



Fred L. Soper Award for Excellence in Health Literature Guidelines

Background

This award honors Dr. Fred L. Soper, director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau from 1947 to 1959, and his outstanding contributions to health in the Americas. The award recognizes Dr. Soper for his many significant contributions to research and control of infectious diseases in the Americas.

Qualifications

The award is intended to stimulate excellence in medical/public health research and literature and recognizes a significant contribution in the Region of Americas. Only articles published in scientific journals listed in the PubMed/MEDLINE from the previous year of the nomination or in the official journals of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are eligible for consideration.

A paper selected for the Fred L. Soper Award will have high and far-reaching impact on policy and research with a focus in the Region of the Americas. Impact may be measured at different levels of the public health field which may include: civil society/federal/state/municipal levels, physicians/nurses/associations/health care providers, non-governmental organizations, hospitals, managers, policymakers, etc. Nominations of publications related to infectious diseases are encouraged, but are not required. At least one of the article's authors must be affiliated with a teaching, research, or service institution located in the countries of Latin America or the Caribbean. The nomination may be submitted in Spanish or English.

Staff members, consultants, and interns in active service of PAHO, WHO, and other UN agencies; current official representatives to PAHO's governing bodies (e.g., ministers of health); sitting members of the Pan American Health and Education Foundation's (PAHEF) board of trustees; PAHEF staff, consultants, advisors, and interns; and members of the Fred L. Soper Award jury are ineligible to receive the award.

Form of the Award

The award consists of a cash prize, a certificate of honor, and a paid trip for the awardee to attend the annual meeting of the PAHO Directing Council and be a guest of honor at PAHEF/PAHO's awards program event in Washington, DC.

Funding the Award

The Fred L. Soper Award will be administered by PAHEF, seeking voluntary contributions, from time to time, to augment a fund created in 1994 by friends of Dr. Soper.

Awards Jury

The awards jury will consist of five members: three appointed by PAHEF, two by the director of PAHO; one of which is the chairperson of the PAHO Advisory Research Committee, who will serve as ex-officio. The ex-officio member will continue in service for two, three-year terms, after which he/she will be asked to continue or to appoint a designee. Jurors will serve a three-year term and will be eligible for re-appointment for an additional three years, after which the member must step down for one year before possible consideration of re-appointment. In the year 2000, jurors were assigned one, two and three-year terms in order to start the process of rotation and assure overlap of membership experience. Jurors must be able to read in both English and Spanish.

A representative of PAHEF will serve as a non-voting jury secretary. All jury members must complete a conflict of interest form to participate in the vetting process. The jury will elect its own chair annually, and the chair leads jury deliberations and serves in this position throughout the year. The chair also writes a summary about the winning candidate that addresses why he or she was selected. This paragraph is used as a basis for communications to the board of trustees about the jury's selection to the PAHO Directing Council and to other various stakeholders, including the media and visitors to PAHEF's Web site. The final selection by the jury is sent to PAHEF's board of trustees for final approval and acceptance.

Nominating and Selection Process

Nominations must be completed online (www.pahef.org/awards), and include:

- Letter of nomination (two-page limit) signed by the nominator
- A clearly readable copy of the nominated article
- Proof that the article appeared in the 2009 PubMed/MEDLINE or an official PAHO journal
- 400-word impact statement
- Curriculum vitae of the nominee

Award Promotion

The call for nominations will be distributed widely via e-mail to relevant organizations and published in scientific journals or on their Web sites, list serves, newsletters, the PAHO network, the leadership of national or international public health institutions, ministries of health, agencies, administrations, professional societies, professional colleagues, non-governmental organizations, civil societies, scientific societies, etc.

The deadline for receipt of nominations will be set annually and will generally be in June. PAHEF staff will collate the nominations received and make them available to the awards jury for their consideration. The jury will correspond via e-mail/SharePoint/conference call/in-person meeting in Washington, etc. to discuss the nominations and recommend a winner to PAHEF's board of trustees. PAHEF, with the help and input of the PWR's office in the country of the awardee, is responsible for completing the appropriate due diligence on the candidate who is selected to receive the award. Given the timing of the award presentation and the semi-annual meeting schedule of the board of trustees, the executive committee may act to accept the award winner.