

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



The 2013 Fred L. Soper Award for Excellence in Public Health Literature Guidelines

Background

This award honors Dr. Fred L. Soper, director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau from 1947 to 1959, and his outstanding contributions to health in the Americas. The award recognizes Dr. Soper for his many significant contributions to research and control of infectious diseases in the Americas. At the 12th Pan American Sanitary Conference in January 1947, Dr. Fred L. Soper, of the United States, was elected as director of the re-organized Pan American Sanitary Bureau from 1947 – 1958.

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

Qualifications

The award is intended to stimulate excellence in medical/public health research and literature by recognizing a significant contribution in the region of Americas, with an emphasis in Latin America and/or the Caribbean.

A paper selected for the Fred L. Soper Award for Excellence in Public Health Literature will have high and far-reaching impact on policy and research with a focus in the region of the Americas, especially in Latin America and/or the Caribbean. Impact may be measured at different levels of the public health field which may include: civil society/federal/state/municipal levels, physicians/nurses/associations/health care providers, non-governmental organizations, hospitals, managers, policymakers, etc. Nominations for publications related to infectious diseases are encouraged, but are not required. Only articles that were published within the three

years previous to the nomination in a scientific journal indexed in a medical database (e.g., PubMed, SciELO) or in the *Pan American Journal of Public Health* are eligible for consideration.

If an article has multiple authors, the first or corresponding author should receive the award on behalf of the article.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the nominator to notify each of the article's authors that the article is being nominated.

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); sitting members of PAHEF's board of directors; PAHEF staff, consultants, advisors, and interns; and members of the Fred L. Soper Award for Excellence in Public Health Literature jury are ineligible to receive the award.

Nomination and Selection Process

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

- Letter of nomination (two-page limit) signed by the nominator
- A clearly readable copy of the nominated article
- Proof that the article was published in a scientific journal indexed in a medical database (e.g., PubMed, SciELO) or the *Pan American Journal of Public Health* in the past three years
- Impact statement (400-word limit)
- Curriculum vitae of the person accepting the award on behalf of the article (the first or corresponding author)

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

Nominations may be completed by any researcher, journal editor, or health professional including self-nomination.

Form of the Award

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

Funding of the Award

The Fred L. Soper Award for Excellence in Public Health Literature will be administered by PAHEF, seeking voluntary contributions, from time to time, to augment a fund created in 1994 by friends of Dr. Soper.

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 PAHO/WHO representative's (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.