirements for the larger National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention's (CFRP) National Fetal and Infant Mortality Programs. The CFRP has since replicated Dr. Parks Brown's data quality plan for technical assistance and analysis methods for all 45 states with funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The data quality plan allows states to monitor and improve data quality among 1,200+ state and local Child Death Review programs leading to the dissemination of accurate data to increase understanding of child death and prevention programs.

The impacts of Dr. Parks' work include improved use of high-quality child death data in states and jurisdictions. Better quality data allows states to identify higher risk populations, monitor trends and implement data driven prevention efforts. Prior to the work of Dr. Parks Brown, the poorer quality data impacted the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System, seriously limiting data utilization for analysis on infant and child deaths. These limitations are described in papers published in the American Journal of Public Health and in Injury Prevention. As a result of Dr. Parks Brown's technical assistance and data quality improvement methodologies, it is now possible to publish more reliable analyses on infant and child deaths. Dr. Parks Brown is continually pushing for improved accuracy and increased breadth of death investigation information so that these deaths are fully understood, accurately tracked for trend and risk factor monitoring, and states can promote development of data driven prevention efforts. For these reasons, Dr. Parks Brown is more than deserving of the Early Career Professional Achievement Award.

Greg Alexander Award for Advancing Knowledge

Advancing public health knowledge through epidemiology and applied research

The purpose of this national/international award is to recognize individuals and organizational teams from a variety of disciplines who have made a substantial contribution to advancing the knowledge base aimed at improving the health of women, children and families. Because this is an MCH Epidemiology award, preference is given to those whose focus is applied or those whose focus has contributed to the advancement of applied work in one or more of the following ways: engagement in creating new data systems, development of new methods for measurement or analysis, generation of new information (based on data from a variety of sources whether it be surveillance systems, evaluation data or primary data collection methods), or development of new conceptual frameworks. It is expected that the new knowledge contributed by the awardee has led the MCH field to consider new approaches and or discover new findings related to an MCH problem. Evidence of whether an individual has advanced knowledge is best assessed through publications in the peer-reviewed literature but can also include technical reports, Institute of Medicine type syntheses, books, book chapters and/or creation of surveillance systems and learning tools that are widely disseminated. The criteria for this award include: 1) originality of scientific work, 2) contribution to the field, and 3) impact on the MCH population.

2018 Recipient

Eugene Declercq, PhD

Eugene Declercq, PhD, is an internationally renowned maternal and child health researcher who has contributed groundbreaking studies to the field for well over thirty years. Dr. Declercq is perhaps best known for his research on childbirth – particularly midwifery care and method of delivery. Responding to a rapidly rising US cesarean rate which began in the mid-1990's, Dr. Declercq's research was able to show that the overall increase was in part a function of increases among mothers at little medical risk. He developed an innovative new measure of "no indicated risk" cesarean delivery and was able to demonstrate that the outcomes of these low-risk cesareans were problematic, including contributing to a concurrent rise in prematurity in the US.

Dr. Declercq is also widely recognized for his many contributions to the development of novel maternal and child health data sources. With colleagues at Boston University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), he developed the Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal Data System (PELL). At its core, PELL longitudinally linked Massachusetts birth and maternal and infant hospital discharge records, but went on to include data related to health services like Early Intervention and WIC, cancer, birth defects, substance use treatment and assisted reproductive technology. PELL has provided a research platform for numerous innovative studies of maternal and child health from researchers around the country.

In collaboration with colleagues from Michigan State and Dartmouth Universities, as well as MDPH and CDC, Dr. Declercq co-founded the Massachusetts Outcomes Study of Assisted Reproductive Technology (MOSART). MOSART resulted from a linkage between PELL and clinical data from the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology. Prior research into outcomes of assisted reproductive Technologies (ART) faced several major constraints: randomization to ART treatment was not feasible; studies from individual ART clinics often lacked statistical power; population based, vital records data sets often lacked accurate measurement of ART treatment; and, most importantly, studies of outcomes of ART had not been able to distinguish the effect of ART from that of underlying infertility.

Dr. Declercq also co-founded The Listening to Mothers Survey series. Listening to Mothers was able to fill a major gap in knowledge, examining mother's experiences, feelings and opinions about their experiences during the perinatal and post-partum period. Dr. Declercq and colleagues administered national Listening to Mothers surveys in 2002, 2006 and 2011-12. A follow-up survey was also administered after each of the last two survey rounds.

Dr. Declercq's recent work on maternal mortality has been highly influential in bringing attention to this previously neglected problem in the United States. Concerned that the U.S. had not published an official maternal mortality rate since 2007, Dr. Declercq and collaborators set out to estimate a national rate using individual state data. Facing the challenge of disparate mortality data collection methods across states, only about half of which used the pregnancy "checkbox," Declercq et al modeled the impact of the addition of the checkbox and estimated a national rate while identifying problems in the surveillance system, then delved further into the data to look at disparities and the circumstances that might explain an unusually high rates in some areas.

In addition to his own work, Dr. Declercq has mentored a generation of maternal and child health professionals, particularly those who seek to improve the quality of maternity care, and identify and reduce sources of adverse outcomes in childbirth. He has directed the Doctor of Public Health program at Boston University since 2003, and advised countless future MCH researchers and practitioners who continue the critical work of promoting optimal maternal and child health.

