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APHA announces 2022 awards for excellence in public health



APHA

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

Every year, the American Public Health Association recognizes achievements in public health leadership and innovation, from state and local health authorities to those advocating for public health in the halls of Congress.

This year's awards will be awarded on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at noon, as part of the APHA's 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo, which begins on Nov. 6.

"The commitment and accomplishments of these outstanding public health leaders are inspiring," said Georges C. Benjamin, MD, executive director of APHA. "Their contributions, and those of countless others, have helped strengthen the field and build a healthier nation as we continue to face serious public health challenges."

Among this year's awardees are:

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA, director of ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, will receive the American Public Health Association's Sedgwick Memorial Medal for Distinguished Service in Public Health in recognition of her groundbreaking work in global HIV research, treatment, and care. El-Sadr collaborated with global health experts, innovators, and researchers through ICAP to improve access to care and reduce the spread of illnesses such as malaria, TB, and HIV, with 2.5 million people receiving lifesaving HIV treatment and 43 million obtaining HIV testing.

Prabhat Jha, MD, DPhil, FRSC, professor of Global Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, will receive the APHA Award for Excellence for his pioneering work in extending global mortality reporting in low- and middle-income

countries. Jha is most known for directing the Million Death Study, which polled 23 million individuals in India on the causes of death of their close contacts and discovered that tobacco smoking was a primary cause of death. The new statistics inspired tobacco control strategies that saved millions of lives and aided in the development of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Nathan Grubaugh, Ph.D., MS, an associate professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health, will get the 2022 Ayman El-Mohandes Young Professional Public Health Innovation Award for his groundbreaking work in saliva-based COVID-19 testing. Grubaugh's past infectious disease research on the Zika virus aided in the development of saliva-based PCR-based COVID-19 testing, which is now utilized across the country in partnership with Research Scientist Dr. Anne Wyllie. This study educates municipal and states public health departments, as well as elected authorities, about potential health risks.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., will be honored as the 2022 Distinguished Public Health Legislator of the Year for his ongoing efforts to pass legislation that enhances the health and well-being of all Americans. In addition to his continued efforts to enact legislation to decrease gun violence and enhance access to reproductive health care, Schumer was influential in the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which will help cut the costs of prescriptions for individuals on Medicare and health insurance.

Sacoby Wilson, Ph.D., MS, professor of applied environmental health with the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park, and former Environment Section chair, will receive the David P. Rall Award for Advocacy in Public Health for

his community-based environmental justice work. Wilson has worked as the director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) to aid underprivileged communities harmed by industrial pollution in Washington, D.C., South Baltimore, other sections of the Mid-Atlantic, the Southeast, and the Deep South battle for cleaner air and water.

Jessica Williams, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Administration at Pennsylvania State University, will receive the Lyndon Haviland Public Health Mentoring Award for her work in guiding the development of students and young professionals in APHA's Medical Care Section. Williams assisted in matching students and early-career professionals with mentors who trained them on peer-reviewing publications, and she was instrumental in establishing the Barbara Starfield Medical Care Scholar program, which immerses young professionals in the Section's advocacy and policy work through events such as the APHA Annual Meeting and Expo.

The American Public Health Association advocates for the health of all individuals and communities. We are the only organization with a 150-year vision, a diverse member base, and the potential to influence federal policy to enhance public health.

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