



NATIONAL MATERNAL AND CHILD
HEALTH (MCH) EPIDEMIOLOGY

Awards

Presented by the Coalition for Excellence in
MCH Epidemiology 2020 CityMatCH Leadership
and MCH Epidemiology Conference

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2020




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.
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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)

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- National March of Dimes Foundation
 - National Institutes of Health (NIH), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
 - Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER)

For 2020, the Coalition recognizes seven individuals or organizations for their excellent contribution to Maternal and Child Health in five categories: early career, effective practice, outstanding leadership, excellence in teaching and mentoring, and lifetime achievement.

Event Emcee

Ekwutosi Okoroh, MD, MPH

Dr. Ekwutosi Okoroh hosts today's event on behalf of the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology. Dr. Okoroh 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. Okoroh was the senior scientist for the program ensuring production of high-quality science, and prior to that, was the first ever Senior MCH epidemiologist assigned to a Medicaid Program in Louisiana.

In Louisiana, Dr. Okoroh led a multidisciplinary team on a statewide study on the public health and financial burden of neonatal abstinence syndrome and substance use disorder among Louisiana Medicaid-enrolled infants. As a clinician, she provides critical health care to women from vulnerable populations (e.g., immigrants, refugees, underinsured). She has spent her career working with mothers and infants, and is dedicated to improving the health of women, children, and families.

Dr. Okoroh received her MD and MPH from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Phoenix Integrated Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Questions about nominations should be sent to:

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Phone: 404-498-0130
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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.

2020 RECIPIENT

Donna M. Strobino, PhD




Dr. Donna Strobino, throughout more than 40 years, has made extraordinary contributions to MCH. Her commitments to excellence in MCH research, the application of science to practice and policy, and the education and mentoring for the future of public health have been the focus of her sustained and impactful contributions to the field. She is a thought-leader, researcher, and teacher who has

worked tirelessly to advance the field of MCH and has demonstrably shaped the research, practice, and teaching of MCH epidemiology.

Dr. Strobino's scientific endeavors have focused mainly on the health and psychosocial risk of disadvantaged women during pregnancy and their young children and families. Her work on perinatal health centers on understanding why disadvantaged women have higher rates of adverse pregnancy outcomes. She has contributed to the science related to the impact of maternal depressive symptoms on young children's growth and parenting behaviors and evaluating interventions aimed at improving outcomes. Her work has recently focused on understanding maternal morbidity and maternal mental health in the context of women's chronic conditions.

She has served as a member or chair of numerous HRSA, NIH, and CDC research review panels, including most recently on the NICHD, CHHD-M Health Behavior and Context study section and as chair of an NICHD Special Emphasis Panel on pregnancy and disability. She also has served as a reviewer on key national reports such as Clinical Preventive Services for Women, Closing the Gaps for the Institute of Medicine/National Academies.



Also, her contributions as a methods expert for program evaluations nationally have had far-reaching practice and policy implications. She led the quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate the Fetal Infant Mortality Review program and Healthy Steps for Young Children. She was involved with implementing “B’ more for Healthy Babies” to address infant mortality disparities in Baltimore. She has served on numerous committees related to maternal and perinatal health at the state level. Nationally, she is a member of the March of Dimes MCH Advisory Council and served as a Title V Block Grant reviewer and on a technical panel for Title X Guidelines revisions.

As an educator and mentor, Dr. Strobino’s educational leadership service has profoundly impacted the next generation of public health professionals. She has directed the HRSA-funded Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science, and Practice since 2004. Since 2008, she has led the MCH Epidemiology Training program, supporting doctoral students in developing critical skills to enhance MCH through research, evaluation, and practice. She serves as vice-chair of education in the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health and co-leads the MPH Women’s and Reproductive Health concentration.

Dr. Strobino has advised over 100 masters students, 39 doctoral students, read over 140 dissertations, and mentored countless postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty at Johns Hopkins and beyond. She is committed to these mentees’ success, as evidenced by the publications with students, postdocs, and junior faculty. She mentors those who thrive in the rigorous academic environment and those who experience significant challenges in completing their degrees. This gift has affectionately earned her the nickname of “the closer,” as one former trainee commented. In the classroom, she is consistently recognized for her courses’ high quality and her educational efforts.

