

Malaria Champions of the Americas Award

Background, Concept, and Objective

As the countries of the Americas work to decrease the burden of malaria in the Region, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the George Washington University Center for Global Health (CGH), and other partners 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* 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.

Criteria for Nomination

Any individual, institution, group or project conducting efforts to overcome the challenges of malaria in the Americas is eligible to participate and receive the distinction. Activities should preferably be ongoing or completed within the last year. Nominations will be evaluated based on demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

- **Capacity-Building**
Promotes the development of sustainable skills that translates into a strengthened ability to define and achieve objectives
- **Technical Expertise and Innovation**
Exhibits competent use of current technical knowledge, tools, and skills; and incorporates original ideas, inventive approaches, and creative strategies that increase productivity
- **Collaboration**
Fosters partnerships with stakeholders that fortify and broaden the scope and reach of activities
- **Leadership**
Displays capacity to establish direction and to influence and align other collaborators towards accomplishing common objectives in a cohesive and coherent manner thereby serving as an influential role model
- **Impact**
Demonstrates measurable positive effect in malaria prevention and control in the community, country, Region or globe”.

Selection Process and Calendar of Events

Nominations for the Malaria Champions of the Americas will be accepted from 25 April 2009 to 15 July 2009 (11:59 PM EST). To download forms, visit http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_joomlabook&Itemid=259&task=display&id=33. A select panel of judges representing various sectors and stakeholders will review the top qualifying submissions and select the winning candidate. The top three nominees will be announced in August 2009 and will be invited to participate in a regional event that commemorates *Malaria Day in the Americas* on 6 November 2009, where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

Award

The 2009 Malaria Champion of the Americas will receive:

- **Opportunity** to participate in three PAHO capacity-building trainings for malaria prevention and control
- **Support** from a PAHO-based George Washington University Global Health Service Fellow for approximately three months to aid in research and field work
- Commemorative **plaque**

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 2009 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored. Their work will also be featured in PAHO’s communications and advocacy publications, including a short documentary film and a range of news and magazine articles.