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National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Announces Prestigious 2019 Award Recipients

Bethesda, MD (Embargoed for 10 AM ET, September 20, 2018) - The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is recognizing three individuals for their significant and lasting contributions to public health: **Jeremy Farrar, FRS**, will receive the 2019 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award, **Anne A. Gershon, MD**, will receive the 2019 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement, and **Richard E. Besser, MD**, will receive the 2019 John P. Utz Leadership Award.

Jeremy Farrar, FRS, is internationally renowned for his outstanding contributions to the current understanding of the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of several globally important infectious diseases, including those affecting Southeast Asia and diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential. In his role as director of Wellcome Trust, he has worked to ensure that the influential organization remains at the forefront of addressing antimicrobial resistance and other significant health challenges. "His clinical research has changed patient care, enhanced our understanding of disease pathogenesis and the host-environment interaction, and influenced national, regional, and global policy," said Bruce Gellin, MD, MPH, of the Sabin Vaccine Institute. In recognition of the tangible difference he has made, NFID has selected Dr. Farrar to receive the 2019 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award, which honors individuals whose outstanding humanitarian achievements have contributed significantly to improving global public health.

Anne A. Gershon, MD, is a trailblazing pediatric infectious disease researcher at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons who has been a leader in basic research, applied research, and public health policy on vaccines. A world expert on varicella-zoster virus, she has illuminated the epidemiology, cell biology, immunology, and latency of this virus, which causes chickenpox and shingles. Her studies led to the licensure of varicella vaccine for children and adults, which has prevented millions of illnesses worldwide. "Anne Gershon is a superstar, a premier exemplar of the concept of translational research: from bench to bedside, and in her case, beyond, to prevention in large populations," said NFID Medical Director William Schaffner, MD. In presenting the 2019 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement to Dr. Gershon, NFID recognizes her work as an influential scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases and public health.

Richard E. Besser, MD, has been selected to receive the 2019 John P. Utz Leadership Award in recognition of his long-standing leadership and service to the field of infectious diseases. Dr. Besser is president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and former acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he led the CDC response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009. In his former role as chief health and medical editor for ABC News, he provided medical analysis to help the public better understand medical news stories and covered critical global health issues, including reporting on the Ebola epidemic in Liberia in 2014. His weekly health chats on social media reached millions. The award was established in honor of the late John P. Utz, MD, one of the original founders of NFID.

The awards will be presented at the 2019 NFID Annual Awards Dinner on May 9, 2019 in Washington, DC. For additional information, visit www.nfid.org/awards.

About the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

Founded in 1973, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to educating the public and healthcare professionals about the burden, causes, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases across the lifespan. Visit www.nfid.org for more information.

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