



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE

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Advancing global health since 1903

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### **2015 Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellows in Tropical Medicine Announced**

Today, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) announced the 2015 recipients of the Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship in Tropical Medicine. Through a highly competitive process, 21 Fellows from 16 medical schools were selected.

The unique Fellowship is the only medical student award dedicated to nurturing a career path for physician-scientists in tropical medicine. It is awarded annually to full-time medical students at accredited medical schools in North America. Fellows receive airfare and up to \$1,000 in living expenses for a clinical training or research project that takes place in an area where tropical diseases are endemic.

“The future of global health and tropical medicine is in great hands with a group as dynamic and committed as this class of Fellows,” said Kean Fellowship Committee Chair, Chandy John, MD, MS, Indiana University. “Headlines and news reports remind us that diseases that affect people in the tropics can have worldwide consequences. These fellows will be part of the next generation working to alleviate the suffering and long-term disability caused by these diseases.”

“My own career in tropical medicine and global health started when Dr. Ben Kean arranged a travel award from a grateful patient that enabled me to do research on cholera treatment in Indonesia,” said ASTMH President Christopher V. Plowe, MD, MPH, FASTMH. “The ASTMH Kean Traveling Fellowship emulates this transformative experience by making overseas training possible for students interested in tropical diseases, and works to build the ranks of physician-scientists focused on diseases in low-income countries. As a Society, our goal is guide these future leaders towards fulfilling careers helping to improve the lives of the millions of people who suffer needlessly from tropical diseases.”

The Fellowship is named to honor Benjamin H. Kean, MD, (1912-1993), an internationally acclaimed tropical medicine expert and personal mentor to many of today’s world-renowned tropical medicine experts who were inspired by him as his students in medical school. Kean is also credited with discovering the causes of several diseases, including turista or travelers’ diarrhea.

Kean was a teacher, researcher and practitioner who was committed to the idea that early, hands-on experience in the developing world is the best way to stimulate a career in tropical medicine, and he was instrumental in helping medical students obtain these experiences.

The complete list of the 2015 Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellows in Tropical Medicine is available on the Ben Kean Travel Fellowship website. The next call for applications will be available on the ASTMH website in January 2016.

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## **About the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**

ASTMH, founded in 1903, is a worldwide organization of scientists, clinicians and program professionals whose mission is to promote global health through the prevention and control of infectious and other diseases that disproportionately afflict the global poor.

The *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, continuously published since 1921 is the peer-reviewed journal of ASTMH and is the world's leading voice in the fields of tropical medicine and global health. *AJTMH* disseminates new knowledge in fundamental, translational, clinical and public health sciences focusing on improving global health.