

## 2008 GORDON WYON AWARD

The winner of the 2008 Gordon Wyon Award is Bette Jeanne Gebrian. Bette Gebrian is an outstanding candidate for the Gordon Wyon award, particularly because of her work as Public Health Director for the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) leading a community based primary health care program in rural Haiti, serving a defined population, now over 200,000 people, since 1987. Under her direction, and with her active participation in all key aspects of program design, training, implementation and evaluation, infant and child mortality have been significantly decreased and a well developed health care system established including well trained and supervised local community health workers, a computerized population database system called *Health Track* and appropriate primary health care services. This well developed computerized database is not only useful for population tracking, helping ensure equitable delivery of services, program planning and evaluation, but also produces aggregate data summaries for the Ministry of Public Health and Population and other related public health concerns. The HHF program she was instrumental in developing includes a well developed community participation structure including health committees, and community feedback strategies for primary health care.

Dr Gebrian's education includes a Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (1993); A Masters of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health Baltimore, MD (1981) and a Bachelor of Science, Nursing, from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (1977). She also took part in the Emory University Department of Community Medicine Summer Study Abroad Program, in London, England in 1980.

Apart from her extensive experience in HHF primary health care programs, teaching and research-see her publication below-, Dr Gebrian was a Clinical Lecturer, at the University of Connecticut, School of Nursing from 1983 to 1987 and continues her association with this university today. In this regard she advises undergraduate and graduate students in the health sciences and anthropology in Haiti and is a member of doctoral committees in medical anthropology. She has been advising medical students in Haiti since 1988. She has also been a Clinical Instructor with the University of Connecticut, School of Medicine, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care from 2002 to now and a practicum preceptor for students from University of CT, Johns Hopkins University and others. At the community level in the United States, she participated in invited seminars for professional community groups, schools, church groups and individuals interested in topics related to nursing, public health and anthropology, designed and implemented health education sessions at US community centers, soup kitchens, and with urban women's groups.

She has consulted widely and made of the order of 50 formal presentations at major conferences and meetings in relationship to primary health care issues.

Her publications, papers and multiple grants and awards received are listed below.

### **Publications**

Reid, BC; Psoter WJ, Gebrian, B; Wang, MQ. The effect of an international embargo on malnutrition and childhood mortality in rural Haiti. (2007 In press, *Int. J. Health Services*)

Psoter WJ, Gebrian B, Prophete S, Reid BC, Katz RV. Effect of early childhood malnutrition on tooth eruption patterns in Haitian adolescents (2007 in print, Comm Dent Oral Epi)"

*Sloand B, Gebrian B. "Fathers Clubs to Improve Child Health in Rural Haiti Public Health Nursing Volume 23, Issue 1, Jan 2006.*

*Gebrian B et al. Haiti. In D'Avanzo CE, Geissler EM: Mosby's Pocket Guide to Cultural Health Assessment, ed 3, St. Louis, 2003, Mosby*

Heffelfinger JD, Davis TE, Gebrian B, Bordeau R, Schwartz B, Dowell SF. Evaluation of children with recurrent pneumonia diagnosed by World Health Organization criteria. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2002 Feb;21(2):108-12.

Smego RA Jr, Gebrian B, Desmangels G. Cutaneous manifestations of anthrax in rural Haiti. *Clin Infect Dis.* 1998 Jan;26(1):97-102.

Simpson, T., Gebrian B. 1981. National Council for International Health (NCIH). "The Physical and Psychosocial Care of Indochinese Refugees". Conference Proceedings. Washington, DC.

### **Research Papers**

Periodontal Disease in Haitian Teenagers. SL RUSSELL, G JEAN-CHARLES\*, B GEBRIAN, RV KATZ, WJ PSOTER, New York University, College of Dentistry, USA submitted 2005.

Investigation of Children with Multiple Episodes of Bacterial Pneumonia in Rural Haiti HHF and the Centers for Disease Control. July 1998. Poster Session presentation in 1999 by CDC.

Factors Associated with Multiple Episodes of Bacterial Pneumonia in Rural Haitian Children HHF and the University of Connecticut, School of Medicine. Unpublished, 1998

The Experience of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) in Children under the Age of Five Years in Rural Haiti Co-authored with Ann Pope, University of CT. Unpublished, 1995

Analysis of Current Child Survival Indicators Based on the 1988 HHF Rural Census HHF. Ongoing since 1988

An Investigation of Childhood Diarrhea Episodes in Children with Access to Latrines in Rural Haiti HHF. Unpublished, 1995

Community Participation in Primary Health Care in Rural Haiti: An Ecological Approach Doctoral Dissertation. University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology, Storrs, CT. 1993.

The Social Epidemiology of Anthrax in Rural Haiti Collaborative research in association with University of Connecticut, Department of Community Medicine *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, January 1998.

Factors Associated with Birth Spacing: 1,000 women in Rural Haiti. In association with the University of Connecticut, Department of Community Medicine. Unpublished, 1992

The Explanatory Model of Acute Respiratory Infection in Rural Haiti: a Focused Ethnographic Study World Health Organization. 1990

Investigation of Child Mortality Trends in Rural Haitian Villages HHF. 1989 - present

Weaning Practices of Rural Haitian Women HHF. Unpublished, 1989

Health Beliefs of Health Agent Candidates Co-authored with Dr Royneld Bourdeau. HHF. Unpublished, 1988

### **Grants Awarded**

*KOMBIT (Communities Oriented toward Mothers and Babies with innovation and technologies) Child Survival Health Grant Programs USAID Washington. \$1.5 million. For Haitian Health Foundation. Co authored with Prof. Judy Lewis University of Connecticut and Frank Anderson MD University of Michigan. 2004-2009.*

Lactation Amenorrhea Method and Natural Family Planning: HHF Pilot project  
\$9,000.00 Georgetown University and PROFAMIL, Haiti. 1994 – 1996

Education and Screening: Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS  
\$5,000.00 CARE International, Port-au-Prince, Haiti for HHF. 1995 - 1996

National Breastfeeding Campaign: Jeremie Project.  
\$6,500.00. UNICEF, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. 1995

Haitian Health Foundation Primary Health Care Intervention Project, 1987 - 1990  
\$850,000.00 USAID, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Follow-up grants through April, 1999

Explanatory model of Acute Respiratory Infection in rural Haiti  
\$2,000.00 World Health Organization, Geneva

Community Participation in PHC in rural Haiti  
\$2,000.00 University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. 1988

### **Awards and Distinctions**

1999 Distinguished Women of Connecticut Statewide Poster University of Connecticut.

1998 Elenor Gill Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice University of Connecticut, School of Nursing Alumni Association

1992 Distinguished Alumni Award University of Connecticut, School of Nursing

- 1991 Award for Nursing Excellence from the members of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society
- 1990 Awarded a Doctoral Fellowship from the University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology
- 1990 Elected to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- 1988 Recipient of the Florence Wald Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice, voted by the members of the Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA)
- 1986 Awarded Graduate Student Fellowship.  
University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology
- 1985 Awarded the University of Connecticut Foreign Language Scholarship to study Haitian Creole at Yale University. New Haven CT.
- 1982 Selected as the Woman of the Year for Women under age 30 at the Connecticut State Convention of the Professional and Business Women's Club Represented Connecticut in San Antonio, Texas at the National Convention
- 1976 Elected to the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing



Dr Bette Gebrian