2020 ASPPH AWARDS
2020 ASPPH Awardees

ASPPH Teaching Excellence Award
Karin B. Yeatts, PhD

ASPPH Early Career Public Health Teaching Award
Leah C. Neubauer, EdD, MA

ASPPH Academic Public Health Practice Excellence Award
Karen D. Liller, PhD, EdS, MA, CPH

ASPPH Early Career Public Health Research Award
Rachel R. Hardeman, PhD, MPH

ASPPH Student Services Excellence Award
Scot McIntosh, MS

Riegelman Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Public Health Education
Karin J. Opacich, PhD, MHPE, OTR/L, FAOTA

ASPPH Harrison C. Spencer Award
Outstanding Community Service
National Taiwan University College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health

ASPPH Special Recognition Award
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
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The ASPPH Teaching Excellence Award recognizes faculty who are outstanding in teaching and mentoring students toward distinction in public health research, teaching, and practice. The award is given annually to a full-time faculty member from an ASPPH-member, CEPH-accredited school or program of public health.

In selecting the award recipient, reviewers consider evidence of the nominee’s outstanding contributions in the following areas: classroom teaching; mentorship of students at the baccalaureate, masters, and/or doctoral levels; mentorship of faculty; teaching outside traditional degree programs, including continuing education programs, short courses, and programs for the general public; innovative teaching-related contributions to the field, such as textbooks and other teaching materials; publications and/or presentations on teaching methodology; high-level, national leadership to improve teaching and mentoring within CEPH-accredited schools or programs of public health; demonstration of a national or international reputation as an educator; and innovative efforts in education.
Dr. Karin Yeatts is an associate professor of epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her courses range from undergraduate introductory public health to graduate-level introductory epidemiology, with a consistent focus on collaboration and experiential learning in the classroom. Dr. Yeatts’ research explores the public health impact of climate change and air pollution, and she has been highlighted as a leader in the field of research on air quality. She has won numerous teaching awards, including the Edward G. McGavran Award for Excellence in Teaching, the UNC Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award and the Gillings Teaching Innovation Award.

In addition, Dr. Yeatts teaches introductory epidemiology to students across the United States and abroad through a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in epidemiology, which was developed in 2013 with her input. It is one of only two epidemiology MOOCs in the world, with more than 8,500 students completing the course.

Dr. Yeatts was an integral part of creating the core sequence for the Gillings School’s Master of Public Health (MPH) degree, a residential and online program that draws on contemporary teaching approaches to address real-world public health problems and produce students who are more fully prepared to tackle today’s health care challenges. She also has played a primary role in developing and implementing the applied epidemiology concentration for the Gillings MPH. For more than 20 years, Dr. Yeatts has demonstrated a commitment to innovative teaching and scholarship at the Gillings School of Global Public Health.
The ASPPH Early Career Public Health Teaching Award recognizes a junior faculty member for outstanding teaching and mentoring of students toward distinction in public health research, teaching, and practice. The award is given annually to a full-time faculty member from an ASPPH-member, CEPH-accredited school or program of public health.

In selecting the award recipient, reviewers consider evidence of the nominee’s outstanding contributions in the following areas: classroom teaching; mentorship of students at the baccalaureate, post-baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and/or post-doctoral levels; mentorship of faculty; teaching outside traditional degree programs, including continuing education programs, short courses, and programs for the general public; innovative teaching-related contributions to the field, such as textbooks and other teaching materials; publications and/or presentations on teaching methodology; and, leadership, appropriate to the stage of the candidate’s career, to improve teaching and mentoring within CEPH-accredited schools or programs of public health.
Leah C. Neubauer, EdD, MA  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Program in Public Health

Dr. Leah C. Neubauer is an Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine, Division of Public Health Practice in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. Her primary area of scholarship is curriculum development and training in the public health and health-related professions. She employs multidisciplinary, theory-driven approaches to accreditation, teaching, training, and evaluation capacity-building within varied settings. She conducts collaborative global mixed-methods research focused on the development, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of school-based sexual health programs and teaches graduate-level courses in global health, public health and evaluation.

Dr. Neubauer is an internationally recognized educator and trainer whose collaborations exist in Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, and globally through an international network of women’s funds. Her doctoral training prepared her to examine the pillars of critical theory, critical race theory, and transformative learning in formal, nonformal and informal adult education. In practice, she promotes critical inquiry, transparency and dialogue at the intersections of education, access, power, race/ethnicity, and decision-making.

