



ASTMH Committee on Global Health (ACGH)

Official Subgroup of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

Adetokunbo Lucas Memorial Distinguished Achievement in Global Health Award

This award specifically honors the application of science through partnership and mentorship, and broadens the Society's recognition portfolio, ensuring that those who operationalize tropical medicine in the field are celebrated alongside those who make discoveries in the lab.

Eligibility

Open to any researcher, practitioner or policymaker more than 15 years from their terminal degree. It is not intended solely as a lifetime achievement award but rather recognizes a body of work—or a specific, transformative contribution—that has had a measurable impact on global health outcomes. Nominees may be from any country; ASTMH membership is a requirement.

Preference may be given to candidates whose work demonstrates:

- A commitment to equitable partnerships (North-South or South-South).
- A focus on implementation science that bridges the "last mile" in disease control.
- A legacy of training the next generation of global health leaders in LMICs.

Funding and Announcement

This award carries a commemorative plaque and an honorarium of \$1,000 USD. The awardee may use the funds for any Annual Meeting purpose, including travel and/or registration expenses to attend the meeting in National Harbor, Maryland.

The awardee will be acknowledged during the ASTMH Annual Meeting opening Awards Ceremony, and the physical award will be presented during the ACGH Business Meeting Symposium at the Annual Meeting. The awardee will be invited to deliver a presentation during that session, sharing insights from their work with the global health community.

Application Requirements

- ASTMH members and non-members may submit nominations; the nominee however needs to be an ASTMH member. **Self-nominations will not be accepted.**
- Joint nominations will be considered if the contributions are clearly the result of a sustained, equitable partnership (e.g., co-directors of a long-term field site).
- Nominations must include:

- **Brief CV** (four-page maximum).
- **Letter of Nomination** that clearly documents a sustained contribution to global health, detailing the nominee's impact on research, capacity building or policy.
- **Letters of Recommendation** (one letter is required; up to three may be submitted) that speak to the nominee's collaborative spirit and field impact.
- **Hi-resolution recent photo.**

Because the award criteria are for the overall contributions to the advancement of global health as manifested through the following categories below, nomination materials should describe accomplishments relevant to the following criteria:

- **Research & Implementation:** Description of major contributions to global health research, implementation science or policy change. Include metrics where possible (e.g., number of publications, programs scaled, patients reached).
- **Training & Mentorship:** Number of graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and in-country trainees. Evidence of commitment to building local capacity and fostering independent LMIC investigators.
- **Partnership & Equity:** Description of how the nominee's work exemplifies equitable collaboration. Preference may be given to nominees from underrepresented groups or those working on neglected populations/diseases.
- **Professional Service:** Service to ACGH, ASTMH or similar professional bodies; service on global health advisory panels; contributions to journal editing or grant review in the global health space.

Submission Timeline:

- [Submit your nomination online](#) beginning May 19, 2026.
- Application Deadline: June 15, 2026
- Nominations remain eligible for 3 years following submission; nominators may update packets annually.

Determination

Nominations will be reviewed by a **Selection Panel/GH Awards Subcommittee** chaired by the ACGH Immediate Past Chair and comprising at least two other senior members with expertise in global health equity and implementation. The Panel will strive for balance regarding gender, ethnicity and geographic representation reflective of the ACGH membership. The Panel is empowered to add additional members if specific scientific or regional expertise is required. An award may not be given every year if no suitable candidate is identified.

About the Award

The ACGH Award for Adetokunbo Lucas Memorial Distinguished Achievement in Global Health was proposed in 2026 and recognizes the most influential global health practitioners and

researchers for their contributions to the field of Global Health. Named after the late Prof. Adetokunbo Oluwole Lucas, MD (1931-2020). He was ASTMH Distinguished International Fellow (1987) and longtime ASTMH Member (since 1965). [Prof. Adetokunbo Lucas](#) was a pioneering global health leader whose career exemplified impactful mentorship, innovation and partnership. Key accomplishments include:

- **Leadership:** Served as the pioneering Director of the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) and was the first Nigerian Head of Preventive Medicine at the University of Ibadan.
- **Scientific & Policy Impact:** Under his TDR leadership, developed new therapies for malaria, river blindness (initiating a public-private partnership with Merck), elephantiasis and other diseases. Also launched the landmark Prevention of Maternal Mortality Program across Africa.
- **Global Advisory Roles:** Professor at Harvard University; first chair of Carnegie Corporation's program on health workforce strengthening; advisor to the Gates Foundation and The Carter Center.
- **Character & Legacy:** Remembered for a continuously inquisitive mind, wise counsel, infectious humor and deep commitment to mentorship. He is recognized as one of the 12 greatest disease fighters since 1950.

Key recognition for award guidelines: This profile highlights qualities to honor: pioneering program leadership, fostering partnerships, impactful global health contributions, lifelong mentorship and sustained ASTMH engagement.