

APHL 2025 Newborn Screening Awards



The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Newborn Screening Awards Ceremony honors those individuals within the newborn screening (NBS) community who have gone above and beyond to advance, strengthen and champion NBS systems.

Achievements in Public Health Informatics Award

The Achievements in Public Health Informatics Award honors a person working in any aspect of newborn screening worldwide and has made significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: enhancing implementation practices for electronic messaging; developing strategies for achieving effective data management; improving laboratory capability for health information data exchange; or providing new and creative approaches to communicate findings through data visualization.

Awardee: **Dari Shirazi**, Former Senior Advisor, Health Information Technology
Association of Public Health Laboratories

Clinician Champion Award in Newborn Screening

The Clinician Champion Award in Newborn Screening honors any person involved in patient care and judged by the Awards Selection Committee to have made significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: ensuring newborns receive adequate screening and appropriate follow-up; assuring timely and effective communication of screening results to patients and families; and/or contributing to efforts to strengthen the impact of the public health newborn screening system by being directly involved in follow-up care, community affairs, newborn screening advocacy and/or community activities.

Awardee: **Joseph Muenzer, MD, PhD**, Director, Muenzer MPS Research and Treatment Center, Bryson Distinguished Professor in Pediatric Genetics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Everyday Life Saver Award in Newborn Screening

The Everyday Life Saver Award in Newborn Screening honors a person working in newborn screening or a family, patient, advocate or individual as judged by the Awards Selection Committee to have made significant contributions to the field of newborn screening. The intent of this award is to highlight the ongoing ways the recipient contributes to the morale of a newborn screening team and/or the operations of a newborn screening program, or ways in which the recipient champions the growth, knowledge-transfer and/or ethos of the newborn screening system on a daily basis.

Awardee: **Jill C. Skrabal, PhD, RD, LMNT, CDCES**
Clinical Nutrition Therapist & Metabolic Nutrition Specialist
Nebraska Newborn Screening Program
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Department of Pediatrics, Division of Inherited Metabolic Diseases
University of Nebraska Medical Center

George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening

The George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening honors a person working in US newborn screening and judged by the Awards Selection Committee to have made the greatest contribution to expanding or improving the screening of newborns by public health agencies in one or more states.

Awardee: **Joseph Orsini, PhD**, Deputy Director, Newborn Screening Program
Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health

Harry Hannon Laboratory Improvement Award in Newborn Screening

The Harry Hannon Laboratory Improvement Award in Newborn Screening honors a person working in newborn screening worldwide as judged by the Awards Selection Committee to have made significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: assuring the quality of testing, enhancing the specificity of tests, establishing innovative laboratory approaches and technologies, providing laboratory training/education for new technologies and tests or improving the detection of newborn disorders/conditions.

Awardees:

Michael Gelb, PhD, Boris and Barbara L. Weinstein Endowed Chair in Chemistry
Department of Chemistry, University of Washington

Patricia (Patty) Hunt, Newborn Screening Metabolic Branch Manager
Texas Department of State Health Services

Judi Tuerck Newborn Screening Follow-up and Education Award

The Judi Tuerck Newborn Screening Follow-up and Education Award honors a person working in newborn screening worldwide as judged by the Awards Selection Committee to have made significant and outstanding contributions in one or more of the following areas: enhancing the caliber of the newborn screening system; improving follow-up and education; developing creative short-term follow-up strategies that significantly reduce the time to diagnosis and treatment of affected infants; developing or enhancing long-term follow-up strategies; establishing novel approaches or methods for managing the integration of new technologies in newborn screening; translating novel approaches or methods into best practices or guidelines for follow-up and education; providing innovative newborn screening follow-up training/education for best practices; or improving practices to ensure timely detection, reporting, intervention and treatment for newborns detected with disorders/conditions.

Awardees:

Inderneel (Neela) Sahai, MD, Chief Medical Officer, New England Newborn Screening Program, UMass Chan Medical School

Angela Wittenauer, MSN, FNP-C, RN, Assistant Professor, Newborn Screening Follow-up Program, Emory University Department of Human Genetics