Dr. Strobino has been recognized with institutional and national awards for her contributions to MCH research and education. At the Bloomberg School of Public Health, she is this year’s recipient of the Ernest Lyman Stebbins Medal, the highest award bestowed on faculty. Her investment in MCH research and science and the future of MCH through education and mentoring will have a lasting and significant impact that is to be honored and celebrated by the Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Effective Practice Award at the Community Level

IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE THROUGH EFFECTIVE USE OF DATA, EPIDEMIOLOGY AND APPLIED RESEARCH

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 the MCH population.

2020 RECIPIENT


Dara Daneen Mendez, PhD, MPH



Dr. Dara Mendez is an assistant professor in the departments of epidemiology and behavioral and community health sciences and interim director for the Center for Health Equity at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health. Dr. Mendez is recognized as an expert in understanding the complex toll that gendered racism plays on the health and

well-being of Black women and the societal implications of that experience both historically and present day. Her work focuses on birth justice and reproductive justice and the complex intersections between racism, multiple forms of oppression and place in addressing racial/ethnic inequities in pregnancy, birth and women's health.

Dr. Mendez's expertise in social and perinatal epidemiology, applied research methods, Public Health Critical Race Praxis, and Critical Race Theory have been invaluable in advancing the work of Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and numerous working groups within the Greater Pittsburgh area aimed at addressing the root causes of health inequities in maternal and child health. She provided expert testimony for the City of Pittsburgh's elected officials on their proposed legislation,



declaring racism as a public health issue. During her testimony, Dr. Mendez shared data from her years of research, highlighting the long-term impact of systemic and institutional racism on maternal health and birth outcomes. She also shared recommendations with these policymakers on public health best practices, many of which were adopted and used in subsequent legislation passed by the Allegheny County's County Council.

Dr. Mendez is an innovative leader who brings a race conscious lens to Allegheny County's epidemiological review of infant mortality data, challenges thinking around policy and practice, and introduced the R4P (Repair, Remove, Restructure, and Remediate) framework and research developed by MCH Epidemiologists Hogan and Rowley. She is instrumental in re-shaping the understanding and context of the impact of racism within systems and institutions in her community, including the integration of health equity and anti-racist training, her advocacy for accountability in government to review data utilizing a race and equity lens, appointment to the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee, and research related to institutional racism, redlining and its effects on health, pregnancy and birth. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, she was instrumental in convening MCH partners including Healthy Start to design and coordinate doula and related supports during pregnancy. She also serves on the ACHD/Dept of Human Services COVID Advisory Task Force and is as Executive Member of the Black COVID Equity Coalition in Allegheny County, which led expansion of COVID testing via Federally Qualified Health Centers among other accomplishments.

Dr. Mendez is recognized both locally and at the state for her work on racism, inequity, infant and maternal mortality, and birth and reproductive justice. Her deep knowledge of the intersections between racism, oppression, and social context have deeply influenced public health practice, programming and policy in maternal and child health in Allegheny County and Pennsylvania. She is an effective leader and collaborator who is committed to justice and equity in her local community and beyond.

Effective Practice Award at the National Level

IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE THROUGH EFFECTIVE USE OF DATA, EPIDEMIOLOGY AND APPLIED RESEARCH

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2020 RECIPIENT

**The National Survey of Children's Health Team:
Dr. Reem Ghandour, Dr. Jesse Lichstein,
Dr. Lydie Lebrun Harris, Ms. Jessica (Jess) Jones,
Ms. Jessica (JJ) Minnaert, and Dr. Julie Donney**

The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) is a bedrock for monitoring the well-being of U.S. children, at both the national and state levels. It provides annual information on innumerable topics of importance, such as children's health conditions, health care utilization and access, exposure to childhood traumas, child development, health behaviors, children with special health needs, school engagement, family functioning, and neighborhood conditions. The NSCH data are used by every state, many national organizations, the federal government, and serve as the foundation for national guidelines.

