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## Recognizing Excellence in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology: The 2014 National MCH Epidemiology Awards

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### Abstract

**Purpose**—The impact of programs, policies, and practices developed by professionals in the field of maternal and child health (MCH) epidemiology is highlighted biennially by 16 national MCH agencies and organizations, or the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology.

**Description**—In September 2014, multiple leading agencies in the field of MCH partnered to host the national CityMatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference offered opportunities for peer exchange; presentation of new scientific methodologies, programs, and policies; dialogue on changes in the MCH field; and discussion of emerging MCH issues relevant to the work of local, state, and national MCH professionals. During the conference, the National MCH Epidemiology Awards were presented to individuals, teams, institutions, and leaders for significantly contributing to the improved health of women, children, and families.

**Assessment**—During the conference, the Coalition presented seven deserving health researchers and research groups with national awards in the areas of advancing knowledge, effective practice, outstanding leadership, young professional achievement, and lifetime achievement. The article highlights the accomplishments of these national-level awardees.

**Conclusion**—Recognition of deserving professionals strengthens the field of MCH epidemiology, and sets the standard for exceptional research, mentoring, and practice.

### Keywords

Maternal and child health epidemiology; Perinatal epidemiology; National awards

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## Purpose

Beginning in 2000, the Coalition for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology has nationally recognized the significant contributions of individuals, teams, institutions, and leaders to improve the health of women, children, infants, and families by advancing public health knowledge, practice, research, teaching, mentoring, and data use. The Coalition is represented by 16 MCH agencies and organizations (Table 1), with the goal of promoting excellence in the field of MCH epidemiology. The purpose of the national awards is to highlight contributions to MCH in the following four categories:

1. Advancing public health knowledge through MCH epidemiology and applied research;
2. Improving public health practice through the effective use of MCH data and epidemiology;
3. Strengthening MCH public health practice through excellence in teaching, mentoring, and training in the use of data, epidemiologic methods, and applied research; and
4. 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.

## Description

Awards are presented biennially in six categories, including advancing knowledge, effective practice, outstanding leadership, excellence in teaching and mentoring, young professional achievement, and lifetime achievement. Award recipients are nominated by peers, nominations are reviewed, and awardees are selected by the National MCH Epidemiology Awards Selection Committee, comprised of members of the Coalition. To be eligible for nomination, MCH professionals must publish or work in the field of MCH in the United States. The work of each nominee may represent independent scientific research and collaborative applied public health activities. Both individual and group nominations are acceptable. Previous award recipients are listed in Table 2.

## Assessment

To begin the 2014 National MCH Epidemiology Awards presentation, William Sappenfield, MD, MPH, Chair, Department of Community and Family Health, College of Public Health, University of South Florida, and previous Chair of the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology, presented a posthumous dedication to Mervyn Susser, MD, the namesake for the Coalition's Mervyn Susser and Zena Stein Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Susser was known for his lifetime of contributions to the field of epidemiology, and served as the Joint Director of the Africa Centre for Population and Reproductive Health Research. Dr. Sappenfield delivered a summary of Dr. Susser's achievements, including information that was provided in a 2003 publication by Nigel Paneth [1], and a two-part autobiographical summary that was published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* in 2006

[2, 3]. This dedication reinforced the purpose of the National MCH Epidemiology Awards, and the need to honor those who advance the field of MCH epidemiology. The following sections highlight the accomplishments of the seven 2014 National MCH Epidemiology awardees.

## **Greg Alexander Award for Advancing Knowledge: Advancing Public Health Knowledge Through Epidemiology and Applied Research**

### **K. S. Joseph, MBBS, MD, PhD**

K. S. Joseph is a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. With over 150 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Joseph has distinguished himself as one of the leading perinatal and MCH epidemiologists in the field. Over a career spanning more than 25 years, one of Dr. Joseph's main accomplishments is his seminal work on understanding the increasing trend in preterm birth rates that began in the 1980s across North America and other developing countries. His finding that obstetrical interventions explained much of this trend resulted in the implementation of interventions to reduce elective deliveries prior to 37 weeks. The decrease in preterm induction of labor and cesarean deliveries from these interventions may have influenced recent declines in the U.S. preterm birth rate.