When Dr. Declercq is not innovating in the area of maternal and child health research, he enjoys spending time with his family (including eight grandchildren), playing fetch with his dog, Lightning, and going for epic bike rides around his native northeastern Massachusetts. His colleagues are delighted to see Dr. Declerq honored for his remarkable contributions to the health of families and babies.

Past Recipients

Greg Alexander Award for Advancing Knowledge

2016 Carol J. Rowland Hogue, Emory University

2014 KS Joseph, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

2012 Laura Schieve, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2012 Matthew Gillman, Harvard University

2011 Paul W. Newacheck, University of California, San Francisco

2010 Gopal K. Singh, HRSA/MCHB

2009 Allen James Wilcox, NIEHS

2008 Pat O'Campo, University of Toronto

2007 Michael Kramer, McGill University

2006 James Collins, Childrens's Memorial Hospital, Chicago

2005 Mark Klebanoff, National Institute of Child Health and Development

2004 David Savitz, University of North Carolina

2003 Michael Kogan, Health Resources and Services Administration

2002 Nigel Paneth, Michigan State University

2001 Greg Alexander, University of Alabama at Birmingham

2000 Milton Kotelchuck, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Effective Practice

2016 Audrey M. Stevenson, Salt Lake County Health Department
Massachusettes Oral Health Steering Committee

2014 Marian MacDorman, National Center for Health Statistics
Bruce Cohen, Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Public Health
The Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Live Longitudinal (PELL) Data System Team

2012 Donald Hayes, Family Health Services Division, State of Hawaii

2011 Center for Women's Health, Trover Health Systems
C. Meade Grigg, Florida's Office of Health Statistics and Assessment, State Registrar of Vital Statistics
Isabelle L. Horon, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

2010 Kenneth D. Rosenberg, Oregon Public Health
CDC Maternal Health Team for 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Response

2009 Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit, Section of Women's, Children's, and Family Health, Division of Public Health, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Priscilla A. Guild, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research

2008 Institute for Health, Policy & Evaluation Research, Duval County Health Department
CityMatCH, University of Nebraska Medical Center

2007 Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, Nashville-Davidson County Health Department
Wanda Barfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Carrie Shapiro-Mendoza, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2006 Douglas Paterson, Michigan Department of Community Health
Stephanie Ventura, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2005 Los Angeles County STD Program
Richard Lorenz, Okalahoma State Department of Health
Stella Yu, Health Resources and Services Administration

2004 Carol Brady, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition
Paul Buescher , North Carolina Division of Public Health
Laura Kann, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2003 Countryside Lead Prevalence Study Team
Garland Land , Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Larry Edmonds, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2002 Carolyn Slack, Columbus Health Department
Gilberto Chavez , California Department of Health Services
Carol Hogue, Emory University
New Mexico and Navajo PRAMS Collaborative

2001 Kathy Carson, Public Health Seattle-King County

Bao-Ping Zhu, Michigan Department of Community Health

Hani Atrash, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2000 Pinellas County Healthy Start

Aaron Roome, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Arden Handler, University of Illinois in Chicago

Outstanding Leadership

2016 Margaret A. Honein, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

2014 Deborah Allen, Boston Public Health Commission

2012 Christina D. Bethell, Oregon Health and Sciences University

2009 Donna J. Peterson, College of Public Health, University of South Florida

2008 William Hollinshead III, Rhode Island Department of Health

2007 Jeffrey Gould, Stanford University

2006 Jose Cordero, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2005 Magda Peck, University of Nebraska Medical Center

2003 William Sappenfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2002 Deborah Klein Walker, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

2001 Peter van Dyck, Health Resources and Services Administration

2000 Claude Earl Fox, Health Resources and Services Administration

Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award

2016 Kristin M. Rankin, University of Illinois at Chicago

2012 Michelle Williams, School of Public Health, Harvard University

2009 Donna M. Strobino, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

2007 Russell Kirby, University of Alabama at Birmingham

2005 Deb Rosenberg, University of Illinois in Chicago

Young Professional Achievement

2016 Ashley H. Hirai, Maternal and Child Health Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics

Michael Grady Smith, South Carolina Bureau of MCH

2014 Susanna Visser, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2012 Lisa M. Bodnar, University of Pittsburgh

2011 Reem M. Ghandour, Office of Epidemiology, Policy, and Evaluation at HRSA

2010 Amina P. Alio, University of South Florida

2009 Brian Christopher Castrucci, Georgia Division of Public Health

2008 Stephen Blumberg, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2007 Charlan Kroelinger, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2006 Jihong Liu, University of South Carolina

2005 Stephanie Schrag, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2004 Kay Tomashek, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2003 Michael Lu, University of California in Los Angeles

2002 Joann Petrini, National March of Dimes Foundation

2001 Cande Ananth, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

2000 Wendy Struchen, Pinellas County Healthy Start

Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser Award for Lifetime Achievement

2016 Roger Rochat, Emory University

2014 Walter Rogan, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

2009 Bernard Guyer, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

2007 Irvin Emanuel, University of Washington

2006 David Erickson, Centers for Disease Control

2005 Mervyn Susser and Zena Stein, Columbia University

The National MCH Epidemiology Awards are biennial awards. The Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology will again be accepting nominations in January 2020. The awards will be presented at the 2020 CityMatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference.