Founders Week 2012

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Entrepreneurs of the Year
WILLIAM BLATTNER, MD
ROBERT REDFIELD JR., MD



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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BIOPARK
LIFE SCIENCES CONFERENCE CENTER







ROBERT REDFIELD JR., MD

In recognition of their entrepreneurship in global HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and prevention, William Blattner and Robert Redfield Jr. are jointly awarded the University of Maryland Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2012.

The two scientists are associate directors and co-founders of the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where they are professors in the Department of Medicine. Primary among their entrepreneurial projects is building IHV's PEPFAR program in Africa and the Caribbean. PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, is the largest public health program in global history.

Blattner and Redfield have demonstrated impressive entrepreneurial capacity, creativity, and energy as pioneering experts in providing antiretroviral therapy to millions of patients and training thousands of health care providers in Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia,

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Guyana, and Haiti. Both Redfield and Blattner have all of the drive, creativity, persistence, and toughness that would be found in the character of the most successful biotechnology entrepreneur.

In uncharted waters, Blattner and colleagues in the IHV established the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) not for profit corporation as the mechanism that allowed \$294 million in grant funding to the University in the last nine years. The impact of this effort is best measured in the clinical care, treatment, and prevention services to 944,004 Nigerians who were counseled and tested for HIV; 896,555 mothers who were screened to prevent infections of their babies; 139,857 patients who received antiretroviral therapy; and 22,639 health care workers who were trained. The partnerships developed with the IHVN and multiple Nigerian universities position the University of Maryland, the Institute of Human Virology, and the School of Medicine for sustained benefit to our global research, clinical, and educational mission.

Since 2004, the IHV's Division of Clinical Care and Research, under the leadership of Redfield, has been awarded more than \$189 million for the development of a consortium known as AIDSRelief. Redfield has built dedicated teams of more than 200 faculty and staff who are providing emergency response training, building local health care capacity, and strengthening key institutional partners in the nine African and Caribbean countries.

These teams are committed to making a sustainable impact on current global health priorities, providing care and treatment for more than 500,000 people, making a significant overall contribution to the U.S. PEPFAR program. Based on the success of this business model, Redfield's teams have been awarded 24 additional international grants.