In addition to his work on trends in preterm birth, Dr. Joseph has conducted epidemiologic research on neonatal mortality among preterm infants, with a particular focus on the importance of gestational age measurement. His research comparing infant mortality rates between the U.S. and Canada demonstrated that the country-specific rates varied depending on which gestational age measurement was used. As a result, the obstetrical estimate of gestational age is now considered the standard measure to use when analyzing perinatal outcomes in vital records data. Dr. Joseph was also one of the first researchers to shed light on the "birth weight paradox" and suggested using a fetuses-at-risk approach to assess neonatal mortality rather than analyzing live births. His work uncovered pathological underpinnings to the observed birthweight-for-gestational age distributions among black and firstborn infants, thus suggesting that race and parity-specific growth standards were unnecessary. Additionally, with his interest in maternal health, Dr. Joseph has published research on trends and risk factors for postpartum hemorrhage, amniotic fluid embolism, and eclampsia.

Dr. Joseph's contributions through epidemiology and applied research have advanced public health knowledge pertaining to the health and wellbeing of mothers and infants around the world. He has challenged existing paradigms and changed our understanding of important issues in MCH epidemiology and is deserving of the Greg Alexander Award for Advancing Knowledge.

## **Award for Effective Practice at the National Level: Improving Public Health Practice Through Effective Use of Data, Epidemiology, and Applied Research**

### **Marian MacDorman, PhD**

Dr. Marian MacDorman has contributed to national public health efforts for more than 25 years. She has been successful at fulfilling both her government role and reporting responsibilities while also developing a national research agenda in MCH. Since 1988, she has worked at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), first as a statistician in the Mortality Statistics Branch and currently as a senior perinatal epidemiology researcher in the Reproductive Statistics Branch where she prepares key datasets and governmental reports focused primarily on perinatal mortality. Between 1999 and 2010, Dr. MacDorman also served as the project officer for the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Birth Cohort, a national longitudinal study of U.S. children and their parents, designed to inform programs and policies about early life experiences.

With a background in both geography and demography, Dr. MacDorman has initiated novel research in MCH while utilizing a variety of national datasets, including fetal death records and linked birth and infant death records. As a result, she has published numerous articles, statistical reports, and NCHS data briefs. In the past 5 years alone, Dr. MacDorman has been the lead or contributing author on over 10 statistical reports and more than 15 peer-reviewed articles. Some of her most noteworthy work focused on the association between obstetrical interventions and preterm birth rates in the U.S. Her findings that prematurity rates were decreasing among spontaneous vaginal births and increasing among those with obstetrical interventions were published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. This research has also provided evidence to support state and national efforts to prevent elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks of gestation. In 2007, Dr. MacDorman's collaborative work on the development of a new measure of low risk cesarean deliveries and related birth outcomes was deemed as one of the 100 most important articles by *Science Magazine*.

Dr. MacDorman is nationally recognized for her contributions to the MCH field. Her commitment to public service and use of epidemiological methods to advance the health of mothers and children in the U.S. are clear examples of effective practice in MCH epidemiology at the national level.

## **Award for Effective Practice at the State Level: Improving Public Health Practice Through Effective Use of Data, Epidemiology, and Applied Research**

### **Bruce Cohen, PhD, MPH, MS**

Dr. Bruce Cohen is the Director of Health Statistics and Research at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Public Health, and has served in this capacity since 1989. He is also an adjunct professor at several institutions, including Boston University School of

Public Health, the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences, and Tufts University School of Medicine. For the past 4 years, Dr. Cohen has served as a Board member and Treasurer for the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) and is a member of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics.

Dr. Cohen's public health career includes seminal work in assessing maternal and fetal outcomes following the use of assisted reproductive technology (ART). As the principal investigator of a multi-state linkage project of vital records and CDC's ART surveillance system, Dr. Cohen identified important risk factors and perinatal outcomes associated with ART. He and his colleagues published several articles on the findings from this research between 2006 and 2014. Dr. Cohen has also led the development, facilitation, and promotion of core principles for the expansion of standards for classifying data on race, ethnicity, and primary language. These data extended beyond the Office of Management and Budget standard to provide more detailed, self-reported information. As a result of his efforts, Massachusetts implemented more extensive racial and ethnic classifications that are used for a variety of health initiatives.

