NFID Presents Three Distinguished Awards at Annual Gala

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) honored Dr. George C. Hill, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Dr. R. Palmer Beasley, at its annual Awards Dinner on March 22, 2011. The prestigious black-tie event was held at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Dr. Beasley received the Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement, which is presented to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health. Dr. Tedros was honored with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award, which is awarded to individuals whose humanitarian efforts and achievement have contributed significantly to improving the health of people throughout the world. NFID Past President George Hill received the John P. Utz Leadership Award, which is presented to individuals who have provided exemplary service, leadership, and vision on behalf of NFID.

The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement

For his trailblazing research on the causes and prevention of hepatitis B and liver cancer, R. Palmer Beasley, MD is the recipient of the 2011 Maxwell Finland Award.

The Award is named in memory of the late Dr. Maxwell Finland, a distinguished scholar, scientist and teacher. A former member of the NFID Board of Directors, Dr. Finland was a driving force in shaping infectious diseases training programs in the United States and in defining the discipline of infectious diseases as we know it today. Dr. Finland was a pioneer in the diagnosis, treatment, and epidemiology of bacterial infections, the evaluation of antimicrobials, and the demonstration of the evolving problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Through extensive investigations, Dr. Beasley and his colleagues proved that the hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a primary cause of liver cancer. Transmission from mothers to infants during childbirth was found to be the driving force for transmission of hepatitis B in many settings. As a result of Dr. Beasley’s findings, immunization programs around the world have prevented untold numbers of deaths. “The studies led by Dr. Beasley were incredible in terms of size and thoroughness. His long-term follow-up rates of over 95% are unparalleled in such clinical trials,” stated Herbert L. DuPont, MD, Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

From 1969 to 1986, Dr. Beasley served first as assistant professor, then associate professor, then professor of preventive medicine in the department of epidemiology at the University of Washington. Also in 1979 he became director of the American University Medical Center in Taipei, Taiwan.

In 1972 he moved to Taiwan where he did full time research on HBV for fourteen years. Continuing to work for the University of Washington, Dr. Beasley’s research base was at the US Naval Research Unit Number 2 (NAMRU-2) using facilities leased from National Taiwan University.

During his research, Dr. Beasley found a marker that pinpoints which infected mothers will pass the hepatitis B virus on to their offspring and he established that hepatitis B human immune globulin (HBIG) could protect children from the virus. “Through developing the hepatitis B vaccine he made an impact that was

(AWARDS, continued on page 3)
14th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research Scheduled

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will sponsor the Fourteenth Annual Conference on Vaccine Research on May 16 – 18, 2011, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference is designed to bring together the diverse disciplines involved in the research and development of vaccines. Expert faculty from a variety of disciplines will present the latest vaccine-related scientific data, results, and issues via symposia and panel discussions. The American Pharmacists Association, American Veterinary Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research-Food and Drug Administration, the Center for Vaccine Development-University of Maryland, Emory Vaccine Center, Fondation Mérieux, International Association for Biologicals, the International Vaccine Institute, the Jenner Society, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute, Sealy Center for Vaccine Development – University of Texas Medical Branch, Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists, and the United States Department of Agriculture are collaborating organizations for the conference.

The conference plenary sessions will focus on the following topics:

- One Health Initiatives
- Advances and Challenges in the Development of Herpesvirus Vaccines
- Status of HIV Vaccines
- Genomics and Vaccines
- Special Populations in Immunology
- Alternative Animal Models in Vaccine Discovery

Ron N. Germain, MD, PhD, National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health (NIH) will present the Mary Lou Clements-Mann Memorial Lecture in Vaccine Sciences.

New to the conference is an academic vaccinology workshop: Writing and Submitting
A vaccine program was launched in Taiwan in 1984. Eight years later, following Dr. Beasley’s leadership, the World Health Assembly designated it as the seventh global vaccine.

Upon accepting the Finland Award Dr. Beasley thanked many colleagues integral to his success. One of these individuals was Dr. Finland himself, who he worked with as a fellow at Boston City Hospital. “The enormous impact of Maxwell Finland came from the large number of people he trained, year after year, decade after decade that really established what our fellowship and our expertise represents for American infectious diseases,” said Dr. Beasley. He also thanked the 50 members of his team who have worked in the area of hepatitis since 1972.

“Dr. Beasley has saved countless lives from cirrhosis and liver cancer through his work on the epidemiology and prevention of hepatitis B,” according to Dr. DuPont. “He is a giant in the field of infectious diseases.”