As a mentor, Dr. Neubauer offers keen, practical insights to whole-person mentoring and advising practices for students and early career professionals. Dr. Neubauer is a first-generation college student and proud member/alum of Federal TRiO programming, the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Program, and the Latina Researcher Network. In all that she offers, Dr. Neubauer’s efforts are rooted in honor and respect for her first educators: the fierce, braving women who raised her: her mother, Mrs. Verónica Erxleben and her grandmother Mrs. Ramóna (Faz) Dittmer. She celebrates this award with her family, community, students and colleagues.
The ASPPH Academic Public Health Practice Excellence Award recognizes faculty who have devoted their careers to advancing and integrating scholarly public health practice within research, teaching, and service. The award is given annually to a full-time faculty member from an ASPPH-member, CEPH-accredited school or program of public health.

In selecting the award recipient, reviewers consider evidence of the nominee’s outstanding contributions in the following areas: practice-based research; practice-based teaching; practice-based service; collaborating with practice partners; applying research findings to practice settings; and engaging students in public health practice.
Dr. Karen Liller is a full tenured professor in the University of South Florida (USF) College of Public Health. She also serves as the College’s Strategic Lead for Policy, Practice, and Leadership. In 2018 she founded the College’s Activist Lab of which she serves as Director. Dr. Liller holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in medical technology, technical education, and education (curriculum and instruction with a focus area of public health). She also has received certification in public health (CPH). Dr. Liller has served in numerous administrative positions including Dean of the USF Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation and Associate Dean for Academics and Student Affairs in the College of Public Health.

Dr. Liller specializes in the prevention of injuries in children and adolescents. She has been the recipient of several awards/honors such as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, received the first State of Florida Injury Prevention Award, and a Tampa Bay Business Healthcare Hero Award. Dr. Liller has received millions of dollars in national and state funding for injury prevention. Recent research areas include young children’s injuries while playing sports in recreational leagues and serving as the principal investigator contracted by the State of Florida for the Florida Violent Death Reporting System funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Liller has published extensively in top peer-reviewed publications and was named one of the top 15 national women scholars in health education and health promotion. She is the editor of several texts, most recently serving as the co-lead editor for the “Certified in Public Health Exam Review Guide” published by the American Public Health Association. She serves as a member of the CDC Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. She also is a member of several public health and injury prevention professional associations and societies.
The ASPPH Early Career Public Health Research Award recognizes an outstanding early-career investigator. The award is given annually to a full-time faculty member within 10 years of her or his last formal training from an ASPPH-member, CEPH-accredited school or program of public health.

In selecting the award recipient, reviewers consider exemplary and documented scholarly accomplishments that advance the research mission of schools or programs of public health and improve the health of the communities they serve.
Rachel R. Hardeman, PhD, MPH
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Dr. Rachel R. Hardeman is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Policy & Management, University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She is a reproductive health equity researcher whose program of research applies the tools of population health science and health services research to elucidate a critical and complex determinant of health inequity—racism. Dr. Hardeman leverages the frameworks of critical race theory and reproductive justice to inform her equity-centered work which aims to build the empirical evidence of racism’s impact on health particularly for Black birthing people and their babies.

Dr. Hardeman’s research includes a partnership with Roots Community Birth Center, in North Minneapolis, one of five Black-owned freestanding birth centers in the United States. Her work also examines the potential mental health impacts for Black birthing people when living in a community that has experienced the killing of an unarmed Black person by police. Published in journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *American Journal of Public Health*, Dr. Hardeman’s research has elicited important conversations on the topics of culturally-centered care, police brutality and structural racism as a fundamental cause of health inequities. Her overarching goal is to contribute to a body of knowledge that links structural racism to health in a tangible way, identifies opportunities for intervention, and dismantles the systems, structures, and institutions that allow inequities to persist.

Dr. Hardeman is active locally and nationally with organizations that seek to achieve health equity. She was recently appointed to the Minnesota Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the CDC Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA) Bias work group where she is working to develop a measure of structural racism to be included when reviewing maternal deaths. Dr. Hardeman also serves on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood of the North Central States.
The ASPPH Student Services Excellence Award recognizes a staff or faculty member who is innovative and forward thinking in student services and who has gone above and beyond in working with applicants and students. The award is given annually to a full-time faculty or staff member from an ASPPH-member, CEPH-accredited school or program of public health.

