

## Biography dr. Izzy Gerstenbluth



Izzy Gerstenbluth heads the Department of Epidemiology & Social Science of the Curacao Biomedical & Health Research Institute. He received his medical degree from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. After doing residencies in Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Neurology, he worked as a General Practitioner in government service in Curaçao, as well as working part time within the Public Health department where in the late eighties he set up the Epidemiology & Research Unit. He then trained at and obtained an MSc in Public Health Medicine from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He has served as National Epidemiologist, first for the Netherlands Antilles as a whole until its abolishment and then for the Country of Curaçao up to his retirement in 2022. He still holds a part time position with the Royal Institute

of Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands to advise and assist the three Dutch special municipalities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba on matters concerning communicable disease surveillance, public health practice and outbreak management. From February 2023 he works for the Public Health dept of Bonaire on a part time basis as well. Aside from communicable diseases, his work, however, mostly concentrates on non-communicable diseases. He has initiated and led major health studies on all of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles and has set up and is working towards broadening registration systems regarding cardiovascular diseases, risk factors and cancers. His research efforts target the strengthening of surveillance & monitoring systems, reducing incidence of HIV, improving vector control and reducing the impact of vector-borne diseases including the understanding of behavioral aspects regarding prevention measures. In the non-communicable diseases his attention is directed towards obesity as central risk factor for hypertension and diabetes as well as several types of cancer, the epidemiology of chronic diseases and on how to effectively modify life styles taking the determinants of health into account especially inequities in health.

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