In addition to his research, Dr. Cohen has been instrumental in developing initiatives to promote the maintenance of individual privacy and confidentiality pertaining to vital records data. Under his leadership as Chair of the NAPHSIS Statistics and Research Review committee and in collaboration with the National Center for Health Statistics, states have been given the opportunity to review and approve data requests for vital records from over 500 researcher-initiated applications. Dr. Cohen has also been involved in the development of standardized agreements to release selected national data for public health surveillance while assuring the protection of respondent confidentiality of birth and death data. Given Dr. Cohen's contributions to state-level initiatives in Massachusetts and elsewhere, his work exemplifies effective practice at the state level.

## **Award for Effective Practice at the State Level: Improving Public Health Practice Through Effective Use of Data, Epidemiology, and Applied Research**

### **The Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal (PELL) Data System Team**

The Massachusetts PELL data system, a population-based, relational, reproductive and child health system, was developed through a collaborative public-university partnership between the Boston University School of Public Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the CDC. This data system utilizes a broad range of public health data (e.g., live birth and fetal death certificates, hospital discharge records, program data) to assess the ongoing impact of the prenatal environment on MCH populations. Since 1998, the PELL system has included data on more than 1,000,000 live births and 5200 fetal deaths, including approximately 265,000 sequential deliveries occurring in Massachusetts.

The PELL system, through its longitudinal linkage of data from multiple sources, provides a unique opportunity to examine social determinants of health, identify health disparities, and

assess health services among women and children in Massachusetts. As a result, the PELL data system team has contributed greatly to the MCH field through a variety of activities, including: (1) providing data to inform the development of MCH programs and policies; (2) providing data for epidemiologic research of critical issues in MCH; (3) educating providers and the public about important findings from epidemiologic research and evaluation; (4) improving referral to and delivery of appropriate services for women and children in Massachusetts; and (5) improving the quality of clinical care for MCH populations.

The initiatives undertaken by the multidisciplinary group of PELL collaborators have been successful at improving the use of data to inform MCH programs and policies for the state of Massachusetts. For example, the group has been involved in evaluating the Massachusetts Early Intervention program, improving identification of children with autism spectrum disorders, and reducing early elective deliveries and unnecessary obstetrical interventions. PELL serves as a model for other states. Through over 100 trainings and presentations and more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, the PELL team has encouraged other states to build data capacity and develop data systems to assess critical MCH issues. For their work in improving public health practice through the effective use of data and training of the MCH field, the PELL data system team provides a commendable example of Effective Practice at the State level.

## **Award for Outstanding Leadership: Enhancing the Political Will to Advance Knowledge and Support Public Health Practice Through Effective Use of Data, Epidemiology, and Applied Research**

### **Deborah Allen, ScD**

Dr. Deborah Allen's public health career has spanned over a period of 35 years during which time she has promoted the health and wellbeing of children and families with a particular emphasis on those with special health care needs. She has held many titles and positions, including her current roles as the Director of the Bureau of Child, Adolescent, and Family Health at the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), and Chair of the CityMatCH Board of Directors. Dr. Allen has also held roles of Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Adjunct Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs, and Director of the Division for Special Health Needs at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

For many years, Dr. Allen has promoted the use of data to inform programs and policies, and to educate the public about the health status of MCH populations in Boston. As a result, the city of Boston has been a leader in local MCH efforts. The success of these efforts as well as other initiatives has been largely driven by Dr. Allen's partnership with the BPHC Office of Research and Evaluation. For example, the first ever citywide survey of children's health based off of the National Survey of Children's Health was implemented in the city of Boston in 2012. In addition, this partnership aided in the reorganization of the BPHC perinatal data systems to facilitate the promotion of centering pregnancy, a type of group care for pregnant women.

Dr. Allen also advocates for using data to identify and address health disparities and inequities in public health. In collaboration with her colleagues from the Office of Research and Evaluation, Dr. Allen has conducted research to assess factors contributing to the racial disparities in gestational length among black and white infants in Boston, and to better understand why these inequalities increase with shorter gestational length. These activities and many others under Dr. Allen's leadership have made a lasting impact on the MCH population in Boston, thus making her the ideal candidate for the 2014 Outstanding Leader award.

