

Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA)

Annual Awards Meetings

On April 7, the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) joined with the American Public Health Association at Goodwin College in East Hartford, CT to bring together communities from across the United States to observe [National Public Health Week](#) (April 3-9) as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and to highlight issues that are important to improving the health of our nation.

Julia Whalen, Associate Director of Marketing & Communications, represented NARAP at the event, meeting and networking with the award winners, to increase awareness of our programs for Research Associates and our clinical trials that address public health issues.

CPHA Individual Award Presentations

Ira V. Hiscock Award - Presented to Richard Blumenthal, US Senator for Connecticut

Recognizes a Connecticut layperson or organization that has made notable contributions to the advancement of public health through public service, education, advocacy and/or leadership. Hiscock was an internationally recognized epidemiologist and public health professor at Yale who inspired generations of students.



Senator Blumenthal accepted the Ira V. Hiscock Award (via video link) for his efforts to improve public health, including: anti-tobacco, the support of Affordable Care Act, our country's opioid epidemic, clean energy and regulating e-cigarettes and tobacco promotion to young children.

Michael J. Perlin Student Award - Presented to Riddhi Doshi, MBBS, MPH, PhD

Recognizes a current public health student who demonstrates, through student activities and/or community service, a commitment to leadership, volunteerism, and the highest educational standards.



Dr. Doshi is currently a PhD candidate in Public Health in the Department of Community Medicine and Healthcare at the University of Connecticut. Within the PhD program, she has maintained a GPA of 4.0 and has published research in a number of national and international journals. Her dissertation research focuses on examining racial disparities in hospitalizations in Connecticut over the past decade – an area of research critical to the state and the nation. Her community service work reveals her constant commitment to vulnerable populations.

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C.E.A. Winslow Award - Presented to Jennifer Kertanis MPH

The C.E.A. Winslow Award recognizes a public health professional for demonstrated leadership and achievement in public health practice, research, and/or education.



Jennifer Kertanis is the Director of Health for the Farmington Valley Health District, serving ten towns and a population of approximately 110,000. Prior to joining FVHD in September of 2012, Jennifer served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) for ten years. During her tenure at CADH, she co-established the CT practice-based research network and was a contributing architect of the Health Equity Index, a tool that measures the relationship between social conditions and health outcomes.

Charles G Huntington III Award - Presented to Richard Melchreit, MD

The Charles G. Huntington III Award is presented annually to a Connecticut health care practitioner who has demonstrated public health leadership and a commitment to the health and well-being of populations.



Prior to joining DPH, Dr. Melchreit was a staff pediatrician at St. Francis Medical Center. In 1986, he became the first AIDS Program Coordinator for the AIDS Division at DPH. As the program expanded, he became the Division's Medical Associate, working closely with advocacy groups and the clinical community, and advising public health staff and policymakers on HIV/AIDS programs and prevention policies.

After 9/11/2001, Dr. Melchreit became the Bioterrorism (Smallpox) Medical Program Coordinator, responsible for the development of medical capabilities for response to bioterror and other infectious public health emergencies. Over the years, Dr. Melchreit has mentored dozens of students, both undergraduate and graduate. He also has been an active member of CPHA, serving as Director-at-Large in 2015-2016.

NARAP would like to congratulate all of this year's CPHA honorees!!