

PAHO/PAHEF  
**Awards for  
Excellence in  
Inter-American  
Public Health**



## **The 2013 Sérgio Arouca Award for Excellence in Universal Health Care Guidelines**

### **Background**

In 2009, the Sérgio Arouca Award for Excellence in Universal Health Care was created by the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF) in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to promote the availability of universal healthcare with equity in the Americas. The award honors Dr. Sérgio Arouca who was a physician, researcher, and professor in the National School of Public Health and served as the Secretary of Health in Rio de Janeiro, and the Secretary of Social Participation in the Ministry of Health, Brazil. As president of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, a highly recognized Brazilian institution, he helped to develop the scientific, teaching, and technological development in the Brazilian sanitary movement. Dr. Arouca devoted his entire career to the advancement of public health in the Americas with a focus in advocacy and increasing the access of health care services. The award seeks to recognize extraordinary efforts by the Latin American and Caribbean countries in improving their health systems and in achieving better access to health care by the most vulnerable population groups.

This award is one of the awards in the Awards for Excellence in Inter-American Public Health Program, a joint partnership of PAHO and PAHEF.

### **Qualifications**

The winner of the Sérgio Arouca Award for Excellence in Universal Health Care will have made a significant health impact, demonstrated leadership and excellence in public health, and contributed significantly to the advancement of care, ideally in more than one country in the Americas, with a focus in Latin America and/or the Caribbean.

The Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF) will accept nominations from one or more people or one or more institutions, which may be governmental or nongovernmental, that have together accomplished a significant contribution in the following:

a) the development and implementation of a policy and/or national strategy of health for all; b) the promotion of health programs that have made considerable advances in increasing the coverage and quality of care; c) improving the effectiveness of the management of health systems; d) the development and implementation of policies and/or health and ethical legislation in the framework of a nation's health structure; e) innovative programs that target socially-excluded and geographically-disadvantaged populations; f) innovatively-designed programs in the field of education and formalized training of health care workers with the aim of expanding universal health care; g) efficacy in efforts to interest communities in the planning, management, and appraisal of health programs; h) the preparation and execution of relevant research on primary health systems. The nominee's works ideally should have demonstrated impact in more than one country in the region of the Americas, with a focus in Latin America and/or the Caribbean.

Staff members, consultants, and interns in active service of PAHO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other United Nations agencies; current official representatives to PAHO's governing bodies (e.g., ministers of health and their delegates); sitting members of PAHEF's board of directors; PAHEF staff, consultants, advisors, and interns; members of the Sérgio Arouca Award for Excellence in Universal Health Care jury; and current employees of the Brazilian Federal Ministry of Health<sup>1</sup> are ineligible to receive the award.

### **Nomination and Selection Process**

Nominations must be completed online ([www.pahef.org/awards](http://www.pahef.org/awards)) and include:

- Letter of support signed and submitted by the nominator (two-page limit)  
*For programs and institutions:*  
Signed by an official representative of the nominated program or institution, the PAHO/WHO representative (PWR) of the country of the nominee, or an official representative of the ministry of health of that country. This person must be someone other than the nominator.  
*For individuals:*  
Signed by the PWR of the country of the nominee or an official representative of the ministry of health of that country. This person must be someone other than the nominator.
- Letter of nomination (two-page limit) signed by the nominator
- Curriculum vitae of the nominee (if an individual is nominated); or
- Organization profile (if an organization is nominated).

The nomination may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.

### **Form of the Award**

The award consists of a cash prize, certificate of honor, and a symbolic representation of the award.

### **Funding of the Award**

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<sup>1</sup> Retired or former employees of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, employees of semi-autonomous institutes attached to the Ministry, and current employees of the Brazilian state and municipal health departments are eligible for nomination.

The Sérgio Arouca Award for Excellence in Universal Health Care will be administered by PAHEF, and is fully funded by the Government of Brazil.

### **Awards Jury**

The awards jury will consist of five members, two members designated by the director of PAHO and three members selected by PAHEF's board of directors. Jurors are assigned one-, two-, and three-year terms in order to start the process of rotation and assure overlap of membership experience. The jurors will be eligible for re-appointment for an additional three years, after which the member must step down for one year before possible consideration of re-appointment. Jurors must be able to read English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

A representative of PAHEF will serve as a non-voting jury secretary. All jury members must complete a conflict-of-interest form to participate in the vetting process. The jury will elect its own chair annually; the chair leads jury deliberations and serves in this position throughout the year. The chair also writes a summary about the winning candidate that addresses why he or she was selected. This paragraph is used as a basis for communications about the jury's selection to the PAHEF board of directors, to the PAHO Directing Council, and to other various stakeholders, including the media and visitors to PAHEF's website.

PAHEF will set the deadline for receipt of nominations each year, which will generally be in May. PAHEF staff will collate the nominations received, and make them available to the awards jury for its consideration. The jury will correspond via e-mail, conference call, and/or in-person meeting in Washington, etc., to discuss the nominations and recommend a winner to PAHEF's board of directors for final approval and acceptance. PAHEF, with the help and input of the PWR office in the country of the awardee, is responsible for completing the appropriate due diligence on the candidate who is selected to receive the award. Given the timing of the award presentation and the semi-annual meeting schedule of the PAHEF board of directors, the board's executive committee may act to accept the award winner.

### **Award Promotion**

PAHEF will distribute the call for nominations widely via e-mail to relevant organizations, scientific journals, the PAHO network, the leadership of national or international public health institutions, ministries of health, agencies, administrations, professional societies, professional colleagues, non-governmental organizations, civil societies, scientific societies, etc. These audiences are encouraged to distribute/post information about the call for nominations on their websites, list serves, newsletters, and other communications vehicles.