

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) and the George Washington University Center for Global Health (CGH) 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, nine Malaria Champions of the Americas have been recognized. They have come from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Suriname.

Criteria for Nomination

The 2012 Malaria Champions of the Americas Award recognizes organizations or collaborations that have used innovative approaches to overcome the challenges of malaria in the Americas. In conjunction with the World Health Organization Global Malaria Program's launch of the T3 (Test, Treat, Track) campaign, ideal candidates for this year's search should be able to demonstrate accomplishments and / or best practices in all of the following: malaria diagnostic testing, treatment, and surveillance. Activities should be ongoing or completed within one year from Friday, June 29, 2012.

In addition to this year's focus on malaria diagnostic testing, treatment, and surveillance, nominations will be evaluated based on demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

Capacity Building

Exhibits use of best practices in malaria diagnostic testing, treatment, and surveillance. Contributes to the development of trained health workers and infrastructure to help reduce the burden of malaria

Innovation

Demonstrates the use of creative and effective strategies, which increase the quality and uptake of services

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

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, or the George Washington University CGH.

Selection Process and Calendar of Events

Nominations for the Malaria Champions of the Americas will be accepted from 25 April 2012 to 29 June 2012 (11:59 p.m. EST). To download forms, visit www.paho.org/malaria2012. A select panel of judges representing various sectors and stakeholders will review the top qualifying submissions and select the top nominees. A documentary will be

produced about each of these finalists that will profile their achievements and efforts in overcoming the challenges of malaria. The panel of judges will use these documentaries to assist in the final selection of a winning candidate. The top nominees will be announced in July 2012 and will be invited to participate in a regional event that commemorates Malaria Day in the Americas on 8 November 2012 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

Award

The 2012 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, and GWU-CGH 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 8 November 2012 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

**Use of photographs/copyright:* Please note that by submitting your nomination and supporting documents to the contest you agree to allow the materials to be reproduced, published or exhibited by the Pan American Health Organization, Pan American Health and Education Foundation, and the George Washington University Center for Global Health and grant unrestricted use in future media, educational or promotional materials.

For any further questions or concerns you may contact us at champion@paho.org or malaria@paho.org