

**PETRY LEONE AWARD NOMINATION FOR
XXXX**

**Nominator: XXXX
Supervisor: XXXX, MD, MPH**

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

It is my privilege to nominate XXXX for the Petry Leone Award in recognition of her highly exceptional leadership in implementing a cholera case fatality reduction program in Haiti. The goal of this training was to ensure that the percentage of Haitians with clinical cholera that die is less than one percent over the next 24 months. The key objective of the program was to train clinical staff across Haiti in proper clinical management of cholera cases. Led by XXXX, this training program promoted a timely public health intervention that was essential for outbreak management in a country with destroyed infrastructure and minimal health care services.

BACKGROUND:

On October 21, 20XX, toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1, serotype Ogawa, biotype El Tor was identified by the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOH) in Haiti and confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Epidemic cholera had not previously been reported from Haiti in more than 100 years; thus, the population was highly susceptible and clinicians were not proficient in delivering cholera care to the patients at highest risk of death. Cholera epidemics spread quickly, but proper treatment and clinical management of cases can reduce excess morbidity and mortality. Although the goal of case management is to ensure that the case-fatality ratio (CFR) is less than 1-2%, inadequate care due to delayed access, lack of clinical knowledge about the disease and/or poor management can result in CFRs of 50%.

XXXX was in a unique position to address this public health emergency due to her experience as a nurse epidemiologist. She had experience in health education that included clinical teaching and mentoring students. She recently conducted regional training in Texas for over 100 public health professionals during the H1N1 epidemic. XXXX was able to present key case management concepts in language relevant to the medical community. Perhaps more importantly, she effectively translated complex medical concepts into language easily understood by lay community health volunteers and the general public, which was critical for increasing public awareness of this outbreak.

As a nurse epidemiologist, XXXX has served in several roles at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She began her federal career as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer assigned to the state of XX, where she worked on a broad range of projects that included injury prevention research, outbreak investigations, coordination of vaccination clinics, and evaluation of surveillance and disease control programs. Following EIS, XXXX worked at CDC's National Center for Public Health Informatics, serving as the subject matter expert on nationally notifiable diseases and program manager of the outbreak management program. Here, she developed implementation plans for the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). She has continued to apply her broad base of public health knowledge and skills in her current role, as the Career Epidemiology Field Officer for the Texas Department of Health Services in the Community Preparedness Section where she has been working on several projects to help build epidemiologic, surveillance, and emergency response capacity, including, for example, assisting with the pandemic influenza H1N1 response, evaluating the H1N1 mortality

surveillance system, and providing training to local and regional epidemiologists for emergency preparedness. XXXX also serves on the Public Health Service Applied Public Health Team 5. Prior to the Haiti deployment, she deployed to Washington D.C. in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. In this role, she served as the Epidemiologist assigned to CDR Rey's support team, providing guidance and subject matter expertise to a wide range of public health issues, including worker safety and behavior health. Her varied background gave her the leadership and training skills necessary to implement a health education intervention in a highly stressful, chaotic environment in which time was of the essence.

INTERVENTION:

XXXX was deployed to Haiti for 30 days in November 2010 as the lead for the Cholera Assessments and Training Team. As cholera had not been seen in Haiti in over 100 years prior to this outbreak, lack of knowledge about cholera prevention and case management was a critical gap that needed to be addressed. XXXX led the effort to quickly train doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers in the appropriate treatment of cholera using a tiered approach, targeting selected partner-supported sites and government healthcare facilities in order to capture the at-risk population. The training plan focused on training a tier of "Master Trainers" representing Haiti's ten departments during a two-day "Training of Trainers" course in Port-au-Prince. These master trainers were divided into teams and went on to train the second tier of healthcare providers at the Departmental level. Course materials included modules consisting of clinical and environmental aspects of case management, including training of Community Health Workers. This tiered training was complimentary to a greater workforce development strategy that CDC developed in response to reconstruction efforts in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake.

OUTCOME/IMPACT:

If left untreated, CDC estimated that Haiti would see 105,000 cases of cholera in a year, with a 7 percent case fatality rate (CFR), resulting in 7,350 deaths. Through the implementation of this training program, more than 500 doctors and nurses were trained in the appropriate treatment of cholera, thus strengthening national capacity to treat diarrheal diseases in Haiti effectively and sustainably. Through XXXX efforts in leading the Training team, Haiti has moved closer to reaching the goal of this training program in ensuring that the percentage of Haitians with clinical cholera that die is less than one percent over the next 24 months. The health care workers that were trained in this program, as of Dec. 30th, 20XX, have reached out and trained an additional 1,000 community health workers. XXXX worked fervently throughout her 30-day deployment to ensure that this program would be a success. Her experience and dedication to public health and the people of Haiti has resulted in her ability to provide excellent leadership and high quality work.

I can attest to her exemplary leadership and significant contributions in response to the Haiti cholera outbreak, especially in implementing a successful training program for healthcare providers in the proper clinical management of cholera. With great pride and endorsement from her primary supervisor, I hereby nominate XXXX for the Petry Leone Award.