

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



The 2013 Abraham Horwitz Award for Excellence in Leadership in Inter-American Public Health Guidelines

Background

This award honors Dr. Abraham Horwitz, former director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and former president of the Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF). A national of Chile, he served as director of PAHO from 1958 to 1975 and as president of PAHEF from 1975 to 2000. His professional career spanned six decades. Among his many achievements, he laid the groundwork for the eradication of smallpox in the Americas and is known for organizing Chile's National Health Service.

It was created by his friends and the PAHEF board of directors to recognize his outstanding contribution to health in the Americas.

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 award is intended to recognize the achievements of leaders and their contributions to public health that have resulted in improvements in the lives of people across the Americas, with an emphasis in Latin America and/or the Caribbean. Candidates must have an outstanding lifetime career in medicine or public health demonstrating innovation, cross-border impact, and have stimulated excellence in his or her area of expertise and in others. At the time of nomination, candidates must be contributing actively to the field, even if he or she is in formal retirement.

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 the PAHEF board of directors; PAHEF staff, consultants, advisors and interns; and members of the Abraham Horwitz Award for Excellence in Leadership in Inter-American Public Health jury are ineligible to receive the award.

Nomination and Selection Process

Nominations must be completed online (<http://www.pahef.org/nomination/>) and include:

- Letter of nomination (two-page limit) signed by the nominator
- Letter of support (two-page limit) signed and submitted by an individual other than the nominator, and preferably from a country other than that of the nominee. The letter of support should speak to the nominee's activities/contributions to the field that impact communities or populations in the Americas, as well as its distribution in society via any or all of the following: teaching, research, leadership, advocacy, new technologies, mentorship, and policy and programs
- Impact statement (400-word limit)
- Curriculum vitae of the nominee

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

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 Abraham Horwitz Award for Excellence in Leadership in Inter-American Public Health is administered by PAHEF, seeking voluntary contributions from time to time to augment a fund created in 1978 by friends of Dr. Horwitz.

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 PAHEF's 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.