

Dear Maternal and Child Health Grantees and Stakeholders,

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) takes great pleasure in announcing that MCHB Associate Administrator Dr. Michael Lu has been awarded the Hubert H. Humphrey Award for Service to America by the Department of Health and Human Services. This is one of the highest awards given annually to select individuals within HHS who have demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the health and well-being of our nation's citizens.

Since joining HRSA in January 2012 Dr. Lu, with your help and that of the MCHB team, launched the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) in the thirteen southern states that make up Public Health regions IV and VI. The goal of the CoIIN is to reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes. The states are utilizing multiple strategies to accomplish these goals including changes in reimbursement policies for elective C-sections prior to 39 weeks, training childcare providers and home-visitors on safe sleep, developing messaging for the public on the importance of smoking cessation during pregnancy, and determining the level of need for a woman's labor/delivery and subsequent policies on necessary transport

This collaborative has leveraged expert knowledge from all of you. And most importantly these innovations are based on sound science and innovative policy. The award recognizes Dr. Lu's leadership in this important initiative.

I offer my congratulations to Dr. Lu on this well-deserved award and thanks to all of you for working every day to improve the lives of women and children in the United States.

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.  
Administrator  
Health Resources and Services Administration