

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2022

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Public Health Association Honors Health Equity Leaders

Mayor Michelle Wu, Dr. Ashish Jha Among Recipients

Boston, MA – Today, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) presented awards to five health equity leaders at its 20th Anniversary Spring Awards Breakfast. The event, which was attended by more than 250 healthcare and public health leaders from around the Commonwealth, was held in the State Room at 60 State Street in Boston.

The organization's highest honor, the Paul Revere Award for Lifetime Achievement, was given to [Ashish Jha, MD, PhD](#), who served as the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health until he was appointed recently by President Biden as Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response. He is recognized globally as an expert on pandemic preparedness and response as well as on domestic and global health policy.

The Catalyst for Justice Award was presented jointly to [Boston Mayor Michelle Wu](#) and Boston Public Health Commission Executive Director [Dr. Bisola Ojikutu](#) "for centering equity in public health policy and practice". Together, Mayor Wu and Dr. Ojikutu have championed transparency, reliance on clear data benchmarks, and a commitment to health equity in the city's response to COVID-19. They have also focused on achieving more equitable health outcomes by working to improve the social conditions in which Boston residents live, including access to healthy food and stable affordable housing.

The first-ever Local Public Health Leadership Award was given to [Phoebe Walker](#), Director of Community Services for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. In addition to her dedication to addressing the public health needs of the communities she serves, Ms. Walker has played a leadership role in the multiyear statewide advocacy effort to reform Massachusetts' inefficient and inequitable local public health system.

[Chien-Chi Huang](#), Executive Director of Asian Women for Health, was honored with the Lemuel Shattuck Award, in recognition of her significant contribution to the field of public health. In addition to founding Asian Women for Health, Ms. Huang has been a persistent advocate for the collection, analysis, and reporting of race and ethnicity data for Asian Americans, because without such data, health inequities among different Asian populations will never be visible nor effectively addressed.

"These five inspiring individuals have made tremendous contributions – both to the field of public health and to the effort to achieve health equity in our Commonwealth," said MPHA Executive Director Carlene Pavlos. "Their passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment are helping to create a more just and equitable Massachusetts."

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a nonprofit organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, community organizing, and coalition building. We are leaders

in the movement to create health equity by addressing the root causes of health and wellness. We promote policies that impact the major drivers of health outcomes, such as access to healthy food, safe affordable housing, and transportation. We also advocate for equitable public health services throughout the Commonwealth. ###

Note to editors: photo is available upon request