In selecting the award recipient, reviewers consider candidates based on their contributions in the following areas: recruitment, admissions, financial aid, and student and career services.
Mr. Scot McIntosh is a student-oriented professional with over a decade of higher education experience serving college and university campuses in several diverse positions including Financial Aid, Enrollment Management, Career Services and Alumni Engagement. He has served as the Director of Career Development & Student Success at the West Virginia University (WVU) School of Public Health since July 2017. In that capacity, he is the primary contact for career services programming within the school. This includes maintaining the school’s job board, working with students on resumes, cover letters, job search strategies, and interviewing techniques one-on-one and in his role as the instructor of record, each semester, for an undergraduate Introduction to Public Health Careers and Information course that is required for all undergraduate Public Health students at WVU. In addition to career services, Scot provides oversight for the school’s student scholarship and financial aid portfolio – developing applications and ensuring proper disbursement to student accounts. Since joining WVU SPH in 2017, he has worked as the Staff Advisor for the school’s Student Association of Public Health (SAPH) and was recently appointed the school’s liaison for Alumni Engagement.

His professional interests include improving confidence in students at all levels, increasing student retention, creating professional development opportunities for graduate/undergraduate students, financial aid literacy, alumni/student mentoring programs, identifying strategies for increasing student and alumni engagement.
The Riegelman Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Public Health Education recognizes faculty who have made exemplary efforts to start or sustain an undergraduate program, collaborated with both community partners and other disciplines, and garnered respect and enthusiasm from students. The award is given annually to a full-time, undergraduate faculty member from a university with a CEPH-accredited school or program of public health.

In selecting the award recipient, reviewers consider evidence of the nominee’s outstanding contributions in the following areas: innovative teaching techniques using advanced technology; relationships with practice partners in the community; collaboration with other disciplines; relationships with graduate schools or programs of public health; and teacher evaluations by students.

The award was made possible by Dr. Richard and Mrs. Linda Riegelman. Dr. Riegelman was the founding dean of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. The Riegelmans established the award to encourage and recognize excellence in teaching public health to undergraduate students.
Karin J. Opacich, PhD, MHPE, OTR/L, FAOTA
University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health

Dr. Karin J. Opacich received a BS in occupational therapy from the University of Kansas and earned both a masters degree in health professions education (MHPE) and a PhD in public health from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Her first curricular endeavor entailed designing a physician residency program in developmental pediatrics after which she accumulated many years of experience teaching, developing and evaluating curriculum, and accrediting academic programs. She has held faculty appointments and consulted to health professions programs at private and public schools and state boards of higher education across the country.

At UIC, Dr. Opacich is the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Public Health. She facilitated the development of the UIC baccalaureate program in public health that resulted in a philosophically grounded, intentionally integrated program that serves six themes: Health as a Moral Endeavor, Health Equity, Life Course Perspective, One Health [human-animal-environment], Cultural Relevance, and Local/Global Impact. Predicated upon principles of liberal education, confluent education, action learning, and community engaged participatory learning, the public health program launched in 2012 has achieved a 95 percent graduation rate. Program alumni are contributing to the national public health workforce and successfully matriculating into graduate and professional programs in the U.S. and abroad.

Beyond the School of Public Health, Dr. Opacich is the Vice Chair of the UIC Senate Committee on Educational Policy and has served on many university committees devoted to curricular integrity and student success. In terms of scholarship, she has presented papers and published on topics ranging from curriculum development and evaluation to health care ethics, professional accreditation, women with HIV/AIDS, and health and safety in the horse racing industry. Sustaining curricular integrity and navigating challenges and opportunities inherent in the changing educational landscape are part of her everyday lived experience. She would hope to be characterized as a passionate educator and a savvy curriculum developer who cares deeply and profoundly about the health of the public.
ASPPH
HARRISON C. SPENCER AWARD

for
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE
The ASPPH Harrison C. Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service was created to honor Dr. Spencer, who had a long-standing commitment to principles of social justice with a focus on community engagement to address the social determinants of health. It is the first and only ASPPH award that recognizes a member institution, rather than an individual.

This annual award is given to an ASPPH-member, CEPH-accredited school or program of public health demonstrating a major institutional commitment to addressing community needs through education, practice, and/or research. The commitment is demonstrated through the development and implementation of exceptional programs that engage a community to improve public health. The award recognizes an ongoing commitment to community service as reflected in programs and initiatives that are responsive to community needs and exhibit a meaningful partnership with the community (or communities).

