“Malaria Champions of the Americas” Award 2018

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), United Nations Foundation, the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (MISPH), the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP), the Global Health Consortium at the Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, Florida International University (FIU-GHC), and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) seek to identify, celebrate, and provide avenues to emulate best practices and success stories in malaria prevention, control, elimination and re-establishment. 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, twenty seven Malaria Champions of the Americas have been recognized. They have come from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Suriname.

Criteria for Nomination
The “Malaria Champions of the Americas” Award recognizes programs, organizations or collaborations that operate at local or national level and have used innovative approaches to overcome the challenges of malaria in the Americas.

The focus of the 2018 search is on malaria programs or efforts which demonstrate significant emphasis on capacity building as essential components of malaria elimination and prevention of re-establishment. Applications must demonstrate initiative to address the challenges of ensuring adequate capacities and infrastructure are developed and maintained aimed at containing malaria transmission and guarding against the re-establishment of the disease. These initiatives may include the strengthening of malaria program integration to the primary health care system; establishment of quality assurance systems; technical support to train researchers, health workers, or affected communities; inter-country exchanges; and innovative courses and training programs relevant to malaria, among others. Activities should be ongoing or completed within one year from Monday, June 25, 2018.

In addition to this year’s focus, nominations will be evaluated based on demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

Diagnosis-Treatment-Investigation and Response (DTI-R)
Exhibits use of the PAHO / WHO best practice in malaria prevention, control, elimination, and prevention of re-establishment, particularly in terms of DTI-R (diagnosis, treatment, investigation and response).

Innovation
Demonstrates the use of approaches to foster equity and increase the quality and uptake of services. This could include use of integrated service delivery; community-based strategies, behavior change communication efforts, efforts to combine treatment with prevention, integration of gender, ethnicity, human rights, health promotion, primary health care, and social protection frameworks, etc., to promote malaria control, elimination, prevention of re-establishment of local malaria transmission, and other health outcomes.
**Collaboration**
Foster partnerships with stakeholders within and across sectors that fortify and broaden the scope and reach of activities.

**Impact**
Demonstrate measurable contribution to decreasing malaria-related morbidity and mortality in the community, country, region or globe.

The program or 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, the UN Foundation, the George Washington University MISP, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health CCP, or the Florida International University Global Health Consortium.

### Selection Process and Calendar of Events
Nominations for the “Malaria Champions of the Americas” will be accepted from **25 April 2018 to 25 June 2018** (11:59 p.m. EST). To download forms, visit the Malaria Champions of the Americas 2018 website. A select panel of judges representing various sectors and stakeholders will review the top qualifying submissions and select the three top nominees. A documentary will be produced about each of these three finalists that will profile their achievements and efforts in overcoming the challenges of malaria. The panel of judges will use these three documentaries to assist in the final selection of a winning candidate. The top nominees will be announced in July 2018 and will be invited to participate in a regional event that commemorates Malaria Day in the Americas on 6 November 2018 where the “Malaria Champion of the Americas” will be honored.

### Award
The 2018 “Malaria Champion of the Americas” will receive:
- Opportunity to participate in three PAHO capacity-building trainings for malaria prevention, control, elimination and prevention of re-establishment
- US$2,500 funding support 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, UN Foundation, GWU-MISP, JHU-CCP, FIU-GHC, and ASTMH as a 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 6 November 2018 where the “Malaria Champion of the Americas” will be honored.

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For any further questions or concerns you may contact us at malariachampion@gmail.com or malaria.paho@gmail.com