21st Annual Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Ceremony

Presented to
Mathuram Santosham, M.D., M.P.H.

for his outstanding research and public health efforts to prevent H. influenzae type b (Hib) diseases

Tuesday, April 29, 2014
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
North Bethesda, MD
REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

WELCOME
Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.
President, Sabin Vaccine Institute;
Director, Sabin Vaccine Institute and
Texas Children’s Hospital Center
for Vaccine Development;
Dean, National School of Tropical
Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION
OF THE ALBERT B. SABIN GOLD MEDAL
Katherine L. O’Brien, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School
of Public Health

ACCEPTANCE
Mathuram Santosham, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Pediatrics and International Health
Director, Center for American Indian Health
Johns Hopkins University

COFFEE & DESSERT
About Sabin Vaccine Institute

The Sabin Vaccine Institute (Sabin) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization of scientists, researchers and advocates dedicated to reducing needless human suffering from vaccine-preventable and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Since its founding in 1993 in honor of Dr. Albert B. Sabin, the developer of the oral polio vaccine, Sabin has been at the forefront of global efforts to eliminate, prevent, and cure infectious and neglected tropical diseases.

Sabin develops new vaccines, advocates for increased use of existing vaccines and promotes expanded access to affordable medical treatments in collaboration with governments, academic institutions, scientists, medical professionals and other non-profit organizations.
After receiving his medical degree in 1931, Dr. Sabin began research on poliomyelitis (polio), which at the time had reached epidemic proportions around the globe. At the Children’s Hospital Research Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was able to prove that polio was an infection of the alimentary tract, indicating that polio might be prevented by an oral vaccine.

Dr. Sabin’s early research was interrupted by World War II. He joined the U.S. Army Epidemiological Board’s Virus Committee in 1941 and accepted assignments abroad, where he worked on vaccines for encephalitis, visceral leishmaniasis and dengue fever. At the end of World War II, Dr. Sabin returned to Cincinnati and resumed his research.

He focused on isolating a mutant form of the polio virus incapable of producing the disease and thereby safe for introduction to the human body. The avirulent virus reproduced rapidly in the intestines, displacing lethal forms of the polio virus and providing protection from the disease.

The oral vaccine was first tested outside the United States from 1957 to 1959 and introduced in the American public in 1959.
Since then, the Sabin vaccine has been used to eliminate polio in countries throughout the world.

Dr. Sabin dedicated his entire professional career to the elimination of human suffering though his groundbreaking medical advances, while also waging a lifelong campaign against poverty and the resulting health inequities.

It was in this spirit of commitment and dedication that his longtime friends and colleagues - led by Heloisa Sabin, his widow, and the late Dr. H.R. Shepherd, Sabin’s Founding Chairman - established the Sabin Vaccine Institute in 1993 following Dr. Sabin’s death.

Images of Dr. Sabin courtesy of Winkler Center for the Health Professions, University of Cincinnati
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.
Awarded annually since 1994, the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award recognizes a researcher who has made extraordinary contributions in the field of vaccinology or a complementary field.

This year marks the 21st year that Sabin has bestowed the award. We applaud all of our past winners on their contributions to improving health worldwide.

Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Recipients (2014-1994)

2014
Mathuram Santosham, M.D., M.P.H.

2013
Anne A. Gershon, M.D.

2012
F. Marc LaForce, M.D.

2011
Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.
2011  John T. Schiller, Ph.D.
2010  John D. Clemens, M.D.
2009  Rino Rappuoli, Ph.D.
2008  Ruth S. Nussenzweig, M.D., Ph.D.
2007  Hilary Koprowski, M.D.  (d. 2013)
2006  William H. Foege, M.D., M.P.H.
2005  Albert Z. Kapikian, M.D.  (d. 2014)
2002  Stanley A. Plotkin, M.D.
2001  John B. Robbins, M.D.
2000  Ciro A. de Quadros, M.D., M.P.H.
1999

1998
Allen C. Steere, M.D.

1998
Myron M. Levine, M.D., D.T.P.H.

1997
Maurice R. Hilleman, Ph.D., D.Sc. (d. 2005)

1996
Joseph L. Melnick, Ph.D. (d. 2001)

1995
Robert M. Chanock, M.D. (d. 2010)

1994
Donald A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.
The Sabin Vaccine Institute gratefully acknowledges those who helped make the 2014 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Ceremony possible.

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