The award is not intended to honor any one specialized service program or individual, but rather to recognize instances where a broad-based collaboration has developed between the nominee and the community served.

The recipient receives a specially designed award and an honorarium for $5,000, intended to be transferred by the school or program to one or more current or emerging community partners.
Awardee

The National Taiwan University College of Public Health is being awarded the ASPPH Harrison C. Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service in recognition of their exceptional commitment to serving communities in Taiwan. Key initiatives are operationally aligned with the county and national public health agencies and the national health insurance program and exhibit a high level of collaboration and service integration. The Changhua County Integrated Public Health Service (CIPHS) integrates primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention embracing environmental and occupational health science, social behavior science, epidemiology and biostatistics, preventive medicine, and health care policy and management. Public health services and continuous medical care offered by the CIPHS program are delivered in the community through various innovative health promotion and preventive service initiatives.

A second featured initiative focuses on reducing the high rate of gastric cancer on the island of Matsu. The island has traditionally been poorly served, and medical accessibility, health resources and transportation are limited in the community. The Matsu community-based gastric cancer screening and integrated prevention program has resulted in a steep decline in gastric cancer rates on the island and is seen as a model program in Taiwan.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health congratulates the National Taiwan University College of Public Health and Dean Chang-Chuan Chan on being a recipient of the 2020 Harrison Spencer Community Service Award.
The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health is being awarded the ASPPH Harrison C. Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service in recognition of their deep and sustained commitment to the city of Omaha and the State of Nebraska. The primary community engagement and service arm of the College is the Center for Reducing Health Disparities. Collectively, the College’s community engagements are addressing disparities in health outcomes among Nebraskans through consistent community engagement, partnerships and advocacy; by promoting translational research that is reducing disparities in health status and health care at the local, state, national, and global levels; and, advancing UNMC’s education initiatives in health disparities.

UNMC has strengthened partnerships with the clinical enterprise and with the state and local department of public health, in part through the creative use of community health needs assessment activities, including assessments of specific underserved populations, such as refugees and members of local African American churches.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health congratulates the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health and Dean Ali Kahn on being a recipient of the 2020 Harrison Spencer Community Service Award.
[Photos by National Taiwan University College of Public Health]
The ASPPH Board of Directors awards the ASPPH Special Recognition Award to Senator Richard Durbin. He has served in Congress since 1983 as a US Representative from Illinois 20th Congressional District, and from 1997 as a US Senator from Illinois. He has served as Democratic Whip since 2005. Throughout his career Senator Durbin has been a leader in seeking to reduce tobacco use. He led the successful campaign to rid airplanes of cigarettes. He also was a lead author on legislation that now allows the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco. In the past year, Senator Durbin successfully pushed for raising the Federal minimum age for tobacco purchases to 21, a provision enacted as part of the fiscal year 2020 funding bill. He continues to push for a ban on all kid-friendly flavored tobacco products and stricter enforcement of the laws intended to prevent under-age smoking.

In addition to his leadership on tobacco issues, Senator Durbin has been a strong advocate for public health research at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and gun violence research funding.

For his on-going efforts to improve the health and wellness of the American people, the ASPPH Board of Directors awards the ASPPH Special Recognition Award to Senator Richard Durbin.
The ASPPH Board of Directors awards the ASPPH Special Recognition Award to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. She has served in Congress since 1991 and is currently the dean of Connecticut’s congressional delegation. She represents Connecticut’s 3rd congressional district, which includes much of New Haven. Congresswoman DeLauro is the Chair of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Under Congresswoman DeLauro’s leadership, Congress in December passed – for the first time in over 20 years – explicit funding for gun violence research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Only through her years of dogged advocacy was this funding breakthrough achieved. A 30-year survivor of ovarian cancer, Congresswoman DeLauro has been a leading advocate for public health research funded by the NIH and the CDC, as well as of public health workforce training funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

For her on-going efforts to improve the health and wellness of the American people, the ASPPH Board of Directors awards the ASPPH Special Recognition Award to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.
The call for nominations for the 2021 awards will open in summer 2020. The call for nominations will be announced in the Friday Letter, ASPPH’s weekly newsletter, and on the ASPPH website.
The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health is grateful to those who nominated their colleagues for the ASPPH awards. We are also grateful to the many reviewers who participated in this year’s Awards Program. The time, expertise, and commitment these reviewers provided was invaluable.