**The Ward Cates “Spirit” Award**

Willard (Ward) Cates, Jr., MD, MPH, was President Emeritus and Distinguished Scientist of FHI 360, and Principal Investigator of HIVNET’s International Master Contractor and the HIV Prevention Trials Network from 1994 through 2006.

In recognition of Ward's commitment and numerous contributions to the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, international family planning, and women’s health, the HPTN leadership has established the Ward Cates Spirit Award to be presented annually to a Network member who has similarly exhibited outstanding contributions towards HPTN's mission through his or her leadership, mentoring, cheerleading, and public health advocacy. The recipient of this award must be recognized as representing the attributes that were valued by Ward, including passion, loyalty, honesty, creativity, willingness to take on new challenges, and full commitment to HPTN’s mission. The nomination process includes enough time to ensure broad representation across the network. Therefore, the 2021 solicitation will be distributed to all HPTN CTU and CRS investigators to nominate anyone affiliated with the HPTN. All international and US staff are eligible to be nominated. The person submitting a nomination is asked to complete the attached nomination form and provide a letter of support. The HPTN leadership will determine this year’s recipient of the award. Recipients of the award will not be eligible to receive it again. Prior recipients include:

2016 Dr. Kenneth Mayer

2017 Dr. Sten Vermund

2018 Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim

2019 Dr. James Hakim

2020 Dr. Thomas Fleming

Throughout his career, Ward was a visionary who made pioneering contributions to the fields of sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention. He was a genuine champion for women’s reproductive rights who spearheaded groundbreaking research and programs that have profoundly impacted women’s and men’s lives. He was a global leader in integrating the fields of family planning, STI prevention and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and he served on many distinguished committees and task forces addressing on the most pressing challenges in the public health.

Ward’s legacy has a global reach, and the health advances for which he was responsible will continue to prevent and treat disease, promote better scientific practices, provide a foundation for further research, and empower women and men – as will the work of the several generations of scientists and public-health leaders he educated, mentored, guided and inspired.

Ward was a dedicated steward of scientific and research programs, ensuring their viability, credibility, and rigor. He had a passion for creating, using and applying knowledge to improve people’s lives. Ward is a member of the Institute of Medicine and is past President of both the Society for Epidemiologic Research and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals. He has served on the Executive Boards of the American Public Health Association, the American STD Association, and the American College of Preventive Medicine. He was also Director of a WHO Collaborating Centre both at CDC and at FHI and chaired the Executive Committee of the NIH HIV Prevention Trials Network for more than a decade. In addition, he served on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Office of Global AIDS Coordination and serves currently on both the UNAIDS Scientific Advisory Committee and the Advisory Council of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Professional honors include the Shultz Award from the American Public Health Association for his research contributing to the health of American women; the EEO Award from CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services, respectively, for his contributions to gender and diversity among his staff; the American STD Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Yale School of Public Health’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is an honorary fellow of the UK Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and was awarded an Outstanding Contribution to Science honor by the South African Department of Science and Technology.

Ward has authored or co-authored over 450 scientific publications, including 170 original contributions. He also co-authored nine editions of *Contraceptive Technology;* co-edited *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 2nd Edition; and served on the editorial boards of eight scientific journals.

In addition to being a scientist, researcher, leader, public health advocate, military veteran, innovator, teacher and mentor, Ward was an engaging conversationalist, optimist, and a loyal friend.

**The Ward Cates Jr. “Spirit” Award**

**2021 HPTN Nomination Form**

**Please submit this form and letter of support to Kathy Hinson (****khinson@fhi360.org****) no later than Friday, April 12, 2021 for consideration.**

Name and Email Address of Person Submitting Nomination:

Name and Email Address of Nominee:

Reasons for Nomination: