Presented to

**Paul A. Offit, M.D.**

for his role in the development of a life-saving rotavirus vaccine and his unflagging work in policy and education to ensure every child gets the vaccines they need
5:30 PM  REGISTRATION & HORS D’OEUVRES

6:30 PM  WELCOME
Amy Finan
Chief Executive Officer
Sabin Vaccine Institute

Bruce Gellin, M.D., M.P.H.
President, Global Immunization
Sabin Vaccine Institute

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION OF THE ALBERT B. SABIN GOLD MEDAL
Stanley A. Plotkin, M.D.
Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania

ACCEPTANCE
Paul A. Offit, M.D.
Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology, Professor of Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania;
Director
Vaccine Education Center, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

7:30 PM  DESSERT RECEPTION
The Sabin Vaccine Institute is a leading advocate for expanding vaccine access and uptake globally, advancing vaccine research and development, and amplifying vaccine knowledge and innovation. Unlocking the potential of vaccines through partnership, Sabin has built a robust ecosystem of funders, innovators, implementers, practitioners, policy makers and public stakeholders to advance its vision of a future free from preventable diseases.

As a non-profit with more than two decades of experience, Sabin is committed to finding solutions that last and extending the full benefits of vaccines to all people, regardless of who they are or where they live.

At Sabin, we believe in the power of vaccines to change the world.
Best known as the developer of the oral live virus polio vaccine, Dr. Albert B. Sabin not only dedicated his entire professional career to the elimination of human suffering through groundbreaking medical advances, but also steadfastly advocated for all children to be protected from preventable disease.

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 digestive 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 weakened 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 in the Soviet Union in 1957 and introduced in the United States in 1959. Dr. Sabin’s vaccine was used until 2016 to eradicate polio around the world. Thanks to Dr. Sabin’s tireless commitment to ensure that every child was protected from preventable disease, his vaccine saved millions of children from death and disability.

Until the end of his life, Dr. Sabin was an outspoken and often impatient advocate for immunization, nuclear disarmament and world peace. He dedicated himself to ensuring that research “not remain something beautiful on the shelves of libraries or like the works of art hanging in museums, but that it be used, as far as possible, to solve basic and human problems.” In this spirit, he donated his vaccine strains to the World Health Organization to ensure the vaccine would remain accessible and affordable. More than 50 years later, polio is near eradication.

To continue Dr. Sabin’s work, his longtime friends and colleagues — led by his widow, the late Heloisa Sabin, and Sabin’s Founding Chairman, the late Dr. H.R. Shepherd — established the Sabin Vaccine Institute in 1993 following Dr. Sabin’s death.

We are proud to continue Dr. Sabin’s legacy today by making vaccines more accessible, enabling innovation and expanding immunization across the globe.
A highly accomplished vaccinologist, pediatrician, author, historian and teacher, Dr. Offit is the co-inventor of a rotavirus vaccine that is credited with saving hundreds of lives every day, and is one of our nation’s most vocal and dedicated advocates for immunization.

Starting in the 1980s, Dr. Offit performed early research on rotavirus, the second leading killer of children under five, alongside Dr. H. Fred Clark and Dr. Stanley Plotkin. This work led to the invention of Rotateq, a vaccine that prevents rotavirus diarrhea. The United States introduced Rotateq, manufactured by Merck Vaccines, into the routine immunization schedule for infants in 2006. In 2008, the vaccine became the first oral rotavirus vaccine to be pre-qualified by the World Health Organization. Since then, Rotateq has saved countless lives and prevented illness in children around the world. In the United States alone, within a decade of the vaccine’s introduction, child hospitalizations from rotavirus dropped by 85 percent.
In 2000, after two decades of working in the laboratory, Dr. Offit established the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and became an increasingly vocal and visible champion of vaccines and immunizations. Through his commitment to science-based policy and education, he is dedicated to improving public understanding of vaccines and medical science and their importance to health. Dr. Offit is one of immunization’s strongest proponents at a time when vaccine hesitancy threatens our collective protection against deadly diseases like whooping cough, mumps and measles. In addition to regular speaking engagements, he has appeared on major media networks and in the pages of many publications to counter a clamor of false and misleading claims.

Dr. Offit makes science accessible to lay audiences through numerous award-winning books, highlighting the history of immunization, tackling vaccine myths and reinforcing the message that science is not a matter of faith, but a matter of fact. Dr. Offit’s ninth and latest book, *Pandora’s Lab: Seven Stories of Science Gone Wrong*, raises important questions about the use and misuse of science in society.
To maintain high rates of immunization coverage, the world needs voices like Dr. Offit’s, fueled by passionate compassion, to reassure parents that vaccines are safe and effective. The entire vaccinology community is indebted to Dr. Offit for his leadership of national and international efforts to bolster vaccine confidence through advocacy and education.

Dr. Offit serves as the Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology and a Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He has received numerous international and national awards for his work and has published more than 160 papers in medical and scientific journals in the areas of rotavirus-specific immune responses and vaccine safety. Dr. Offit has been a member of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. He is also a board member of Every Child by Two and a founding board member of the Autism Science Foundation.
About the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal

Awarded annually since 1994, the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal recognizes a researcher who has made extraordinary contributions in the field of vaccinology or a complementary field.

This year marks the 25th year that Sabin has bestowed the award. We applaud all of our past recipients on their contributions to improving health worldwide.


2018
Paul A. Offit, M.D.

2017
Jan Holmgren, M.D., Ph.D.

2016
George R. Siber, M.D.

2015
Roger I. Glass, M.D., Ph.D.
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. (d. 2018)

2007  
Hilary Koprowski, M.D. (d. 2013)

2006  
William H. Foege, M.D., M.P.H.

2005  
Albert Z. Kapikian, M.D. (d. 2014)

2004  
William S. Jordan, Jr., M.D. (d. 2008)
The Sabin Vaccine Institute gratefully acknowledges those who helped make the 2018 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Ceremony possible.