

## American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

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## **ASTMH Announces Alan J. Magill Fellowship and Forums**

Partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will offer career and leadership development to low/low-middle income country mid-career professionals

November 14, 2016 – The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) is pleased to announce the Alan J. Magill Fellowship and Forums, created in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through a \$2.5 million grant. Over the next 20 years, the fellowship will annually select a Magill Fellow and hold two annual forums focusing on the latest research and science policy/funding for malaria eradication efforts. The announcement was made during the ASTMH 2016 Annual Meeting at the Alan J. Magill Malaria Eradication Symposium, the first of the forums.

This unique effort will honor the life, example, and legacy of Alan J. Magill, MD, FASTMH, a major leader in the global tropical medicine community and the president of ASTMH in 2014. Dr. Magill died unexpectedly in September 2015.

The Fellowship will provide a stipend of \$50,000 for up to two years to one annual recipient for mentorship and career development projects. Qualifications are in line with Dr. Magill's passion for creating leaders from less-wealthy nations where malaria is prevalent: eligible applicants must be early-to-mid career ASTMH members in low/low-middle income countries who are focused on leadership development in research, clinical care or advocacy in tropical medicine. The Society is now accepting concept papers online for the first Fellowship, which will be awarded during the Society's 2017 Annual Meeting.

"Alan Magill was a true hero in the war against tropical diseases, especially malaria. He brought enormous talent, drive and vision to the global effort to eradicate malaria," said ASTMH Past President Christopher V. Plowe, MD, MPH, FASTMH. "This generous commitment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will help ensure that the next generations of malaria fighters—especially those from malaria-affected countries whose leadership Alan saw as so critical—will fulfill his dream of a world free of malaria."

"I'm proud of our Foundation's new partnership with ASTMH that will honor Alan's memory and advance the cause he championed," said Melinda Gates. "I look forward to the new forums and fellowships both strengthening collaboration and most of all, inspiring a new generation of young scientists. I am sure it will help us find more people like Alan Magill."

Recipients will be selected through a competitive process that recognizes outstanding work in tropical medicine research, clinical care or advocacy—all prominent roles in Dr. Magill's life. The Fellowship will support professional development and leadership opportunities beyond what might be currently available to young tropical medicine professionals in low/low-middle income countries. In doing so, the Fellowship will equip awardees with the skills and experience to later assume leadership and mentoring roles in various aspects of tropical medicine.

"We are grateful for this unique collaboration with the Gates Foundation, which has been with us every step of the way as together we created these fellowships and forums," said ASTMH President Stephen Higgs, PhD, FRES, FASTMH. "This effort will further our shared interest in advancing the science of tropical diseases like malaria, and foster excellence. We are closer than ever to a malaria-free world that Alan Magill envisioned—*Malaria Delenda Est*!"

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The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, founded in 1903, is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health. We accomplish this through generating and sharing scientific evidence, informing health policies and practices, fostering career development, recognizing excellence, and advocating for investment in tropical medicine/global health research. For more information, visit astmh.org