

Gordon Wyon Award 2007

The recipient of the Gordon Wyon Award for 2007 is Dr. Jaime Gofin.

Nominated by Dr Elvira Beracochea as per her letter below.

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Jaime Gofin for the Gordon-Wyon Award in 2007. Dr. Gofin has played and still plays a pivotal role in Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC), Public Health and Epidemiology.

For over 30 years, Dr. Gofin has taught COPC at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine and has been director of the Kiryat Yovel COPC Center in Jerusalem for many years. The center has been a training ground for hundreds of MPH professionals from all over the world. He was among the pioneers that researched and implemented community-based program to prevent cardiovascular conditions.

It takes a great man like Sidney Kark to develop COPC and a great man to spread it throughout the world maintaining its scientific rigor and public health goals. Dr. Gofin has supported professionals from more than 50 different countries to develop COPC programs from the U.S. and UK, Turkey, Spain to Africa and to Central and South America. At this time, after retirement from his post at the Hebrew University, Dr. Gofin is assisting George Washington University, School of Public Health to expand its COPC track where hundreds of MPH students are formed.

Dr. Gofin's contributions to the epidemiology of chronic diseases and particularly smoking, span more than two decades and his remarkable and unique approach to community diagnosis have impacted the practice of numerous community health and public health practitioners, including myself. I am honored to have been a student of Dr. Gofin and honored to have the opportunity to commend his achievements.

CURRICULUM VITAE HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Jaime Gofin

Jaime Gofin has more than 30 years of experience on the practice, research and teaching of Community Oriented Primary care (COPC). He has played and plays a pivotal role in the international dissemination of this model of delivery of health care at primary level.

He has been the Director of the Community Health Center of Hadassah - Hebrew University School of Public Health and Community Medicine in Jerusalem. The Center has been the field practice where the conceptual and methodological dimensions of the COPC approach was developed and a training ground for hundreds of public health professional from all over the world. He was involved in the pioneer work of research and implementation of community-based program for the control of cardiovascular risk factors.

When SL Kark - the pioneer of the COPC model – retired from the Department of Social Medicine, Dr. J. Gofin took over from him the responsibility of the COPC teaching programs in the SPH in Jerusalem. For many years, Dr. Gofin was the Academic Director of the MPH Program in Jerusalem and was Co-Director of the 1-year Certificate Program Distance Learning (jointly by Hebrew University and George Washington University).

He developed and conducted COPC Workshops in Spain, Portugal, UK, Washington DC, Uruguay, Argentina, South Africa, Turkey and Vietnam.

In several occasions he has been consultant of the Pan American Health Organization – World Health Organization in the field of Community Medicine.

He is an Advisor of the Working Group of the Institute of Health Studies in Catalunya on teaching Community Medicine/COPC at undergraduate and post graduate level, and of the Institute of Primary Care of the Medical School of Montevideo.

He is the Chairman of the Network Towards Unity For Health (An International NGO Organization related to WHO) Task Force on “Integrating Medicine and Public Health”.

Currently he is Visiting Professor, Director of the Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) MPH Program of the Department of Prevention and Community Health of the School of Public Health and Health Services of George Washington University in Washington DC. He is involved in the development of the GWU COPC Center engaged in teaching, research, practice, consultancy and networking.

J Gofin has delivered lectures on COPC at International Health Organizations and published COPC articles on peer reviewed Journals. He is former Chairman of the Health Committee of the 45.000 inhabitants of the neighborhood where he lives and is member of the Board of Directors of the Community Administration of the neighborhood.

In his acceptance speech of the Award at the APHA Conference he emphasized the “three challenges that COPC and CB-PHC are facing today:

First, people have to avoid thinking that these population-based approaches are merely techniques or performance protocols, but to appreciate and absorb that the inherent purpose of both approaches is social justice;

Second, the advocates of these approaches must narrow the gap between their teaching and their application. While the teaching is widespread the application is much less so. The practicability of the approaches must be relevant to the local health realities;

And thirdly, there is a need to promote an approach of delivery of health care that in its responsibility of diagnosis, prevention and treatment should be of high quality clinical skills and integrated not

only with the prevailing approach on lifestyle individual behavior in the etiology of diseases BUT also considering the social structural elements of the determinants of health."

Dr J. Gofin finished by saying that "if politicians, health professionals and health organizations really want to re-orient health care services in developed and underdeveloped countries they must engage in it directly and not imagine that it will be brought about by external forces. He added "... paraphrasing a great 20th century thinker: "values can only be realized directly"