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Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner Receives Award for Heroin Initiative

*County to Participate in Heroin Summit*

Cuyahoga County – Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner Dr. Thomas Gilson received the Susan P. Baker Public Health Impact Award from the National Association of Medical Examiners last month, receiving national recognition for his research on the Cuyahoga County heroin epidemic.

Dr. Gilson presented his research, with particular regard to the Poison Death Review Committee, which looked at the overdose victims of 2012-2013 to identify intervention points in preventing future deaths. This was done in conjunction with Claire Naso Kaspar of the Toxicology Department at Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office and Camille Herby of the Case Western Reserve University School of Public Health.

“Heroin deaths have reached an epidemic level in Cuyahoga County and across the nation. Dr. Gilson’s team and their work are important pieces to countering the effects of heroin and reducing deaths in our community,” said County Executive Ed FitzGerald. “We are not stopping there though; the Heroin Summit is another step toward a coordinated, systematic solution in Northeast Ohio.”

Dr. Gilson has received inquiries about the Poison Death Review Committee from colleagues in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, North Dakota, California and Texas. The review model used by Dr. Gilson’s team is highly encouraged for other offices because it has provided new insight and information helpful in making sound policy decisions.

The Susan P. Baker award is based on the quality of the manuscript and the content and style of the platform presentation display, requiring work to be scientific, innovative, informative, and practical. Additional judging criteria includes, but is not limited to, the potential contribution to public health and evidence that the author has translated this research into action that benefits public

Continuing our efforts to stop the heroin epidemic, Dr. Gilson, along with County Executive Ed FitzGerald and Sheriff Frank Bova, will participate in the *Heroin Summit: A Crisis Facing*
Taking place on Thursday, November 21, 2013, the day-long summit will cover the following topics:

- Overdose Death Prevention – DAWN and Important Legislation
- Prevention and the Path from Opiates to Heroin
- Responsible Prescribing Practices
- Introduction of the Action Plan
- Healthcare Policy
- Education and Prevention
- Law Enforcement
- Treatment