

NFID Honors Distinguished Physicians

The **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases** (NFID) honored **Adetokunbo Lucas, MD, Paul A. Offit, MD, and William Schaffner, MD** at its annual Awards Dinner on March 5, 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City in Arlington, VA.

The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement was presented to Dr. Offit for his outstanding work in the pediatric vaccine arena and his ongoing commitment to vaccine advocacy. The award is given annually to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases or public health. Dr. Lucas was the recipient of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award for his lifelong commitment to global public health in the area of neglected tropical diseases. This award recognizes outstanding humanitarian efforts and achievements that have improved the health of humankind. The John P. Utz Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Schaffner. This award is presented to individuals who have worked tirelessly in a leadership capacity on behalf of NFID.

The Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement

The Maxwell Finland Award is named in memory of the late **Maxwell Finland, MD** a distinguished scholar, scientist, and teacher. Dr. Finland, a former member of the NFID Board of Directors, was a driving force in shaping infectious diseases training program 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.

The 2013 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement recipient, Paul A. Offit, MD, is a pediatrician, researcher, academician, administrator, advocate, and author. Dr. Offit has worked vigorously to rally the scientific counteroffensive against those who would denigrate the power and worth of vaccines. Dr. Offit is the co-inventor of RotaTeq[®] rotavirus vaccine now recommended for universal use in infants in the US and widely used in other countries. "He shares in the credit for saving hundreds of lives worldwide on a daily basis," noted **Vijay B. Samant**, president and CEO of Vical.

Dr. Offit graduated from Tufts University in 1973 and the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1977. He then became an intern and resident in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. In 1980 he received a fellowship in infectious diseases at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He was appointed to the pediatrics faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and served as a research investigator at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology in 1982. He also worked at the Stanford University School of Medicine for several



Dr. Paul Offit (second from left) receives the Maxwell Finland Award (pictured from left to right) Dr. Thomas M. File, Jr., NFID president, Dr. Walter Orenstein, NFID Vice President and Dr. Stanley A. Plotkin.

years during the mid-1980's, first as a research associate in the Department of Medical Biology and then as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

While advancing his career in the 1980's, Dr. Offit, along with colleagues **Stanley Plotkin, MD** and **Fred Clark, MD**, conducted studies on rotavirus "that allowed us to figure out which parts of the virus evoked protective immunity and which parts of the virus basically made you sick. And then to separate those two things out so we could have the best of both worlds," said Dr. Offit.

Today, Dr. Offit is the chief of the division of infectious diseases and director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He has received numerous awards including the Jonas Salk Bronze Medal from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) in 2006, the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the National Meningitis Association in 2009, and NFID's Charles Mérieux Award in 2009. He has also been honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics and by the Bill and Melinda Gates at their foundation's Living Proof Project for Global Health. Dr. Offit has written many books and has published more than 140 papers in medical and scientific publications, primarily on rotavirus-specific immune responses and vaccine safety. In addition, he is a co-editor of *Vaccines*, a leading textbook on immunization.

"Paul Offit is a most appropriate candidate for the Maxwell Finland Award for his broad influence on the pediatric vaccine fields, from his development of the life-saving rotavirus vaccine, to his exemplary pediatric practice, to his staunch support of childhood immunizations against zealous opponents," say Mr. Samant. "His insightful and approachable style of writing has helped bridge the gap between medical research and the general public. His legacy must include both the hundreds of thousands of lives already saved by the rotavirus vaccine, and the millions more that will be saved by his advocacy for prudent vaccine policy."

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award

Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas is the recipient of the 2013 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award. He was nominated by **President Jimmy Carter** for his lifelong excellence and contributions as clinician, medical educator, researcher, administrator, policy specialist, author, and public health leader. "His work has benefited Nigeria, Africa and the world and are the monumental legacy of a great humanitarian and global citizen," said President Carter.

Over the past 50 years, Dr. Lucas has been involved with nearly every public health issue in Nigeria. "From medical research to health policy," stated **Mark L. Rosenberg, MD**, president and CEO for the Task Force for Global Health, "he has made important contributions at the local, national and global levels in the area of infectious diseases, chronic diseases, maternal mortality and safe motherhood."

Dr. Lucas directed the Tropical Diseases Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO), and was instrumental in combating six major tropical diseases - malaria, schistosomiasis, the trypanosomiasis, the leishmaniases, the filariases, and leprosy. He coordinated networks of cooperating scientists, institutions, and industry representatives and, Dr. Rosenberg says, "brought about many scientific advances as well as the development of new and improved technologies such as multiple drug therapy for the control of leprosy."



Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas (second from left) receives the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award from Dr. John Hardman, Dr. Patrick Joseph, NFID President-Elect and Dr. Thomas M. File, NFID President.

Over the decades, Dr. Lucas has served on many boards and panels, including the Governing Board of the Global Fund for Fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He has also served on the International Task Force for Disease Eradication, which was formed at the Carter Center in the late 1980s to evaluate the prevention and control of some diseases and the eradication of others. The task force identified seven diseases that could be eradicated - dracaculiasis, poliomyelitis, mumps, rubella, lymphatic filariasis, cysticercosis, and measles, as well as several others. "It is fitting that Dr. Lucas has served on this Task Force since its inception, because he has contributed many of the advances that have made the elimination of these diseases possible," stated Dr. Rosenberg.

