21st Annual Albert B. Sabin
Gold Medal Award Ceremony
2014 Winner with Past Honorees


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Introductory Remarks

By Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.

The Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal is awarded annually by the Sabin Vaccine Institute to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions in the field of vaccinology or a complementary field. Nominations are solicited from members of the scientific community, and from these noteworthy nominees, an honoree is selected by the Sabin Gold Medal Selection Committee, composed of previous Gold Medal recipients and chaired by Maj. Gen. Philip K. Russell, M.D. (USA Ret).

At our 21st award ceremony we were delighted to recognize Dr. Mathuram Santosham for his outstanding research and public health efforts to prevent H. influenzae type b (Hib) diseases. Dr. Santosham has conducted landmark vaccine efficacy trials, including rotavirus and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, and led research on oral rehydration solution (ORS), or Pedialyte, that standardized its use.

The 2014 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award ceremony would not have been possible without our sponsors, to whom I want to express our deepest thanks. This past year we were honored to have the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Merck and Co., Inc.; Takeda Ltd.; Sanofi Pasteur; Pfizer Inc.; and MedImmune LLC. These sponsors have been loyal partners and supporters of Sabin's mission to reduce needless suffering from vaccine-preventable and neglected tropical diseases.

On the occasion of the call for nominations for the 2015 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award, we offer this booklet in commemoration of the 2014 Gold Medal event. We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 Gold Medal Award Ceremony.

Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.
President, Sabin Vaccine Institute
Dr. Mathuram Santosham was born in Vellore, India and obtained his M.B.B.S. degree from the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Pondicherry, India in 1970. He subsequently moved to the U.S. and obtained Board Certification in Pediatrics and an M.P.H. degree from the Johns Hopkins University. He also completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Santosham is the Founder and Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health. He holds Professorships in the Department of International Health and the Department of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University. He directed the Division of Health Systems for the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health from 1999-2009.

Dr. Santosham is internationally known for his work on oral rehydration therapy, childhood vaccines and dissemination of key child survival interventions to vulnerable populations worldwide. Dr. Santosham worked with the White Mountain Apache Tribe and in several developing countries to pioneer the use of oral rehydration solution (ORS), now known as Pedialyte in the U.S. Based on this and other evidence, ORS has become the standard of care for treating diarrheal dehydration, and is credited with saving an estimated 60 million lives since 1980.

Working in partnership with Native American communities, he conducted landmark vaccine efficacy trials, including rotavirus vaccine, *H. influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine trials. Native American children used to die from these diseases at rates 5 to 10 times the U.S. average. Thanks largely to his advocacy, these vaccines now save 3 to 5 million lives a year in the U.S. and across the globe. Dr. Santosham was the lead for a project called the Hib Initiative, funded by GAVI. The Hib Initiative consortium consisted of representatives of Johns Hopkins University, London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). When the Hib Initiative began in 2005, only 20% of the GAVI-eligible (poorest) countries were using the Hib vaccine. Now, every GAVI-eligible country in the world is either using the vaccine or has made the decision to introduce it. GAVI estimates that by 2020, Hib vaccines will have prevented over 7 million deaths.
Dr. Santosham serves on numerous national and international committees to promote childhood health throughout the world. He consults for numerous international agencies including WHO, U.S. Agency for International Development, UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on aspects of child survival in over 30 countries. He is the author of over 250 peer-reviewed journals and serves as a reviewer for several international medical journals. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Thrasher Research Fund Award for Excellence in Research (1988), the Robert Austrian Orator for the International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (2006) and the Maurice Hilleman Lecturer at CDC (2008). He was also awarded the Indian Health Service Directors Award for Career Service in 2011, recognizing his personal dedication, commitment and contribution to American Indian and Alaska Native health and the global impact of his research and advocacy.
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Mathuram Santosham to our growing cohort of distinguished honorees. For more than 20 years, the Sabin Vaccine Institute has recognized individuals who have offered exemplary contributions to disease prevention through the development and use of vaccines.
About the 2015 Award Ceremony

Building on more than 20 years of global health leadership, Sabin’s tradition of recognizing important contributions to vaccinology will continue with the 2015 Gold Medal Award Ceremony in Bethesda, MD. Please plan to join us to celebrate on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

The 2015 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Ceremony is part of the 18th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

For more information please visit www.sabin.org or email goldmedal@sabin.org.