

2022 WHS Distinguished Alumnus



Eve M. Lackritz, MD

Wyoming High School Class of 1975

Medical Epidemiologist & Pediatrician

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence of Wyoming Schools.

Eve Lackritz is a medical epidemiologist and board-certified pediatrician. She has worked over 30 years in the field of public health, with extensive experience in research, surveillance, programs, and policy related to infectious diseases, maternal-child health, emerging pathogens and emergency response. Eve is currently the Deputy Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota.

Background and Education

Eve graduated from WHS in 1975. In high school, she participated in many student groups including Academy of Science, Horizon, and Round-Up (yearbook). She was on Student Council, Thespian Society and Drama Club. Eve worked evenings and weekends at Dairy Queen and summers at Kings Island. She also joined two summer academic trips to Kenya and Austria with Mrs. King Johnson, WHS biology teacher.

Following high school, Eve attended Mount Holyoke College and graduated from the University of Cincinnati *summa cum laude* with a BA in psychology. During college, she also worked part-time as a temp secretary, a teaching assistant in statistics, and a case worker at a community-based mental health halfway house. She continued her education in medicine, receiving her MD from The Ohio State University in 1985, and then completed her pediatric residency at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals of Cleveland in 1988.

Career

Eve worked for the first 23 years of her career with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. She spent her first five years working in the Malaria Branch conducting epidemiologic and clinical studies of malaria, anemia, and child survival, and the next ten years in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. Eve led the implementation and evaluation of the first national AIDS treatment programs in Africa, conducted clinical trials of antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission in Africa and Asia, studied HIV transmission by blood transfusion. She led a study in Uganda that identified that HHV-8, the virus that causes Kaposi's sarcoma, could be transmitted by blood transfusion. This discovery led to Eve and colleagues receiving CDC's prestigious Shepard Award for the greatest contribution to science. Eve spent her last nine years at CDC as the Chief of the Maternal and Infant Health Branch leading research and programs in the area of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality in the US and low-income countries.

In 2012, Eve joined Seattle Children's as the Deputy Director of the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS). With the knowledge that preterm birth is the leading cause of infant death, Eve led a multinational research initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to investigate novel targets to prevent biological triggers of preterm birth. In addition, Eve advocated for programs to prevent preterm birth and stillbirth worldwide.

In 2017, Eve joined the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead the global response to the Zika epidemic. She subsequently worked with Doctors Without Borders as the hospital director in the Rohingya refugee camp and, during the COVID pandemic, as the medical director of the Rosebud Indian Health Service Hospital in Rosebud, SD.

Most recently, Eve assumed the position of deputy director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota.

Awards & Recognition

Published over 50 scientific papers and international guidelines on malaria, HIV/AIDS, maternal child health, and emerging infectious diseases in prestigious journals including JAMA, The Lancet, and The New England Journal of Medicine.

Awarded the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Distinguished Service Award for deployments to Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes and 14 Public Health Service Awards for leadership and service addressing domestic and international public threats.

Scientific expert and advisor to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the Surgeon General, Congressional hearings and briefings, consultant to Kenya and Tanzania following the bombing of the U.S. Embassies, establishment of the first national blood transfusion service in Tanzania, and numerous national and international organizations.