## **Award for Young Professional Achievement**

### **Susanna Visser, MS, DrPH**

Dr. Susanna Visser is the acting Associate Director of Science in the Division of Human Development and Disability at the CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. She began working at the CDC in 2001 and her research focuses primarily on neurobehavioral and mental health conditions of children. She currently directs CDC's programmatic efforts related to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

During her career thus far, Dr. Visser has made important contributions to the MCH field. Her seminal work on ADHD has provided national estimates of parent-reported medication use for ADHD, and both national and state-level estimates of trends in parent-reported ADHD, none of which have been previously reported. Dr. Visser has authored or coauthored more than 25 articles, several of which describe the factors associated with medication treatment for childhood ADHD. Her work has been used to inform state-level investigations of behavioral health among children.

In addition to conducting research, Dr. Visser is actively involved in moving data to action. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as well as federal and state agencies have used Dr. Visser's groundbreaking work on ADHD to inform health policies and practices for children. Dr. Visser served as the leading epidemiologist on the AAP committee for the ADHD Diagnostic and Treatment Guidelines. Her work pertaining to childhood ADHD has also been used by the Food and Drug Administration during an investigation regarding the increase in cardiovascular events among children using medication for ADHD. Specifically, Dr. Visser's population-based estimates were used to estimate the prevalence of stroke, myocardial infarction, and other cardiovascular events among children using medication for ADHD. Dr. Visser has helped build state-level data capacity by collaborating with state mental health program directors and leveraging data from the National Survey of Children's Health and other state-based data systems to examine state-level trends in ADHD and to provide a comprehensive examination of related factors.

Dr. Visser's contributions to the MCH field, particularly with the use of data to inform programs and policies for children with ADHD, have led to her recognition as a national leader in MCH Epidemiology. For this reason, Dr. Visser is deserving of the Young Professional Achievement Award.

## Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser Award for Lifetime Achievement

### Walter J. Rogan, MD, MPH

For almost 40 years, Dr. Walter Rogan has been recognized as a national leader in the field of children's environmental health. During that time, his public health career has focused on examining the adverse effects of environmental exposures on MCH populations. Dr. Rogan is a Senior Investigator at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)/National Institutes of Health (NIH). He began working at NIEHS in 1976 and has held many positions and titles, including as the Epidemiology Branch Chief, Associate Director in the Division of Biometry and Risk Assessment for Prevention, and as the Acting Clinical Director.

Dr. Rogan's career includes seminal work on the effect of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) on child health, particularly his work on PCBs among children in Taiwan. In this study, children exposed to PCB in utero and an unexposed group of matched neighborhood controls were followed prospectively to assess their physical growth, behaviors, and development using clinical and psychometric assessments. The findings from this research were first published in *Science* and have been cited more than 400 times. Dr. Rogan's work has also been instrumental in informing public health policy and has generated an entire field devoted to assessing the impact of antenatal and childhood exposures to persistent organic pollutants on child health. His groundbreaking research on breastfeeding and environmental toxicants has been published in more than 20 articles.

Additionally, Dr. Rogan has been actively involved in promoting MCH policy. For 36 years, Dr. Rogan served as the NIH representative for the AAP Council on Environmental Health. He has also served on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Lead Poisoning Prevention, the Office on Women's Health Advisory Committee on breastfeeding policy, the NIH Environmental Protection Agency delegation to Vietnam on Agent Orange Research, the National Toxicology Program Initial Review Group on the Carcinogenicity of Lead and Lead Compounds, and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Committee on Newborn Screening.

Dr. Rogan's many accomplishments in children's environmental health over the span of several decades have made important contributions to the MCH field. By using data to inform knowledge and health policy, he has had a lasting impact on the lives of women and children, epitomizing the meaning of the lifetime achievement award.

## Conclusion

The Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology will convene to select the 2016 awardees in the summer of 2016. The awardees will be announced at the National MCH Epidemiology Awards Luncheon at the 2016 City-MatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 15, 2016. The nomination announcement for the 2016 National MCH Epidemiology Awards will occur in January of 2016 and applications will be due by April 15, 2016.

The National MCH Epidemiology Awards are an opportunity for professional recognition of notable accomplishments in the field of MCH. Acknowledging the accomplishments of these deserving awardees supports on-going work in the field, and provides an opportunity to disseminate the awards to a wider audience. To further recognize excellence in the field of MCH epidemiology, Coalition members urge readers to consider nomination of peers and colleagues to highlight their important accomplishments.

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### **Significance**

#### **What is already known on the subject**

Acknowledgement of deserving contributions among peers in the workplace provides a forum for professional recognition and reinforces positive performance.

