MEET THE FELLOWS

Wayne Lawrence has been selected as 2017-18 fellows for the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) maternal and child health (MCH) section.

Yajaira Tineo Cabrera won 1st prize for a paper at the meetings of the American Psychological Association.

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Hnin Wai Lwin Myo (left) was born in Burma (Myanmar). She graduated from Myanmar’s University of Medicine (II) 1999. Ms. Myo has been a medical doctor and public health specialist for over 16 years. Her work has centered on epidemiological research on communicable diseases. Her attention to matters of public health led to her earning her master’s degree in public health and tropical medicine in 2005.

Dr. Myo has worked in a variety of capacities within the healthcare system, including Research Officer and District Health Officer of the Yangon Region, and Assistant Director of the Ministry of Health. Additionally, she was a national survey coordinator for the Disease Control Department’s National Tuberculosis Control program, which emphasized the presence of health disparities, particularly in military conflict zones.

Her experiences and research interests led her to prioritize public health issues among minority groups as a Deputy Project Manager of the Mobile Medical Services Project. Dr. Myo proposed a project focused on providing basic healthcare to socially marginalized ethnic minority groups along the underserved Thai-Myanmar border, necessitating considerable funding from the Japanese Nippon Foundation. Her mission was to narrow the wide gap between perceived healthcare coverage and reality characterized by the absence of resources resulting from long-term mismanagement in the conflict zone and insufficient knowledge of the population. Dr. Myo became so closely watched by Junta agents that she and her husband, a physician, and military commander, faced being court martialed in the context of the political conflict regarding the Kachin ethnic group. They fled from Myanmar to seek asylum and have resettled here in Albany, NY.

Upon resettlement, Dr. Myo immediately began contributing to her new community through volunteering for the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. She also worked for the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, and Trinity Alliance’s Refugee Community Health Partnership Program. As a doctoral student at the University at Albany’s School of Public Health, Dr. Myo wishes to pursue her dream of being an infectious disease epidemiologist; Dr. Phil Nasca will be acting as her academic advisor. Dr. Myo plans to continue her efforts in addressing health disparities, helping disadvantaged populations “no matter wherever or whoever they are.”