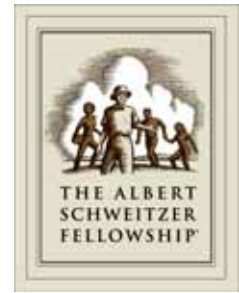


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Dr. H. Jack Geiger to Receive Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism at October Schweitzer Fellowship Conference in Baltimore

Past recipients include President Jimmy Carter, former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher

[September 13, 2010] Dr. H. Jack Geiger—who initiated the community health center model in the U.S., and who co-founded both Physicians for Human Rights and Physicians for Social Responsibility—will be honored with The Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism at [The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship](#) (ASF)'s [October 16 Conference](#) in Baltimore, MD.

“Dr. Geiger has spent the past five decades extending fundamental health services to millions of low-income patients, bringing professionals from numerous health disciplines together to advance civil and human rights, and inspiring others to follow in his footsteps by his powerful example. He brilliantly exemplifies Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s mantra that ‘example is not the *main* thing; it is the *only* thing,’” says Dr. Lachlan Forrow, president of ASF – a nonprofit organization that supports approximately 200 graduate student Schweitzer Fellows each year in creating and carrying out yearlong service projects that address unmet health needs.

The Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism was established in 1986 by Dr. h.c. Alfred Toepfer of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to advance the cause of humanitarianism in the United States through recognition of extraordinary achievement. Previously administered by Johns Hopkins University, the Prize is now presented by ASF on behalf of its Schweitzer Fellows for Life alumni network—an interdisciplinary pipeline of more than 2,000 Leaders in Service who are dedicated and skilled in addressing health disparities.

Past Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism honorees include U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush, Norman Cousins, Teresa Heinz Kerry, Dr. C. Everett Koop, Dr. Robert Lawrence, and Ted Turner.

Geiger will join their ranks on Saturday, October 16 at 3:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, where the presentation of the Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism will cap off an [ASF Conference](#) that also includes a keynote by Schweitzer Fellow for Life Wynona Ward, a 2010 *CNN Hero* who has dedicated her life to ending the cycle of domestic violence in rural communities.

Combining community-oriented primary care, public health interventions, and civil rights and community empowerment and development initiatives, Geiger initiated the community health center model in the U.S. He co-founded and directed the country’s first two community health centers (in Columbia Point, Boston and in the Mississippi Delta), and he was a leader in the development of the national health center network of more than 1,100 urban, rural, and migrant centers currently serving an estimated 20 million low-income patients.

Geiger is a founding member (1961) and past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1985. He is

also a founding member (1986) and past president of Physicians for Human Rights, a national organization of health professionals whose goals are to bring the skills of the medical profession to the investigation and documentation of human rights abuses, violations of medical neutrality, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to provide medical and humanitarian aid to victims of repression. The organization shared in the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1998.

About The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) and the Fellows for Life Conference

ASF is a national nonprofit organization whose [mission](#) is to address health disparities by developing Leaders in Service: individuals who are dedicated and skilled in meeting the health needs of underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others.

These Fellows — primarily university graduate students — partner with community-based organizations to identify an unmet health need, design a yearlong 200-hour service project with a demonstrable impact on that need, and bring that project from idea to implementation and impact. Rooted in a holistic understanding of health, Schweitzer projects address not only clinical issues, but also the social determinants of health—defined by the World Health Organization as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and which are mostly responsible for health inequities. Annually, Schweitzer Fellows deliver more than 40,000 hours of health-related community service at [twelve locations across the U.S.](#) A number of Schweitzer Fellows also work at the Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Africa, collaborating with hospital staff to help provide skilled care through over 35,000 outpatient visits and more than 6,000 hospitalizations annually for patients from all parts of Gabon.

When Fellows' initial year ends, they carry their commitment to meeting the health needs of underserved people forward as members of the [Schweitzer Fellows for Life](#) alumni network, now more than 2,000 strong.

Members of that network will gather on October 16, 2010 for the [4th Annual Schweitzer Fellows for Life Conference](#)—which provides a unique opportunity for these individuals to partake in dynamic, interdisciplinary dialogue about our nation's most pressing health needs; engage with leaders like Geiger who are advancing the movement to eliminate health disparities; and come away with both a deepened commitment to meeting the health needs of underserved people, and sharpened skills that make living up to that commitment possible.

For more information, or to request a press pass to the Schweitzer Fellows for Life Conference, contact Patrice Taddonio at 617.667.5628 or ptaddonio@bidmc.harvard.edu.