



**RISING STARS, LUMINARY LEADERS AND OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONS
MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT
Inaugural Global Health Impact Awards Finalists Announced
by Washington Global Health Alliance**

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SEATTLE, Wash. (September 27, 2021): Recognizing leaders who made significant advancements in global health in 2020, the Washington Global Health Alliance (WGHA) will present the first-ever Global Health Impact Awards on October 14. Three award categories consist of Rising Star, Luminary Leader, and Organizational Impact. WGHA unveils the 11 individual and organizational finalists for the inaugural awards, with one winner in each category to be announced during an award ceremony the evening of October 14.

WGHA president and CEO Maurizio Vecchione states, “These awards shine a spotlight on the incredible people and organizations in the global health industry, centered here in Washington state. The Global Health Impact Awards are a celebration of this community and its achievements, particularly in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Category and finalist details:

Rising Star Award / Awarded to an individual age 40 or under (as of Oct 14, 2021) who is making an exceptional impact in a global health organization or initiative. Finalists are:

- Philip Kenol, multilateral policy and advocacy officer at Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)
- Dr. Patricia Pavlinac, PhD, MS, assistant professor, Department of Global Health at the University of Washington
- Lisa Smith, senior market dynamics officer at PATH and the project director of the COVID-19 Respiratory Care Response Coordination Initiative
- Dr. Deborah Thomsen, founder and president of OneHealthLessons

Luminary Leader Award / Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a relentless commitment to the global health community. Finalists are:

- Dr. Connie Celum, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Global Health at the University of Washington
- Matthew Hepburn, director, Vaccine Development, Countermeasures Acceleration Group (formerly Operation Warp Speed)
- Dr. Nanthalile Mugala, chief of Africa region, PATH
- Dr. Rachel Nugent, vice president and director for the Center for Global Noncommunicable Diseases at RTI International



Organizational Impact Award / Awarded to an organization making an extraordinary impact in improving global health equity (taking into account impact relative to size and scope of financial and staff resources). Finalists are:

- COVID-19 Prevention Network (part of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center)
- Equalize Health
- Health Alliance International

Vecchione adds, “Washington is the Silicon Valley of global health. This industry is a significant resource in our state, and the pandemic has underscored its importance. These organizations work in every country in the world and have collectively saved millions of lives. As an \$8 billion industry anchored here and employing roughly 14,000 people, we want to illuminate its work and success.”

Sponsors for the inaugural Global Health Impact Awards include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Columbia Bank, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Providence, and We Work for Health Washington. Event partners include the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR), Punch Drunk Studio, and RTI International.

ABOUT Washington Global Health Alliance

The Washington Global Health Alliance (WGHA) connects and informs the global health community, creating a culture of collaboration among members to increase their collective impact in the world.

Media Note: Please contact Susan Ward at 206-786-0094 or susan@teamssoapbox.com to virtually attend the Global Health Impact Awards ceremony at 7:00 pm PST October 14; schedule an interview with WGHA president Maurizio Vecchione or any of the finalists; or for other additional information.

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