

Malaria Champions of the Americas Award

Background, Concept, and Objective

As countries of the Americas work to decrease the burden of malaria in the Region, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF), the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (MISPH), and the School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP), seek to identify, celebrate, and provide avenues to emulate best practices and success stories in malaria prevention and control. Conceived and launched on 6 November 2008 during the 2nd annual commemoration of Malaria Day in the Americas, the Malaria Champions of the Americas Award honors innovative efforts that have significantly contributed towards overcoming the challenges of malaria in communities, countries, the Region, or the globe. The recognition is conferred to implementers and provides them and their respective projects and institutions opportunities for capacity building, an expanded network for technical collaboration, and the distinction of being role models and inspirations for the global battle against malaria. Since 2009, fifteen Malaria Champions of the Americas have been recognized. They have come from Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Suriname.

Criteria for Nomination

The Malaria Champions of the Americas Award recognizes organizations or collaborations that have used innovative approaches to overcome the challenges of malaria in the Americas. **For the year 2014, the focus of the award is on effective malaria efforts that have successfully engaged in Integrated Vector Management (IVM) or Vector-borne disease programs which demonstrate success in malaria prevention, control, elimination, or prevention of reintroduction.** Ideal candidates for this year's search should be able to demonstrate accomplishments not only in terms of achieving key malaria targets but also achievements in addressing relevant concerns among vector-borne diseases. Activities should be ongoing or completed within one year from Monday, June 23, 2014.

In addition to this year's focus, nominations will be evaluated based on demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

Capacity Building

Exhibits use of best practices in implementing/promoting the PAHO-WHO best practice in malaria prevention and control, elimination, and prevention of reintroduction, including T3 – Testing (Diagnosis), Treating (Treatment), and Tracking (Surveillance). Contributes to the development of trained health workers and infrastructure.

Innovation

Demonstrates the use of IVM or other creative and effective strategies that leverage effective malaria prevention and control efforts towards achieving targets among vector-borne diseases and increase the quality and uptake of services. This could include also use of integrated service delivery; community-based strategies, behavior change communication efforts, efforts to combine treatment with prevention, integration of gender, ethnicity, human rights, health promotion, primary health care, and social protection frameworks; etc., to promote malaria control and other health outcomes.

Collaboration

Fosters partnerships with stakeholders within and across sectors that fortify and broaden the scope and reach of activities.

Impact

Demonstrates measurable contribution to decreasing malaria-related morbidity and mortality in the community, country, region or globe; and in achieving other health targets.

The organization carrying out project activities must be a legally established, registered bona fide entity. The nominated activities must not be projects carried out directly by PAHO, PAHEF, the George Washington University MISPH, or the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health CCP.

Selection Process and Calendar of Events

Nominations for the Malaria Champions of the Americas will be accepted from 25 April 2014 to 23 June 2014 (11:59 p.m. EST). To download forms, visit www.paho.org/malaria2014. A select panel of judges representing various sectors and stakeholders will review the top qualifying submissions and select the three top nominees. A documentary will be produced about each of these three finalists that will profile their achievements and efforts in overcoming the challenges of malaria. The panel of judges will use these three documentaries to assist in the final selection of a winning candidate. The top nominees will be announced in July 2014 and will be invited to participate in a regional event that commemorates Malaria Day in the Americas on 6 November 2014 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

Award

The 2014 Malaria Champion of the Americas will receive:

- Opportunity to participate in three PAHO capacity-building trainings for malaria prevention and control
- US\$2,500 cash award for malaria-related capacity-building efforts (e.g., staff training / education; research; project proposal development; or other activities that enhance skills and abilities to achieve goals and targets)
- Commemorative plaque; and,
- Opportunity to be featured in various communications platforms of PAHO, PAHEF, GWU-MISPH, and JHU-CCP as best practice story on malaria.

The top three nominees will be invited and hosted to participate in a regional event for the commemoration of Malaria Day in the Americas on 6 November 2014 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

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