



SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOPHE Announces 2009 Award Recipients

Washington, DC—The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) is pleased to announce its roll call of 2009 award winners, comprising 24 professionals and students who have been recognized nationally and internationally for their work in health education and health promotion. The awards will be presented at SOPHE's 60th Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on Saturday, November 7 at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

SOPHE's highest honor, the Distinguished Fellow Award, will be presented to two faculty members at the University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health, **Eugenia Eng, DrPH, MPH**, and **Allan Steckler, DrPH, MPH**. This award honors SOPHE members who have made significant and lasting contributions to SOPHE and to Health Education. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Eng, a Professor and Director of the Kellogg Health Scholars Program, has developed a body of community based participatory research that has been applied in the U.S., Cameroon, People's Republic of China, Lebanon, Southeast Asia, Central America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Dr. Steckler is Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education and has published nearly 80 peer-reviewed articles, authored 3 books, and edited 15 journals and 6 journal theme issues on topics such as tobacco use and prevention, cervical cancer prevention, substance abuse, and school-based health programs and interventions.

Gail Christopher, DN, has been named SOPHE's 2009 Honorary Fellow—the highest recognition given to a non-SOPHE member who has made significant contributions to health education and to public health. Dr. Christopher has blazed a career trail from holistic health into government reinvention, citi-state issues, and fostering rebirth in public institutions coast to coast. In 2007, she was appointed Vice President for Health Programs at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and overseas Kellogg's efforts to become an effective, anti-racist organization that promotes racial equity. A licensed holistic health practitioner, Dr. Christopher serves on a number of national boards and commissions, including the Silver Ribbon Panel of the National Head Start Program.

This year's SOPHE Health Education Mentor Awards will be given to three deserving individuals who have significantly contributed to the preparation and performance of health educators and have successfully forged the link between research and practice. Winners include **Kate Lorig, MSN, MPH, DrPH**, Director of the Stanford Patient Education Research Center and Professor of

Medicine in the Stanford School of Medicine; **Michael Perlin, EdD, MPH, MS**, Professor Emeritus of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), where he recently retired after a 42-year teaching career, and; **Frank Strona, MPH**, Chief of the HIV/STD Unit for San Francisco's Department of Health and a published author on preventative health services, substance use, and sex workers.

Debra Bill, PhD, will receive the 2009 Open Society Award—an award that recognizes an individual or group for embodying and promoting an open society through research, practice, or teaching. Dr. Bill is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health at West Chester University and has more than 25 years in teaching and initiatives that promote equality and justice for all.

SOPHE's 2009 Program Excellence Awards will be presented to **Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self Management Program** and to **SMART GIRLS ©, a program of the Guilford County Department of Public Health, Greensboro, NC**. The Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program aims to assist people with chronic conditions by improving their health behaviors, health status, and health care utilization and is in use in 20 international countries. Smart Girls provides young girls with the information and skills necessary for them to make informed decisions on issues such as self esteem, dating, sexual behavior, and relationships that can impact their health both now and in the future.

SOPHE's 2009 Chapter Excellence Award goes to the **Illinois SOPHE Chapter (ISOPHE)** for developing the stellar initiative *Connecting to our Future*. The program engages pre-professional students with health education/professional development opportunities and increases student chapter membership and involvement.

Other honors that will be given at the SOPHE Awards Ceremony include the 2009 Vivian Drenckhahn Student Scholarship Recipients, the 2009 SOPHE/CDC Injury Prevention Student Fellowships, the 2009 SOPHE/ATSDR Environmental Health Fellowships, the 2009 SOPHE/CDC Child, Adolescent and Student Health Fellowship, the 2009 Lawrence Green Paper of the Year Award, the 2009 Sarah Mazelis Paper of the Year, and the 2009 Annual Meeting 21st Century Campaign Student Scholarships.

Tickets are available to attend SOPHE's 60th Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony, which will be held on Saturday, November 7 at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The cost per ticket is \$45. To learn more about the award recipients or photos, call the National SOPHE Office at (202) 408-9804 or visit www.sophe.org org.

Founded in 1950, the Society for Public Health Education's mission is to provide leadership to the profession of public health education and to contribute to the health of all people and the elimination of disparities through advances in health education theory and research, excellence in professional preparation and practice, and advocacy for public policies conducive to health. For more information, see www.sophe.org



2009 SOPHE AWARD WINNERS

The following awards will be presented at the SOPHE 60th Annual Meeting Awards Banquet,
November 7, 2009, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA

Distinguished Fellow

Eugenia Eng, DrPH, MPH
*University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global
Public Health*

Allan Steckler, DrPH, MPH
*University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global
Public Health*

Honorary Fellow

Gail Christopher, DN
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Health Education Mentor Award

Kate Lorig, MSN, MPH, DrPH
Stanford School of Medicine

Michael Perlin, EdD, MPH, MS
Southern Connecticut State University

Frank Strona, MPH
*San Francisco STD Prevention and Control Section/Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention*

Open Society Award

Debra Bill, PhD
West Chester University

Vivian Drenckhahn Student Scholarships

Allison Brenner, MPH
University of Michigan, School of Public Health

Nandi Marshall, MPH
*Georgia Southern University
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health*

2009 SOPHE/CDC Child, Adolescent and School Health Student Fellow

Dustin Duncan, MPH
Harvard University

2009 SOPHE/CDC Injury Prevention and Control Student Fellows

Jingyi Li, MD
University of Maryland, School of Medicine

Hilary Harding, BA
University of Georgia

Jennifer Piver-Renna, BS
*Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health*

**2009 SOPHE/CDC Environmental
Health Promotion Student Fellows**

Jennifer Jones, RN, MSN, FNPC
Texas Christian University

Roxie Zarate, BS
Florida A&M University

21st Century Student Meetings Scholarships

Marian Botchway, *Emory University*
Mary Casagrande, *San Jose State University*
Naralys Estevez, *Southern Connecticut State University*
Grace Karuga, *Ohio University*
Michelle Koplitz, *Johns Hopkins University*
Benjamin McDermott, *University of Texas – El Paso*
Cindie Slightham, *San Jose State University*

Lawrence W. Green Paper of the Year

TBA
Health Education & Behavior

Sarah Mazelis Paper of the Year

“Development of a Planning and Evaluation Methodology for Assessing the Contribution of Theory to a Diabetes Prevention Lifestyle Intervention” ***Health Promotion Practice***, October 2008; 9(4): 404-414.