Dr. R. Palmer Beasley is Ashbel Smith Professor, Epidemiology, Dean Emeritus, and is Director of the Center for International Training and Research at the University of Texas, School of Public Health in Houston.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award is named for President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter, who as outstanding humanitarians have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for people worldwide. They are co-founders of The Carter Center, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization based in Atlanta and dedicated to improving the quality of life. Through the Carter Center, President and Mrs. Carter have worked to resolve conflict peacefully, promote democracy, protect human rights, prevent illness and eradicate disease.
A pioneer in malaria research, Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD has devoted his life to public service and scientific research. Prior to his appointment as health minister in 2005, Dr. Tedros served in a number of leadership positions within the Ministry at both federal and regional levels, including, as Minister of State and Head of the Tigray Regional Health Bureau.

Dr. Tedros is recognized for his leadership in the rapidly evolving field of global health, and has worked to enhance Ethiopia’s active engagement in major international forums. He has served as the board chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since July 2009 and represents Ethiopia as the Chair of the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Health of the African Union (CAMH4) since May 2009. At the national level, he also serves on a number of leading advisory bodies, including as board chair of the Addis Ababa University.

“In his five years as Ethiopia’s Minister of Health,” says John Hardman, MD, President and CEO of The Carter Center, “Dr. Tedros has embarked on an ambitious effort to improve the health of Ethiopians through efforts to address specific diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, and to improve the structure and capacity of Ethiopia for health services, with a special emphasis on maternal care.”

Dr. Tedros has worked to ensure that 50 million citizens at risk of contracting malaria in Ethiopia receive bed nets to prevent the spread of the disease. This effort is considered to be the most successful public health effort in the country’s history. “In addition, Minister Tedros’ work in the area of HIV/AIDS has led to a decrease in prevalence of the disease from 6.6% in 2002 to 2.3% in 2009,” stated Dr. Hardman.

As he accepted the Carter Award, Dr. Tedros discussed the vision of the Ethiopian government to continue to educate the community and reduce the number of AIDS and malaria related deaths. The community has trained 34,000 community members to work in rural areas to educate the public and provide treatment. “As a result we are beginning to see the positive economic effects of a healthier population, particularly among rural communities, where valuable time and effort previously lost to these diseases and poor access to services is now being invested in productive activities. None of this would be possible without the firm commitment of our government, without strong commitment and hard work of our health professionals or without the steadfast and flexible support provided by our partners. But we also realize there is much more to be done,” said Dr. Tedros.

**John P. Utz Leadership Award**

George C. Hill, PhD, received the 2011 John P. Utz Leadership Award, which is given to individuals that have worked tirelessly in a leadership capacity, on behalf of NFID. Dr. Utz was a champion in the fight against infectious diseases, and a founder of NFID. Dr. Hill joined NFID’s Board of Directors in 1999 and served as President from 2008 - 2010. Dr. Hill was honored for his outstanding dedicated service to the Foundation.

Previous recipients of the John P. Utz Award include Dr. Donald M. Poretz in 2007, Dr. Carol J. Baker in 2009, and Len Novick in 2010.

**Honorary Co-Chairs Host Gala Event**

The honorary co-chairs for the dinner were former President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter and former President William Jefferson Clinton. C. Douglas Webb, Jr., PhD, Chairman of the NFID Board of Trustees and Patrick Joseph, MD, NFID Vice President, served as co-chairs for the gala.
Adult Pneumococcal Disease Webcast

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is pleased to announce the availability of a webcast on demand – Adult Pneumococcal Disease: A Neglected Crisis? The webcast is based on the CME/CE Symposium held during the 45th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Anaheim, California on December 6, 2010.

The webcast begins with a Call-to-Action followed by evidence-based presentations and an expert panel discussion to identify and address challenges healthcare professionals face in preventing and managing pneumococcal disease.

Pneumococcal disease remains a leading cause of infectious disease in adults. Serious manifestations, such as pneumonia and bacteremia, are associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Pneumococcal disease places a heavy financial burden on the healthcare system due to frequent hospitalization of these patients. Additionally, surveillance studies demonstrate widespread resistance to commonly-used antimicrobials, further challenging clinicians in selecting appropriate therapy.

The challenges of pneumococcal disease can be addressed through improved prevention and management tactics. Early appropriate antimicrobial therapy is essential for optimal clinical outcomes. Furthermore, pneumococcal vaccination assists in protecting at-risk adults from these infections.

The webcast is offered in two formats: PDF (printable and downloadable) and flip-page version (interactive).

This activity was planned to meet the needs of pharmacists, physicians, and other healthcare providers who are interested in learning more about prevention and management of pneumococcal disease. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases designates this enduring material for a maximum of 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. The University of Illinois at Chicago has assigned 2.0 contact hours of continuing pharmacy education credits for this activity. Webinar participants may apply for CME and Pharmacy CE credits through January 14, 2012. To view the webinar visit: www.nfid.org.

Calendar of NFID Events and Meetings

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For more information about NFID sponsored events and meetings, please contact:
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