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To read the Harvard news story on Dr. Van Rooyen visit:

<http://www.news.harvard.edu/hwm/congo/stories/vanrooyen.html>

LBC Alumnus “Supernova” Advocate for Humanitarian Medicine, Named Michigan State University Alumni Association 2009 Distinguished Award Recipient



(East Lansing, MI) The MSU Alumni Association and MSU’s Lyman Briggs College are pleased to announce that Michael J. Van Rooyen, MD, MPH, has been selected to receive the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Van Rooyen is honored for his internationally recognized reputation for excellence in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. He has worked extensively in humanitarian assistance in over thirty countries affected by war and disaster, including Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Iraq, North Korea, Darfur-Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As a physician and policy advisor he has worked with numerous relief organizations including CARE, Save the Children, Physicians for Human Rights and Samaritan’s Purse International Relief. He has served as special advisor for the World Health Organization and as a member of the United Nations Inter-Agency

Standing Committee’s Health Cluster. Domestically, Dr. Van Rooyen has provided relief assistance at the site of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11th with the American Red Cross and helped to coordinate the American Red Cross public health response to Hurricane Katrina, sending over twenty physicians from the Harvard system to hurricane-devastated regions.

“Dr. Michael Van Rooyen is a supernova in the universe of emergency medicine, and shines most brightly in the realm of international disaster and humanitarian programs, particularly related to human conflict,” says Dr. Ron Walls, professor and chairman of the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. “He is quite literally a household name in the rarified atmosphere of international health and humanitarian policy.”

Dr. Van Rooyen is on the faculty of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School where he teaches courses on humanitarian operations in war. He is a 1984 graduate of Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University and received his M.D. from

Wayne State University in Detroit, MI in 1988. Van Rooyen is the Co-Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative whose mission is to relieve human suffering in war and disaster by advancing the science and practice of humanitarian response worldwide. Dr. Frederick Burkle of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health says, "As a pioneer in this field, Dr. Van Rooyen has, arguably, been responsible for developing the most highly recognized and respected academic and research training program for physicians worldwide. These efforts have contributed to standard setting best practices that have saved countless lives in the developing world. He is an outstanding model for young people throughout the world who have similar aspirations to serve the most vulnerable and need."

In addition to his teaching on humanitarian operations in war at the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Van Rooyen's textbook, *Emergency Field Medicine* is considered one of the key reference texts in this area, and he has authored over 50 publications related to international emergency medicine development and humanitarian assistance. Dr. VanRooyen has served on numerous advisory panels and boards, including International Rescue Committee, the National Academies/GAO evaluation of mortality studies in Darfur, and is chairman of the Humanitarian Action Summit. Dr. VanRooyen has also been awarded the Reader's Digest Health Heroes Award, the Raoul Wallenburg Foundation Humanitarian Award, the Hippocrates Society Humanitarian Award and the AMA Pride in the Profession Award. He was given the University of Illinois Alumni Humanitarian Award and was featured as one of two U.S. physicians in the American Medical Association's publication entitled *Caring Physicians of the World*.

Dr. Van Rooyen is the 2008 recipient of the Lyman Briggs College Distinguished Alumni Award. Lyman Briggs College is a Residential College at Michigan State University for the study of science in the context of society. He is a graduate of St. Johns High School, St. Johns, Michigan. He will receive the MSAA honor at a ceremony to be held on October 15, 2009.

Official Titles

Michael Van Rooyen, MD, MPH, FACEP
Co-Director, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Director, Division of International Health and Humanitarian Programs,
Department of Emergency Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Associate Professor in the Department of Global Health and Population,
Harvard School of Public Health
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

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