#### **What this study adds**

The Maternal and Child Health Journal offers an opportunity for national-level recognition of the MCH epidemiology awardees, and provides dissemination of the awards to a larger peer audience.

**Table 1**

## Coalition for excellence in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology Member Organizations

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American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Reproductive Health (DRH)
CityMatCH
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
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 Institutes of Health (NIH), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
National March of Dimes Foundation
Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER)

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**Table 2**

Previous National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology Award recipients by award category

Year	Award recipient
<i>Greg Alexander award for advancing knowledge</i>	
2014	KS Joseph, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
2012	Laura Schieve, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2012	Matthew Gillman, Harvard University
2011	Paul Newacheck, University of California, San Francisco
2010	Gopal Singh, Health Resources and Services Administration
2009	Allen Wilcox, National Institutes of Health
2008	Patricia O'Campo, University of Toronto
2007	Michael Kramer, McGill University
2006	James Collins, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago
2005	Mark Klebanoff, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
2004	David Savitz, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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
<i>Effective practice—community, state, and national levels</i>	
2014	
State level	Bruce Cohen, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
State level	Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal (PELL) Data System Team, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
National level	Marian MacDorman, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2012	
State level	Donald Hayes, Family Health Services Division, State of Hawaii
2011	
Community level	Center for Women's Health, Trover Health Systems
State level	C. Meade Grigg, Florida's Office of Health Statistics and Assessment, State Registrar of Vital Statistics
State level	Isabelle Horon, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
2010	
State level	Kenneth Rosenberg, Oregon Public Health Division
National level	Maternal Health Team for 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2009	
Community level	Priscilla Guild, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research
State level	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
2008	
Community level	Institute for Health, Policy, and Evaluation Research, Duval County Health Department
National level	CityMatCH, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2007	

Year	Award recipient
Community level	Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, Nashville–Davidson Health Department
State level	Wanda Barfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National level	Carrie Shapiro-Mendoza, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2006	
State level	Douglas Paterson, Michigan Department of Community Health
National level	Stephanie Ventura, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2005	
Community level	Los Angeles County STD Program
State level	Richard Lorenz, Oklahoma State Department of Health
National level	Stella Yu, Health Resources and Services Administration
2004	
Community level	Carol Brady, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition
State level	Paul Buescher, North Carolina Division of Public Health
National level	Laura Kann, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2003	
Community level	Countryside Lead Prevalence Study Team
State level	Garland Land, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
National level	Larry Edmonds, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2002	
Community level	Carolyn Slack, Columbus Health Department
State level	Gilberto Chavez, California Department of Health Services
State level	New Mexico and Navaho PRAMS Collaborative
National level	Carol Hogue, Emory University
2001	
Community level	Kathy Carson, Public Health Seattle-King County
State level	Bao-Ping Zhu, Michigan Department of Community Health
National level	Hani Atrash, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2000	
Community level	Pinellas County Healthy Start
State level	Aaron Roome, Connecticut Department of Public Health
National level	Arden Handler, University of Illinois at Chicago
<i>Outstanding leadership</i>	
2014	Deborah Allen, Bureau of Child, Adolescent, and Family Health, Boston Public Health Commission
2012	Christina Bethell, Oregon Health and Sciences University
2009	Donna Peterson, College of Public Health, University of South Florida
2008	William Hollinshead III, Rhode Island Department of Health
2006	Jeffrey Gould, Stanford University
2005	Jose Cordero, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Year	Award recipient
2004	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
<i>Excellence in teaching and mentoring</i>	
2012	Michelle Williams, Harvard University
2009	Donna Strobino, Johns Hopkins University
2007	Russell Kirby, University of Alabama at Birmingham
2005	Deb Rosenberg, University of Illinois at Chicago
<i>Young professional achievement</i>	
2014	Susanna Visser, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2012	Lisa Bodnar, University of Pittsburgh
2011	Reem Ghandour, Health Resources and Services Administration
2010	Amina Alio, University of South Florida
2009	Brian 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 at 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
<i>Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser award for lifetime achievement</i>	
2014	Walter Rogan, National Institutes of Health
2009	Bernard Guyer, Johns Hopkins University
2007	Irvin Emanuel, University of Washington
2006	David Erickson, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2005	Mervyn Susser and Zena Stein, Columbia University