

October 25, 2010

For Immediate Release

New York, NY

Francine Coeytaux Presented with Award at International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and American Society for Emergency Contraception Annual Meeting

NEW YORK, October 18, 2010: The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) and the American Society for Emergency Contraception (ASEC) held their annual joint meeting on October 13th and 14th, 2010, bringing together over 100 advocates, researchers, pharmaceutical representatives, and other leaders in the field to discuss expanding efforts to ensure access to emergency contraception (EC). At the meeting, awards were given to honor three leading individuals and organizations for their efforts to expand access to EC.

A new lifetime achievement award was awarded for the first time this year to honor the memory of Felicia Stewart, a lifelong reproductive health advocate. The Felicia Stewart Lifetime Achievement award was given to Francine Coeytaux. She was nominated for the award by her colleagues Barbara Pillsbury and Elisa Wells and the award was presented by James Trussell, a close friend of Felicia Stewart.

In her nomination letter, Barbara Pillsbury said “Francine Coeytaux, MPH, is an innovative and widely-respected women’s health and reproductive health specialist who has worked with both determination and success for reproductive health and rights, in the United States and globally... Francine has been a strategic and persistent pioneer in bringing emergency contraception from near-secrecy to the pharmacy shelves.”

Francine has worked in the reproductive health arena for many years and founded and helped launch two leading international and domestic reproductive health organizations, Pacific Institute for Women’s Health and Reproductive Health Technologies Project. Between 2002 and 2007, Francine directed the Compton Foundation’s Emergency Contraception Initiative. Under her leadership, the Compton Initiative made 131 grants and was at the forefront of funding every major activity aligned with increasing access to emergency contraception worldwide. The impact of Francine’s passion and persuasion was highlighted by Bob Blomberg in his report to the Compton Foundation: “The indispensable role played by Ms. Coeytaux in brokering these projects to other foundation cannot be overstated. The esteem, admiration and trust she enjoys among colleagues in the reproductive health community – activist, researchers and funders alike – allowed the Compton Foundation’s initiative to accomplish far more than it could have absent her leadership.”

Barbara explained, “In sum, it is clear that fewer women in the world would have access to emergency contraception were it not for Francine Coeytaux’s tenacious dedication to women’s reproductive health and rights and her strategic vision and catalytic approach to mainstreaming emergency contraception.”

The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and the American Society for Emergency Contraception commend Francine Coeytaux for her lifetime efforts to expand access to EC both in the United States and globally.

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