The NSCH was conducted by telephone every four years, beginning in 2003, but had to be stopped in 2011-2012 due to declining response rates. The completely redesigned and revitalized NSCH began in 2016, and achieved significantly higher response rates, as well as providing data to the states on an annual basis.

This revitalization has been directed by Dr. Reem Ghandour, along with Dr. Jesse Lichstein, Dr. Lydie Harris, Jess Jones, and Jessica (JJ) Minnaert. Together, they radically transformed the NSCH to provide more timely data, increase the response rates, and develop important new areas of study. They changed the mode of administration to mail and internet in order to ensure the long-term health and viability of the NSCH. The



NSCH also became a yearly data collection to provide policy makers and states with the most up-to-date information on children's health. Moreover, the team has infused every step with innovative approaches to data collection, including new experiments every year, and fostered a continuous quality improvement approach to survey management, which has resulted in a more than 50% increase in the response rate. The revitalized National Survey of Children's Health has been completed on time every year and at less cost than the old survey. The interview completion rate has been near 70% each year. While surveys using different modes of data collection have experienced a declining response rate, the NSCH has not been part of that trend. What's truly remarkable about the work of this team is that it is being accomplished with only five staff, and the NSCH is not their only responsibility.

Another major change implemented by the NSCH team was to tie the NSCH more closely to the revised national performance measurement system in maternal and child health, through the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. This performance measurement system was designed to look at how work at the state level could affect the national performance measures in each state. The NSCH now serves as the primary data source for nine Title V national performance measures and eight national outcome measures.

The NSCH team, led by Dr. Ghandour, has also been breaking new ground in guiding the development of a new measure on school readiness. There had been no consensus among countries, academics, or federal agencies on how to measure this important concept, yet the NSCH team decided to take on the task as part of the NSCH. They are now leading the effort to publish the results on topics such as the national prevalence of children not "healthy and ready to learn," and which groups are most at risk. It is a remarkable achievement to both move a whole field of scientific work forward, and possibly change practices related to children's health and development, but the NSCH team is doing exactly that. In addition, they have made important contributions to our MCH knowledge base through publications on numerous topics, such as emotional and behavioral health, children with special health care needs, medical home, and hearing impairments.

In sum, this team continues to lead the way in providing children's health information for the U.S.

Early Career Professional Achievement Award

This awards category is to recognize 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.

2020 RECIPIENT


Meagan Robinson, DrPH, MPH



Dr. Meagan Robinson has established herself as an up and coming leader in MCH who has an extensive record of accomplishments with projects across two state health departments, dating back to 2011 when she completed her MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She has a profound and passionate commitment to MCH. Beyond having superior analytic skills, what sets her apart is her intellectual curiosity.

Dr. Robinson is clearly a lifelong learner being selected to participate in the 2015-2016 AMCHP MCH Epidemiologist Leadership Lab, completed 2018 MCH Epidemiology Training Course and in 2019, graduated with her DrPH, also in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Most recently, she is participating with a team through a Robert Wood Johnson and Pew Charitable Trust joint training initiative, Health Impact Project, to address health considerations in policy decisions across multiple sectors, such as housing, transportation, and education.

Indicative of Dr. Robinson's talent and potential are her positions that demonstrate increasing levels of responsibility from Health Program Specialist and Operations Management Analyst to Epidemiologist to Lead Epidemiologist to Epidemiology and Evaluation Supervisor. The Virginia team she leads provides the time-intensive, critical analyses that track



evidence-based strategy measures, state specific outcome measures and national performance/outcome measures to inform the state's MCH programs. This work built on her success in Mississippi where she honed her team-based approach building trusted relationships with the various MCH programs, strengthening their knowledge and services.

Overtime she has been involved with programs that span the breadth of MCH inclusive of asthma, adolescent pregnancy prevention and STIs, pregnancy and breastfeeding and children with special health care needs. Critically her contributions to these initiatives go well beyond the epidemiologic and analytic work she conducts or oversees. Dr. Robinson understands the intricacies of various programs that, in combination with her public health lens, provides her the foundation to contribute to the development of evidence-based solutions and strategies. Her contributions extend beyond state work to include national initiatives including the National Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development Cohort and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Quality Improvement Forum.

