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City of Milwaukee Health Department Deputy Lab Director Receives National Honor
Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya named 'Emerging Leader' in public health laboratory science

MILWAUKEE – The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) recently bestowed its “Emerging Leader Award” to the City of Milwaukee Health Department Deputy Laboratory Director Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya. The award, presented at the Association’s annual meeting in Raleigh, N.C., on June 4, 2013, honors an individual whose leadership has been instrumental in one or more advances in laboratory science, practice, management, policy, or education within his or her first five to 10 years in the profession.

“There are several thousand public health laboratory workers across the United States. That Dr. Bhattacharyya has been recognized by his peers in this manner speaks volumes for his work, leadership, and service to the public,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.



Dr. Bhattacharyya has a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology from the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, University of Kolkata, India. He completed his post-doctoral work at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology before joining the City of Milwaukee Health Department in 2002.

At the MHD Laboratory, Dr. Bhattacharyya has played critical roles in developments around respiratory and GI pathogen identification, same-day beach water testing, and next-generation sequencing to characterize multi-drug resistant TB. His work has received multiple national and international awards and has been published in peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Dr. Bhattacharyya has played a role in the MHD lab becoming the first local public health lab nationwide to be part of the Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP). Along with his dedication to workforce development, Dr. Bhattacharyya works with local colleges, universities, and high schools to educate students in public health science.

“It was a great honor to be recognized at the national meeting, especially being from a local public health agency. I dedicate this to my outstanding colleagues at the MHD and my loving family,” said Dr. Bhattacharyya.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Public Health Laboratory was established in 1874. Today, it conducts more than 80,000 tests annually in support of programs such as water quality, communicable disease, food safety, and environmental health hazards. For more information, visit www.milwaukee.gov/health.

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