



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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HVO Members Recognized for Commitment to Global Health

[Washington, DC - April 7, 2009] Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is pleased to announce the recipients of its fourth annual *Golden Apple Award*. As part of its World Health Day observances, HVO created this award to recognize the extraordinary educational contributions of volunteers to international program sites. Each HVO volunteer honored with this award has demonstrated a strong commitment to HVO's educational mission by working on curriculum development, teacher training, didactic or clinical training, or the enhancement of educational resources.

The recipients of the 2009 *Golden Apple Awards* are: Caroline Dueger, MD, MPH, DTM&H; Kim Dunleavy, PT, PhD, OCS; Richard Henker, PhD, RN, CRNA; Elizabeth Kay, PT, PhD; Barbara Latenser, MD, FACS; Benedict Magsamen, MD; Joseph E. Sheppard, MD; and David Spiegel, MD. These volunteers combined have served over 8,160 hours at HVO's various program sites.

Many of these honorees have also served in leadership positions for HVO overseeing the development of new programs, monitoring the progress of active programs, identifying educational resources for sites, and serving as mentors to their colleagues overseas.

“Margaret Mead said, ‘anything that really embodies our deepest commitment to the way that human life should be lived and cared for, depends on some form of volunteerism.’ These volunteers have made such a commitment to serve in areas where resources are scarce but the interest in learning is vast,” stated Dr. David Frost, HVO Board Chair. “I am very proud of the work these volunteers are doing to improve health care around the world.”

According to reports from the World Health Organization, the global shortage of health care workers is estimated to be 4.3 million, with the greatest shortages occurring in the poorest countries. The Global Health Workforce Alliance stated, “The global community has clearly recognized that the health workforce is the very heart of functioning health systems, and that without greater quantity and quality of motivated, equally distributed health workers, progress

towards health and development goals will not be possible.” 2008 brought increased pledges by the G8 community to increase the global health care workforce but the economic crisis may dampen efforts to enact those pledges.

The efforts of HVO’s *Golden Apple Award* recipients are an integral part of HVO’s response to the global health workforce shortage. By highlighting the achievements and contributions of the *Golden Apple Award* recipients, HVO fosters an awareness of global health issues, especially the human resource shortage, which serves as a serious constraint to the delivery of health care around the world.

World Health Day is celebrated annually by the World Health Organization and the international community. Since 1950, it has been held each year on April 7th and focuses on a relevant global health issue. This year’s theme is “*Save lives. Make hospitals safe in emergencies.*” It focuses on the need for building secure health care facilities that can withstand hazards and serve as a safe haven for treatment. For more information about World Health Day 2009, visit (<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/index.html>).

A private, non-profit membership organization, HVO was founded in 1986 to improve global health through education. HVO designs and implements clinical education programs in child health, primary care, trauma and rehabilitation, essential surgical care, oral health, hematology and oncology, infectious disease, nursing education and wound care. In more than 25 resource-poor nations, volunteers train, mentor, and provide critical professional support to health care providers who care for the neediest populations in the most difficult of circumstances. For more information about volunteering, visit the HVO web site (www.hvousing.org).

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