Dr. Lucas has published numerous papers, has written several books and contributed to many textbooks and medical journals. He has received multiple awards including the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1983 and Harvard's 350th Anniversary Medal in 1986.

The John P. Utz Leadership Award

Dr. William Schaffner, NFID past president, was honored with the John P. Utz Leadership Award. Dr. Schaffner continues to champion the organization's mission and serves as an advocate while reporting timely infectious diseases topics in the media. He has been a member of the NFID Board of Directors since 2001 and served as president from 2010-2012.



Dr. William Schaffner receives the John P. Utz Leadership Award from NFID President, Dr. Thomas M. File, Jr.

Event Chairs

President Carter and **Mrs. Carter** served as honorary co-chairs for the Awards Dinner. The dinner was chaired by **Walter A. Orenstein, MD**, NFID Vice President. For additional information and to view photos and a video from the event, visit: <http://www.nfid.org/awards/nfidawards/2013awards.html>.

National Survey on Teen Health

A recent study shows that 18 million teens miss out on annual checkups. The **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases** (NFID), in collaboration with Pfizer Inc., recently conducted a national survey including more than 2,000 parents, teens, and healthcare professionals to obtain a better understanding of perceptions about teen health.

A key study finding was that one in four parents surveyed said that teens' lifestyle choices today won't affect their health in the future, and one in five teens surveyed agreed. The disconnect among parents and teens between today's choices and future impacts on health contrasts with research that shows health behaviors in the teen years can have a long-term impact on health in adulthood.

"NFID has long been an advocate of preventive health. With the drop in annual checkups during the teen years, we wanted to take a look at the attitudes and behaviors of the people closest to teen health to see if we can better understand the reason for the decline," said **Susan J. Rehm, MD**, NFID medical director. "There's a gap in our healthcare continuum, and two out of three teens surveyed said they have at least one reason for not getting an annual checkup. If we understand why, we will be better equipped to address those perceptions."

The survey revealed a number of misperceptions and missed opportunities, including:

- * Of the nearly 60 percent of teens surveyed who do not get annual checkups, about one-third believe that they only need to see a doctor when sick.
- * When teens are joined by a parent in the exam room, it restricts the conversation, according to 84 percent of physicians surveyed.
- * While physicians surveyed assumed teens' friends were their most trusted source for health information, teens actually list healthcare professionals as their most trusted source for health information.

Nearly all parents, teens, and healthcare professionals surveyed agree that teens should have a say in decisions about their own health. And the survey shows that being healthy is top of mind; two out of three teens surveyed say they worry a lot or a great deal about staying healthy. However, only 28 percent of parents reported that they believe their teens worry a lot or a great deal about their health.

The study showed that while teens trust doctors, they don't necessarily like talking with them. Almost 40 percent of teens surveyed say they don't like talking to doctors. And 50 percent of the teens surveyed turn to the Internet for health information, despite the fact that they don't trust information found online as much as they do information from doctors and parents.

"The information and communication dynamic among teens, parents, and doctors is an important one," said **Leslie Walker, MD**, immediate past-president of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) and division chief of adolescent medicine and professor of pediatrics at University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children's Hospital. "It's appropriate for teens to be able to talk to their doctor alone. Establishing this one-on-one relationship between patient and physician encourages independence and responsibility for one's own health."

Additional information and full survey results are available at adolescentvaccination.org or myteenhealth.com.

Pneumococcal Disease Advisory Board Update

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) recently convened a webinar for its Pneumococcal Disease Advisory Board to provide an update, review goals and accomplishments, and solicit feedback on future activities of the awareness initiative.

The Pneumococcal Disease Advisory Board, formed almost five years ago, developed a plan of action to increase awareness among all audiences about the seriousness of adult pneumococcal disease and the importance of prevention. The initiative involves a three-tiered approach to reach key audiences identified: 1) specialist and public health audiences; 2) physicians and other healthcare professionals; and 3) the public. The organizational partners of the initiative have been essential in advancing communications and helping to reach target audiences. The messages communicated are in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations.

A pneumococcal task force was convened in 2011 to prioritize barriers to pneumococcal vaccination among US adults and identify solutions. Healthcare professionals, public health

officials, and consumer educators representing more than 20 organizations participated. The resulting call-to-action documents focus on:

- Prevention in adults with chronic health conditions
- Overcoming disparities in disease impact and immunization rates
- The role of various healthcare professionals in vaccination efforts, and
- Approaches for increasing prevention in older adults

Additional outreach tools include a Pneumococcal Disease Public Health Toolkit, as well as a Pneumococcal Disease Professional Practice Toolkit.

The pneumococcal disease awareness initiative has been funded by unrestricted educational grants from Pfizer Inc. For information regarding available toolkits, visit: www.adultvaccination.org/professional-resources. Additional information regarding NFID's adult vaccination initiatives is available at adultvaccination.org.

Social Media

NFID now shares news of interest related to infectious diseases through the following social media platforms:

Please [connect with us on LinkedIn](#) , [follow us on Twitter](#) , [like us on Facebook](#) , and [read our blog \(NFID News\)](#) 

Calendar of Events

NFID Clinical Vaccinology Course

November 15-17, 2013
Boston, MA

17th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

April 28-30, 2014
Bethesda, MD

18th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research

April 13-15, 2015
Bethesda, MD

