George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening

The George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening shall be given on the occasion of the APHL National [US] Newborn Screening and Genetic Testing Symposium to honor a person working in US newborn screening and judged by the Award Selection Committee to have made the greatest contribution to expanding or improving the screening of newborns by public health agencies in one or more states. The contribution of the recipient must have had a direct effect in improving the quality of life of newborns and their families. The award will be for work done since the previous award was presented or for lifetime achievements. Contributions to voluntary proprietary screening do not qualify for the award. Previous winners and winners of the International Society of Neonatal Screening (ISNS) Robert Guthrie Award are ineligible for nomination.

Nomination of the Award

Nomination for the George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening may be made by any person working in US newborn screening activities or a consumer thereof. The nomination must be accompanied by a statement of 100-200 words which describes the nature of the contribution. The statement may be accompanied by brief supporting information such as copies of publications, curriculum vitae or other documentation of the contribution. A person may not nominate more than one nominee each award period. Nominations, selection discussions, and accompanying materials will be kept confidential by the Award Selection Committee and the person receiving nominations except for information about the winner, which will be shared at the presentation ceremony.

Award Selection

The Award Selection Committee will include all previous Cunningham and Guthrie ISNS Award winners, if they desire to serve. Nominations will be solicited by the Organizing Committee of the 2014 Joint Meeting of the Newborn Screening and Genetic Testing Symposium and the International Society for Neonatal Screening. A list of nominees together with copies of the supporting information for each nominee will be circulated to all members of the Award Selection Committee. The method for voting will be determined by the Award Selection Committee. In case of balloting, each committee member will have one vote for the Award. The recipient of the Award must receive more than 50% of the votes cast. If no single nominee receives more than 50%, balloting will be repeated between the two nominees receiving the most votes. In the event of a tie, the Award Selection Committee shall allow the winner of the previous Cunningham Award to cast an extra vote. The voting committee may elect not to present an award if no nominations for outstanding contributions are received or if those received are deemed unworthy.

Announcement of the George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening

The 2014 George Cunningham Visionary Award in Newborn Screening recipient will be announced during the 2014 Joint Meeting of the Newborn Screening and Genetic Testing Symposium and the International Society for Neonatal Screening or at a function of the primary sponsor of the award in Atlanta, GA. The announcement will be accompanied by a brief biography of the recipient and an explanation of his or her contribution.

Send nominations for 2014 Award to: Jelili Ojodu, MPH
Director, Newborn Screening and Genetics
Association of Public Health Laboratories
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 700
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Email: jelili.ojodu@aphl.org

Nomination material should include (1) letter of nomination [100-200 words (English)], (2) two seconding letters, and (3) any supporting documentation. The deadline to submit a nomination is June 30, 2014.