Throughout her career, Dr. Robinson has played a key role in streamlining systems, reporting and, key to the success of any epidemiologist, making the data both understandable and actionable to other users. She achieves this through creating interactive presentations and using visualization tools. In terms of impact, she has also been a key voice in drawing attention to racial and ethnic inequities that, absent rigorous analyses, often remain hidden.

Dr. Robinson was also noted for her successful grantsmanship, including the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System and the Comprehensive Asthma Control project. She has also led State System Development Initiative projects in Mississippi and later in Virginia. As a regular presenter at national meetings, she assures that others benefit from the findings and lessons learned from the projects she has been involved with.

In summary, beyond her expertise, passion and dedication, Dr. Robinson is known as someone who has a respectful attitude and teachable spirit, all qualities that make her deserving of this recognition as an emerging MCH leader.

Early Career Professional Achievement Award

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2020 RECIPIENT **Kristin Palmsten, ScD**



Dr. Kristin Palmsten has established herself as a leader in the field of perinatal pharmacoepidemiology; her research has made significant contributions to the field of maternal and child health. Her work provides critical data to guide treatment decisions for pregnant women with depression, asthma, and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Palmsten received her Master of Science and Doctor of Science degrees in epidemiology at the Harvard

School of Public Health, and completed her postdoctoral fellowship in epidemiology there. Following that she was a postdoctoral scholar and an assistant project scientist in the Division of Dysmorphology, Department of Pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego. In 2017 she became a Research Investigator at Health Partners Institute in Minneapolis.

Dr. Palmsten has become a highly-regarded expert in the utilization of large, linked datasets of publicly insured women and their infants to provide critically-needed guidance to health care providers regarding treatment of pregnant women with various chronic medical conditions. She developed methods to identify pregnant women in Medicaid databases, estimate the date of conception, and link records of mothers and newborns. Using these methods, Dr. Palmsten and her colleagues documented that over 80% of publicly insured pregnant women were dispensed at least 1



prescription, and that about 40% of dispensed prescriptions were for FDA Category D or Category X drugs. She has made important contributions to study the safety of antidepressant drugs during pregnancy, a critical concern since perinatal depression affects up to 15% of women.

Dr. Palmsten has confirmed previously suspected risks of antidepressant medication in pregnancy, and equally importantly, she has demonstrated that other risks previously attributed to antidepressants were likely results of bias or confounding. Corticosteroids are another class of drugs often indicated during pregnancy, particularly for the management of flare-ups of asthma or autoimmune diseases. Unfortunately, these useful drugs may be avoided due to fear of harmful effects on the fetus. Dr. Palmsten is currently studying the safety of these drugs using two complementary data sources, and is applying qualitative research methods to understand patient and provider needs for decision support when considering the use of these medications during pregnancy.

Dr. Palmsten puts much effort and creativity into validating the information databases contain. In her work on antidepressants, she validated codes for preeclampsia, persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, and cardiac malformations against hospital records, and used this information by employing state-of-the-art methods to correct her study results for outcome misclassification. She has demonstrated how failure to control for severity of depression has confounded previous work on the safety of antidepressants. Dr. Palmsten's work brings the best features of large and small but detailed databases to bear on important problems in MCH.

In her short career, Dr. Palmsten has authored 44 peer-reviewed papers. Her work has appeared in leading general medical journals (New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, BMJ), leading clinical specialty journals (Fertility and Sterility, Obstetrics and Gynecology, BJOG, American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology), general epidemiology journals (Epidemiology, American Journal of Epidemiology), perinatal epidemiology journals (Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology), and pharmacoepidemiology journals (Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety). She is a PI or Co-Investigator on numerous NIH grants. Finally, she is active in our profession. She is a regular presenter at the Society for Epidemiologic Research and the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research; she has given numerous invited talks in the U.S. and abroad; and she has chaired sessions at scientific meetings including for the Society for Epidemiologic Research. In summary, Dr. Palmsten is a very promising early-career researcher who has made numerous contributions already, and stands poised to enjoy a long, productive and impactful career in MCH Epidemiology.

Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award

IMPROVING MCH PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING; TRAINING IN THE USE OF DATA, EPIDEMIOLOGIC METHODS AND APPLIED RESEARCH; AND MENTORING OF STUDENTS, TRAINEES, FELLOWS, AND EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS


This award is given to an individual or organization with a strong history of excellence in teaching and training in MCH Epidemiology and/or an outstanding record of mentoring students, trainees, fellows, and early career professionals. Awardees will have developed and/or implemented training materials, courses, and/or programs within and/or outside academia to increase the capacity of MCH public health to turn data into information and action and/or served as a mentor for multiple students, trainees, fellows, and early career professionals who have emerged as beginning or established leaders in the field of MCH epidemiology, in practice and/or academia. *[Note: the committee defines mentoring as a professional relationship in which an experienced person (the mentor) assists another (the mentee) in developing specific skills and knowledge that will enhance the less-experienced person's professional and personal growth.]* The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual/organization who is viewed as a teacher/training leader/mentor not only by their peers and former students and trainees but also by the larger MCH community. The criteria for this award includes: 1) an identifiable track record in developing/ implementing MCH Epidemiology training and/or training products; and/or 2) a track record of excellence in mentoring in MCH Epidemiology; and, 3) contribution to the field of MCH public health practice.

2020 RECIPIENT

Daniel Enquobahrie, MD, PhD



Dr. Enquobahrie is an enthusiastic, supportive, innovative and committed mentor, wholly deserving of the honor of the Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award. His teaching and mentoring throughout his career have been exemplary. Dr. Enquobahrie is an associate professor of epidemiology and the director of the Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Program at the University of Washington. He co-led a



successful Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology (RPPE) T32 training program, which supported several of his mentees. His academic, personal, career, advocacy and leadership mentoring, have all been paramount to his mentees' academic and personal successes. His former RPPE fellows have secured assistant professor roles and are independently leading MCH Epidemiology research endeavors.

Dr. Enquobahrie's excellence in teaching and developing of MCH coursework is evident. He has advanced training in MCH epidemiology and MCH public health practice by teaching courses such as "Epidemiology of Maternal and Child Health Problems," "Maternal and Child Health-A Population Approach," "Discovery Seminar: Fetal Origins of Adult Diseases," and "Maternal and Child Health Seminar," a number of which were courses he developed. Nominated by his mentees, they report that his wonderful enthusiasm for MCH instruction inspired them to enjoy epidemiology methods and overcome barriers in understanding difficult concepts by learning to apply those complex methods in the context of maternal and child health problems. His mentoring and enthusiasm for the field is credited with encouraging them to pursue careers in maternal and child health epidemiology.

He serves as a strong mentor for students and junior faculty in developing research ideas from capstones, masters thesis and dissertations to major funding initiatives. Dr. Enquobahrie builds successful teams and teaches his mentees to do the same, making strong collaborative efforts possible across a variety of collaborators at different career stages and from different backgrounds.

Dr. Enquobahrie also models healthy balance between work and life. He is known for hosting fun group activities including visits to local museums and group dinners. He is devoted to his own family and is supportive of mentees balancing their life and work demands in healthy ways. His care for children and family exemplify and align with MCH public health goals to support the wellbeing of mothers and children across the life course.

An aspect of Dr. Enquobahrie's nomination that really stood out was his attention and care in identifying the potential of diverse students. Dr. Enquobahrie has changed lives by supporting women and minority students to develop their skills and achieve in ways they did not initially believe possible, but he saw their potential and believed in them. One of his mentees reported that he was generous with his time and guidance even before he was an "official" mentor and he "stood out as an approachable, authentic, energetic, creative, intelligent, and knowledgeable researcher with a refreshing eagerness to mentor." He actively involves a diverse body of students in publications and professional conferences, encouraging students to continue their projects, developing them into successful publications. These significant career advancements would not be conceivable without Dr. Enquobahrie's unwavering support.

Outstanding Leadership Award

ENHANCING THE POLITICAL WILL TO ADVANCE
KNOWLEDGE AND TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH
PRACTICE THROUGH EFFECTIVE USE OF DATA,
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Improving the health of women, children and families takes more than quality science and public health practice. Political will is needed at all levels to take the needed steps to improve public health knowledge and practice. This awards category is to recognize leaders and organizational teams who serve at a local, state or national level and who have made significant contributions to the field by creating the political will to improve the health of women, children and families through epidemiology, applied research, and effective data use. The criteria for this award include: 1) demonstrated increase in political will including the provision of resources, 2) contribution to public health practice, and 3) impact on their MCH population.


2020 RECIPIENT **David Goodman, PhD, MS**



Dr. David Goodman, a senior epidemiologist in the Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), leads the Maternal Mortality Prevention Team. Dr. Goodman has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to amplify the work of maternal mortality review committees. With support from Dr. Goodman and

his team, maternal mortality review committees are leading nationwide yet locally informed efforts to prevent maternal deaths in the U.S.

Dr. Goodman has led a multi-year effort to build a stronger and more impactful maternal mortality surveillance system by growing, refining, and strengthening the process of Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs). First, he started with an evidence-based, insightful vision to support MMRC needs by identifying gaps in surveillance and lack of uniformity among state recommendations. Second, over many years he methodically built an exceptional team of dedicated professionals that comprise the CDC Maternal Mortality Prevention Team, while consistently engaging state and local health departments, community advocates, fellow federal agencies and stakeholder organizations. At every step, he



listened carefully, learned from mistakes, and strategically adapted without losing sight of the goal to eliminate preventable maternal mortality. As a direct result of the work of Dr. Goodman and his team, state and local MMRCs monitor and assess health patterns in populations, standardize data input, develop comparable recommendations for collaboration between jurisdictions, and mobilize community partnerships; all contributing to and inspiring policy development.

A decade ago, few would say that MMRCs made a substantial impact on public health practice, with perhaps a few local exceptions. Envisioning the potential influence of state-based bodies to provide local insight into maternal health with a focus on data-driven action has, and continues to be, a critical activity for MMRCs. The work of Dr. Goodman improves public health practices of measurement, description, integration, and the use of data to drive precise impact. This growth has been recognized and accelerated by the Congressional allocation of funds for the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) initiative. ERASE MM funding clearly builds on the early impact of Dr. Goodman, and the funding catalyzes further growth in this core surveillance activity. The proximate ‘intended population’ of the capacity building work for MMRCs are the committees themselves. The impact on these bodies is evidenced by the dramatic growth in numbers and output of state-based MMRCs, facilitated by the resources and guidance summarized at <https://reviewtoaction.org/> (a site created by Dr. Goodman, his team, and their partners). The resulting systematization in death review and data reporting provides evidence and feedback on interventions at the patient, provider, facility, system, and community levels. MMRCs effectively inform interventions at each of these levels, from maternal health safety bundles to changes in state-level policy. Further, the emphasis on health equity, embedded in the Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA) data system built by Dr. Goodman and the Maternal Mortality Prevention Team, helps fill critical gaps in knowledge regarding causes of disparities in maternal mortality.

Dr. Goodman’s ability to navigate between the tools and methodologies considered by the epidemiologist, combined with the real-world complexities of public health systems, communities, and the health care delivery systems is commendable and truly inspiring. His continued efforts to support colleagues and mentees while bringing out the best in each are truly a gift. Dr. Goodman’s achievements and ongoing work will continue to influence how MMRCs, states, localities, and partners measure and improve maternal health. For these reasons, he is most deserving of the national Outstanding Leadership award provided by the Coalition of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology.

Past Recipients


GREG ALEXANDER AWARD FOR ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

- 2018 Eugene Declercq, Boston University
- 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

- 2018 Aileen Duldulao, Multnomah County Health Department
The Puerto Rico Department of Health's Division of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (PRDH)
- 2016 Audrey M. Stevenson, Salt Lake County Health Department
Massachusetts 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 Life 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

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- 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, Oklahoma 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

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- 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


EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

- 2018 Catherine Vladutiu, Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Sharyn Parks Brown, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 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

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- 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

- 2018 Marie Clare McCormick, Harvard University
- 2016 Roger Roachat, 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 February 2021. The awards will be presented at the 2021 CityMatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference.