
PAHO AWARD FOR HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP 2024

Introduction

1. The PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership is given annually to a candidate, put forward by a PAHO Member State, who has significantly contributed to strengthening the development of health systems through the management and implementation of services and programs, teaching, and research in his or her own country and in the Region of the Americas. This Award seeks to contribute to improving the management of health systems and services, while recognizing significant contributions and leadership in the design and implementation of initiatives favorable to the management and expansion of high-quality, comprehensive health services in the health systems of the Region. The Award is conferred in recognition of work done in the past 10 years.

Background

2. This award dates back to 1969, when the Executive Committee of PAHO, in its 61st session, accepted a donation from Dr. Stuart Portner, then Chief of Administration of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, to institute an annual award with a view to contributing to better administrative management of health services.

3. The original procedures and criteria for conferring this Award were approved by the 18th Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1970, with successive amendments to the requirements, conditions, and procedures approved by the PAHO Governing Bodies through the years, until the most recent amendments approved in September 2018 by the 56th Directing Council (see Annex A). These amendments include a change of name from PAHO Award for Administration to PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership.

4. In accordance with those procedures, presented in Annex A to this document, the Award Committee should consist of the President of the Executive Committee, and a delegate and alternate from each subregion. In case of a vacancy in the Award Committee, despite the appointment of an alternate, the President will make the necessary arrangements to cover that vacancy. To facilitate decision-making, the Award Committee will consist of an odd number of members (see paragraph 4 of Annex A). When a candidate is a national from the same Member State represented on the Award Committee, the President of the Executive Committee will designate the alternate delegate from the corresponding subregion.

5. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the procedures presented in Annex A, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau forwarded copies of the documentation submitted by Member States to the members of the Award Committee.

6. The Award Committee will meet and deliberate on the candidacies during the 174th Session of the Executive Committee in order to select the winner among the candidates proposed by the Member States in 2024. The Award will be presented to the winner in a ceremony during the 61st Directing Council in September 2024. Annex B contains the list of recipients in previous years.

Candidates for the Award in 2024

<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>
Dr. Alexander León Sánchez Cabo	Costa Rica
Dr. Felix Antonio Chong Marin	Ecuador
Dr. Jenny Elizabeth Benalcázar Mosquera	Ecuador
Dr. Jean Patrick Alfred	Haiti

Action by the Executive Committee

7. The Executive Committee is requested to examine the report of the Award Committee and consider approving the proposed resolution presented in Annex C.

Annexes

Annex A

PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership

Procedures¹

1. In order to contribute to the improved management of health systems and services, and to recognize significant contributions and leadership in the development and implementation of initiatives that have facilitated the management and expansion of quality comprehensive health services within health systems in the Americas, the Pan American Health Organization is renaming the PAHO Award for Administration as the PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership. The Award will be given annually on a competitive basis and will consist of a diploma and the sum of US\$ 5,000. This sum will be reviewed as appropriate by the Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.
2. The Award will be conferred on a candidate who has made a significant contribution in his/her home country and/or throughout the Region of the Americas to improve the development of health systems; the organization, management, and administration of health services; the development of programs, projects, or initiatives that have demonstrated impact on population coverage and access to health services; the expansion of health services to meet the needs of the population, in particular those in situations of greatest vulnerability; the development of quality programs and patient safety programs at the national or institutional level; the organization and management of primary care services at the community level; the development of integrated networks of health services including hospital services; or the production of knowledge and research to achieve change in health service delivery. The Award is conferred in recognition of work completed in the 10 preceding years.
3. Current and former staff members of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the World Health Organization are ineligible to be nominated for this Award for activities carried out in the course of their assigned duties in the Organization.
4. The Award Committee will be selected each year during the first session of the Executive Committee and its term will be only for the length of that selection process. The Executive Committee will appoint an Award Committee consisting of the President of the Executive Committee and a delegate and alternate from each subregion. If, despite the appointment of alternate delegates, a vacancy were to occur, the President will make arrangements to cover it. When candidates are submitted from the same Member States represented on the Award Committee, the President of the Executive Committee will designate the alternate delegate from the corresponding subregion. To facilitate the Award Committee's decision-making, in accordance with the provisions of article 8, the Award Committee will consist of an odd number of members.
5. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau will invite Member States to submit no more than two nominations for the Award. The Bureau will issue an open call for candidates during the first week of November each calendar year. The names of candidates proposed by each Member State must be received by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau no later than 31 March in the

¹ Resolution CD56.R7 (2018).

year of the Award, together with the candidates' curriculum vitae and the documentation supporting the merits of the candidacy. This documentation will include a brief narrative describing the contribution of the candidate's work in the relevant field (see article 2 above). To facilitate the work of the Award Committee, the required information on each candidate will be presented on the standard form provided by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and included in the call for candidates. This form and the documentation supporting the candidate's merits must be completed in full, with explicit responses to each of the questions. All documentation must be submitted in original form.

6. Nominations received by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau after 31 March will not be considered for the Award.
7. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau will forward to the members of the Award Committee copies of the documentation submitted no less than 45 days before the date of the opening of the June session of the Executive Committee. To support the deliberations of the Award Committee, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau will also provide technical comments and any other information on candidates it may deem relevant to the deliberations of the Award Committee, including conducting due diligence on the candidate's background to determine whether it affects his or her suitability for the Award.
8. The Award Committee will meet and deliberate on the proposed candidates and will submit its recommendations during the week of the session of the Executive Committee. At least three members of the Award Committee must be present to make a meeting valid. The deliberations of the Award Committee are confidential and not for discussion outside of the Award Committee. The Award Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, approved by a majority of members present. The Executive Committee will have the final decision on accepting or rejecting recommendations of Award, with the possibility of further deliberations and recommendations by the Award Committee.
9. Candidates not elected may be renominated, following the procedure described above.
10. The winner of the Award will be announced during the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference.
11. The Award will be presented to the successful candidate during the appropriate meeting of the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference. The cost of his or her travel will be paid by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which will make such arrangements in accordance with PAHO's rules and regulations.
12. When such presentation is not practicable, alternatives will include:
 - a) receipt of the Award at the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference by a member of the delegation of the recipient's country, on his/her behalf;
 - b) presentation in the home country by the PAHO/WHO Representative on behalf of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

13. Whatever method is used to present the Award, it will be accompanied by appropriate publicity issued to the news media, both by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the government concerned.

14. These procedures may be reviewed by the Executive Committee at any time, as deemed appropriate in light of acquired experience. Proposed amendments must be approved by the Executive Committee and transmitted to the Directing Council or the Pan American Sanitary Conference for its information.

Annex B

PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership¹

Recipients in Previous Years

- 2023 *Dr. Alfredo Darío Espinosa Brito* (Cuba). In recognition of his career and leadership in the management of health services in Cuba, and for the impact of his scientific publications in the Region of the Americas. His contribution to primary health care was also noted, as was his role in disease prevention and health promotion, especially in addressing the burden of noncommunicable diseases in populations in conditions of vulnerability and in older adults.
- 2022 *Ms. Carla Gabriela Romero Pérez* (Plurinational State of Bolivia). In recognition of her work in research and in strengthening the epidemiology area to combat arboviruses; the technical support provided to the Integrated Management Strategy; her management of the dengue, chikungunya, and Zika prevention and control program; and her work on logistics and distribution of the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine throughout Bolivia.
- 2021 *Dr. Joanne Liu* (Canada). For her significant contributions to the Region through: *a)* her dedicated work assisting communities affected by the earthquake and cholera epidemic in Haiti; *b)* supporting health system strengthening efforts in Honduras; *c)* her leadership in health emergencies and crises responses around the world; and *d)* her commitment to delivering health services to those living in the most vulnerable situations.
- 2019 *Dr. Reina Roa Rodríguez* (Panama). For her dual contributions advocating to promoting public health through tobacco control at the national, regional, and global levels, and as National Director of Health Planning, overseeing the formulation and implementation of Panama's National Health Policy and its Strategic Guidelines 2016–2025.
- 2018 *Dr. Natalia Largaespada Beer* (Belize). For her considerable achievements in the area of maternal and child health, having proven to be a strong supporter of the use of data for decision-making on policies and programs. Dr. Largaespada Beer is recognized for having made the program for maternal and child health one of the national programs with the greatest number of projects executed with a systemic approach.
- 2017 *Dr. Stella Bolaños Varela* (Costa Rica). For her outstanding professional career and her contributions to the quality and management of health services at the national level. Dr. Bolaños Varela is recognized for her outstanding contributions to public health in the field of health education and health management in the older adult population.

¹ In accordance with Resolution CE158.R14 [2016], this award, previously called the PAHO Award for Administration, became the PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership, starting in 2017.

- 2016 *Dr. Pastor Castell-Florit Serrate* (Cuba). For his commendable contributions to public health, reflected in his leadership in the management and administration of the National Health System of Cuba. Dr. Pastor Castell-Florit Serrate is recognized for his professional trajectory and his *contributions* to research and teaching on the administrative management of health systems, as is corroborated by the positions he has held and his numerous publications in national and international journals.
- 2014 *Dr. Miguel Ángel Lezana Fernández* (Mexico). For his distinguished career and his contributions to health services administration as a manager and leader, corroborated by the academic and *administrative* positions he has held; his large number of publications in national and international journals; his outstanding contributions to medical education; and for his significant contributions to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).
- 2012 *Dr. Aron Nowinski* (Uruguay). For his contributions to the promotion of public health and health services administration; his extensive public health teaching career; his work to systematize and disseminate medical information; and his leadership in the development of the strategy for the Latin American Network of Health Sciences Information and the Program for Selective Dissemination of Information.
- 2011 *Dr. John Edward Greene* (Guyana). For his contribution to the development of the health sector and human resources in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and for his mobilization of political commitment to achieve meaningful outcomes on a broad range of priority public health *issues*, including the establishment of the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).
- 2010 *Dr. Elsa Yolanda Palou* (Honduras). For the national and subregional impact of her administrative, medical, teaching, and research activities on the quality of care to patients with *communicable* diseases, especially people living with HIV/AIDS.
- 2009 *Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis* (Bahamas). For her contribution to health care management and research, and to medical education in primary health care, as well as for her leadership in *institutionalizing* public health surveillance across all of the Bahamas and in evaluating and redefining the parameters for the Caribbean Cooperation in Health.
- 2008 *Dr. Hugo Villar Teijeiro* (Uruguay). For his contribution to the improvement of health conditions in several countries of the Americas, the decentralization and development of hospital *administration* as part of health administration and the development at the regional level of human resources on health services administration.
- 2007 *Dr. Armando Mariano Reale* (Argentina). For his contribution to the modernization of the health and social security systems by fostering integration between the public and private sectors, *the* creation of networks of providers at the different levels of health care, and the adoption of new models of financing for the public and social security sectors.

