Falobi Award for Excellence in HIV Prevention Research Advocacy

Nominate who inspires you – and celebrate the growing community of HIV prevention research advocates

September 15

On October 5, 2016, it will be ten years since Nigerian HIV prevention advocate Omololu Falobi was tragically killed. Those who knew Omololu will remember him—among many other things—as a talented journalist, an activist for social justice, an advocate for prevention research and a son of Africa who worked tirelessly to ensure Africans were taking ownership of their own HIV care and prevention. Omololu founded the Journalists Against AIDS in Nigeria (JAAIDS), co-created the Nigeria-AIDS eForum, co-founded the New HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Society (NHVMAS), was an instrumental pioneer member of the Treatment Access Movement (TAM) Nigeria, and a key leader of the African Civil Society Coalition on HIV and AIDS. He was tragically killed in 2006 in Lagos, Nigeria.

In 2008, in honor of Omololu’s memory and commitment to the field, the Omololu Falobi Award for Excellence in HIV Prevention Research Community Advocacy was established by the African Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG) and partners. The Award has since been given to a community advocate in recognition of his/her contribution to the HIV prevention research field through community advocacy. Individuals are nominated by their peers, and the winner is announced at a biennial international HIV prevention research conference. Lori Heise (USA) and Aylur Srikrishnan (India) were the 2008 recipients, Charles Shagi (Tanzania) the 2010 recipient, Anna Forbes (USA), the 2012 recipient and Taiwo Oladayo Oyelakin (posthumously), the 2014 recipient.

When Omololu left us in 2006, we had few people who called themselves prevention research advocates and there was a real need to celebrate the unseen work of the community advocates. We also had no proof of concept of vaccines, microbicides or even PrEP working. Today it’s time to celebrate the success of the last decade – and to acknowledge the different kinds of advocates – activists, researchers, community educators, trial participants, policy-makers - who have contributed to it in one way or another. This is fitting of Omololu’s legacy, especially on the 10th anniversary of his passing, because he was devoted to building movements.

The 2016 partners coordinating the Award are pleased to call for nominations for the 2016 Omololu Falobi Award for Excellence in HIV Prevention Research Community Advocacy. We want to profile the community of advocates who help shape this field.
The 2016 Nomination and Selection Process

- The 2016 Award will be a “Celebration of HIV Prevention Research Advocacy”.
- Individuals can nominate up to a maximum of three (3) advocates/researchers/policy makers who have inspired them the most in HIV prevention research, advocacy and implementation in the 10 years since Omololu’s passing.
- Nominations can be made by an individual; self-nominations will NOT be accepted.
- Individuals with two or more nominations will be selected to be profiled and honored as part of a community of HIV prevention advocates at the HIV Research for Prevention (R4P) Conference in Chicago.
- Nomination forms are available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8YGKBFH
- Details about Award available at http://www.avac.org/falobi

“All of us have to choose to respond to the challenges of our own times. For me the challenge is HIV/AIDS,” Omololu Falobi.

For more information or questions, please go to http://www.avac.org/falobi

Award Coordinating Committee:

- African Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG)
- AVAC
- International Rectal Microbicides Advocates (IRMA)
- Journalists Against AIDS Nigeria (JAAIDS)
- New HIV Vaccine and Microbicides Advocacy Society (NHVMAS)
- Treatment Access Movement (TAM) Nigeria