

Geneva, 31 August 2006—**Essay Competition Winners Announced**

The Geneva-based Global Forum for Health Research and *The Lancet* today announce the winners of their first joint essay competition. The four winners are John Amuasi from Ghana, Lara Devgan from the USA, Horacio Ruiseño Escudero from Mexico and Ayesha Sania from Bangladesh.

The competition was open to young professionals (under 30) working on or interested in the broad spectrum of health research. The theme was ‘Combating disease and promoting health’.

Eligible entries totalled 104, 55 of which were from women. The entries came from young people of 30 different nationalities: 55 of them live in high-income countries (almost 53%), 14 in middle-income countries (13%) and 35 in low-income countries (34%).

In addition to the winners, two essays were highly commended: Svetha Venkatram from India and Timothy Yang from Singapore. Another 26 were commended.

See titles of winning essays below and, for full results, see the website www.globalforumhealth.org.

For their prize, the four winners will take part in Forum 10, the Global Forum’s 2006 annual meeting, whose overall theme was the title of the competition: ‘Combating disease and promoting health’. Forum 10 is to be held in Cairo from 29 October to 2 November, at the invitation of the Minister of Health and Population of Egypt.

The winning essays will be published in *The Lancet* online and a selection of shortlisted essays will be published on the Global Forum’s website as well as in print form, in time for Forum 10.

Competition organizers Susan Jupp and Sarah Ramsay said they were very pleased indeed with the response to this first competition. “The standard of texts was high and the variety of topics fascinating. We were interested to see what themes might be of particular concern to young professionals: HIV/AIDS, poverty, politics, responsibilities, health systems, gender, violence were all included,” commented Sarah Ramsay, Senior Editor of *The Lancet*.

Susan Jupp, the Global Forum for Health Research’s head of communications, agreed. “This sets an excellent standard. The competition provides an opportunity to draw attention to the ideas and the concerns of young professionals and to include them better in the Global Forum’s activities. We hope that next year we will be able to reach out much further and draw in many more high quality entries from all over the world.”—ENDS

The winners

John Amuasi “Moving from combating disease to winning against disease” (Ghana)

Lara Devgan “The bricks and mortar of sustainable health” (USA)

Horacio Ruiseño Escudero “What’s in a name?” (Mexico)

Ayesha Sania “First breath: who takes care of the newborn in the critical minutes immediately after birth?” (Bangladesh)

Highly commended

Svetha Venkatram “Inside her mind: combating childhood sexual abuse” (India)

Timothy Yang “The real disease” (Singapore)

The Global Forum for Health Research is an international nongovernmental organization, founded in 1998, and is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the governments of Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. It has a Geneva staff of 19 and an annual budget of US\$ 4 million. See www.globalforumhealth.org.

Forum 10, Cairo, Egypt, 29 October to 2 November 2006

Forum 11, Beijing, China, 29 October to 2 November 2007

For *The Lancet*, an independent and authoritative voice in global medicine, see www.thelancet.com

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