- 2006 *Dr. Adolfo Horacio Chorny* (Brazil). For his contributions to development and innovation in the areas of planning, management, and financing of health systems and services at the national and international levels, including his contribution to the development of leadership in public health and health policies through several generations of managers and decision-makers.
- 2005 *Dr. Francisco Rojas Ochoa* (Cuba). For his outstanding contribution, during his professional *career*, to the development of the Administration of Health Programs and Services in his country, Cuba, and in several countries of the Region of the Americas and, particularly, for his outstanding contribution to the training of various generations of public health leaders and professionals.
- 2004 *Dr. Gastão de Souza Campos* (Brazil). For his outstanding contribution to the transformation of the health care model through the development of a management method that increased the *democratization* of the services by strengthening the links between services and the users of the Unified Health System (SUS) in Brazil.
- 2003 *Mr. Roy W. Romanow* (Canada). For his outstanding contribution to the development of the Canadian Health System, particularly in the creation of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, and in leading the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada. Mr. Romanow is internationally regarded as a leading figure in health policy and administration.
- 2002 *Dr. Hugo Mendoza* (Dominican Republic). For his valuable contribution to the improvement of the *maternal* and child health situation in his country, through the introduction of the public health approach in pediatric care and teaching, and his pioneering efforts in public health research.
- 2001 *Dr. Carlos Gehlert Mata* (Guatemala). For his pioneering contribution to the extension of primary health care in the rural areas of Guatemala during difficult times and circumstances, through the strategy of preparation of mid-level technicians selected from the same local communities.
- 2000 *Dr. Roberto Fuentes García* (Chile). For his long and fruitful efforts in the field of public health administration, focusing particularly on effective management, the quality of care and user *satisfaction*, and for his important contribution to the national and international literature in these areas.
- 1999 *Dr. Ana Flisser Steinbruch* (Mexico). For her work to transform the network of public health *laboratories* in her country to support priority health programs, including administration, teaching, and research.
- 1998 *Dr. Christine Olive Moody* (Jamaica). For her contribution to the planning, administration, and leadership of the health services, and her continuous efforts towards the development of primary health care at the regional and global levels.
- 1997 *Dr. Eduardo Bernabé Ordaz Ducungé* (Cuba). For his pioneering efforts in the establishment of *rehabilitation* programs and the humanization of hospital care for persons suffering from chronic mental illness.

- 1996 *Mrs. Michaela M. Storr* (Bahamas). Hospital Chief Administrator. Health Services Administration (HSM, AHSM). For her work at the grassroots level in developing an integrated local health system and for the introduction of innovative systems for the management of hospitals.
- 1995 *Dr. Hipólito Vergara Muñoz* (Chile). Medical Comptroller, Committee on Preventive Medicine and Disability. For his pioneering work in the field of community medicine and primary health care, particularly in rural areas.
- 1994 *Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann* (Brazil). Director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, Ministry of Health. For her outstanding work in the administration of programs in a variety of public health fields, *particularly* maternal and child health, in both nongovernmental and governmental organizations and at state and national levels.
- 1993 *Dr. Georgina Velásquez Díaz* (Mexico). General Coordinator of the Solidarity Program, Mexican Institute of Social Security. For her contribution to the organization and consolidation of the administrative infrastructure and health services of the Solidarity Program.
- 1992 *Dr. Desmond O. N. McIntyre* (Dominica). Former Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and Social Security. For his outstanding work in the area of health administration.
- 1991 *Prof. Oscar Mateo de Acosta Fernández* (Cuba). Director, National Institute of Endocrinology, and Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Havana. For his outstanding contributions in health research, teaching, and administration, particularly in the field of endocrinology.
- 1990 *Dr. Pedro Alejandro de Armas H.* (Venezuela). Director of the School of Medicine, Francisco de Miranda University, Coro, State of Falcón. For his outstanding work in the area of health administration.
- 1989 *Dr. David Bersch Escobar* (Colombia). Scientific Director, Foundation for the Development of Health Education. For his outstanding work in research, teaching and management in the area of health administration.
- 1988 *Dr. Guido Miranda Gutiérrez* (Costa Rica). Executive President, Costa Rican Social Security Fund. For his outstanding contribution to administration and teaching in the areas of health and social security.
- 1987 *Dr. John E. F. Hastings* (Canada). Professor of Health Care Administration, University of Toronto. For his outstanding services and publications in the public health field, especially in administration and research.
- 1985 *Dr. Elizabeth Quamina* (Trinidad and Tobago). Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and Environment. For her outstanding work in health planning, administration, and human resources development.
- 1984 *Dr. Manuel Barquín* (Mexico). Professor, School of Medicine, National Autonomous University. For his exceptional contribution to the improvement of the health in Mexico and other countries of Latin America, as well as for his academic achievements in the areas of teaching and research.

- 1983 *Dr. Arnaldo Tejeiro Fernández* (Cuba). Adviser, National Bureau of Statistics. For his contributions and the positive social repercussions of his work as a member of the National Health System.
- 1982 *Dr. Julio César Mérida de León* (Guatemala). Chief, Tuberculosis Division, Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. For his work in developing and executing programs for the prevention and control of *communicable* diseases, and for his influence in strengthening and modernizing comprehensive health services administration.
- 1981 *Dr. Frederick Burns Roth* (Canada). Professor of Health Administration, University of Toronto, and President *and* Chairman of the Board, Home Care Program for Metropolitan Toronto. For his work in improving the practice and teaching of health care administration, both nationally and internationally.
- 1980 *Dr. Jair de Oliveira Soares* (Brazil). Minister of Social Security, Federal Government. For his *contribution* to the organization and management of health sector services in his country, at both the regional and the national levels.
- 1978 *Dr. Oswaldo Egas Cevallos* (Ecuador). General Director for Health Planning, Ministry of Public Health. *For* his work in the administration of health services.
- 1977 *Dr. Roberto Pereda Chávez* (Cuba) (posthumous). Director, Department of International Relations, Ministry of Public Health. For the exceedingly salutary effects of his work on the administration and consolidation of the National Health System.
- 1976 *Dr. Ernani Guilherme Fernandes da Motta* (Brazil). Superintendent of the Health Campaigns Superintendency, Ministry of Health. For his work in administrative management, especially in relation to the meningitis vaccination campaign.
- 1975 *Mr. Dennis Sánchez Acuña* (Costa Rica). Planning expert in the Sectoral Unit, Ministry of Health. For his *outstanding* contribution in drawing up the National Health Program for 1975-1978, particularly the methods used to improve the development of administrative resources.
- 1973 *Mr. Guillermo Istúriz* (Venezuela). Founder of the hospital administration program and of the courses *in* this discipline at the School of Public Health. For work in the field of hospital management which is regarded as the basis for the doctrine and practice in this field and as having shaped the modern approach to hospital management in his country.
- 1972 *Dr. Eduardo Zapata Salazar* (Peru). Director of Personnel, Ministry of Health. For his work on the preparation and *implementation* of a model of a personnel administration system for the health sector in his country.

On the recommendation of the Award Committee, the Award was declared void in 1971, 1974, 1979, 1986, 2013, and 2015 because the nominations did not meet the approved criteria, because only one nomination had been submitted, or because the award was cancelled. In 2020, given the extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Officers of the Executive Committee decided that the nominations received for the 2020 Award would be considered for the 2021 Award.

CE174/5

Annex C
Original: English

Proposed Resolution

PAHO AWARD FOR HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP 2024

The 174th Session of the Executive Committee,

(PP1) Having examined the *Report of the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Health Services and Leadership 2024* (Document CE174/5, Add. I);

(PP2) Bearing in mind the provisions of the procedures and guidelines for conferring the PAHO Award for Health Services and Leadership (previously known as the PAHO Award for Administration), as approved by the 56th Directing Council (2018),¹

Resolves:

(OP)1. To congratulate the candidates for the PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership 2024 for their professionalism and outstanding work on behalf of their countries and the Region.

(OP)2. On the recommendation of the Award Committee, to confer the PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership 2024 to _____ of _____, for _____.

(OP)3. To transmit the *Report of the Award Committee of the PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership 2024* (Document CE174/5, Add. I), to the 61st Directing Council.

¹ The procedures and guidelines for conferring the Award were approved by the 18th Pan American Sanitary Conference (1970) and amended by the 24th Pan American Sanitary Conference (1994), by the Executive Committee at its 124th (1999), 135th (2004), 140th (2007), 146th (2010), and 158th (2016) sessions, and by the 56th Directing Council (2018).

Analytical Form: Programmatic and Financial Implications

1. Agenda item: 3.2 - PAHO Award for Health Services Management and Leadership 2024
2. Responsible unit: Health Systems and Services (HSS)
3. Preparing officer: Dr. Ernesto Bascolo, Unit Chief, Primary Health Care and Integrated Services Delivery, Health Systems and Services (HSS/PH)
4. List of collaborating centers and national institutions linked to this Agenda item: Not applicable.
5. Link between Agenda item and the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018–2030: Not applicable.
6. Link between Agenda item and the Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020–2025: Not applicable.
7. Financial implications: US\$ 5000.