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HEADLINE: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Paul Glaser, Mary Fisher, Announce '99 Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Awards; Millions Targeted Toward Critical Research in Pediatric HIV/AIDS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Jan. 28

BODY:

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation have honored four of the best and brightest scientists with the 1999 Elizabeth Glaser Scientist Award for their innovative, collaborative and cutting-edge research in pediatric HIV/AIDS. The award recognizes outstanding individuals who embody co-founder Elizabeth Glaser's dedication and compassion in working tirelessly to improve the lives of children across the country and around the world and provides funding for their ongoing research.

"Today we honor four outstanding individuals who believe -- like Elizabeth Glaser did -- that every child living with AIDS deserves a chance," said First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "Together, with other Pediatric AIDS Foundation Scientists, these four dedicated and innovative researchers form an invaluable network that will help us meet the ongoing challenge of one day eradicating this disease once and for all."

"This year, as the Foundation commemorates its 10th Anniversary, this award recognizes the research advances that have been made and anticipates the promise that the new decade holds by honoring four of the nation's most promising researchers in the fight against pediatric HIV/AIDS," said Paul Glaser, the Foundation's Chairman of the Board of Directors. "These outstanding individuals offer us hope for research that will lead to more treatment options, to a vaccine that will protect against infection and eventually end this epidemic. We applaud their efforts to make this world a better place for children with HIV/AIDS."

The prestigious award, the only named research award developed specifically and exclusively for work in pediatric HIV/AIDS, was presented by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Paul Glaser and Mary Fisher, Founder of the Family AIDS Network, to:

Robert Doms, M.D., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, who is investigating how HIV gets into cells in an effort to discover how to block the infection from entering the cell and provide insight into finding a vaccine.

Paul Johnson, M.D., Harvard Medical School, who is investigating an approach to help boost the immune system's response against HIV in infected children.

Philip Goulder, M.R.C.P., D. Phil., Massachusetts General Hospital, who is investigating the immune response of HIV-infected children in the U.S. and Africa to identify features which will be critical in the development of HIV

vaccines.

Julie Overbaugh, M.D., Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, who is investigating methods to further reduce mother-to-infant HIV transmission, including during breast feeding.

Each scientist will receive approximately \$700,000 for five years of research dedicated to the treatment and prevention of pediatric HIV/AIDS. While this award is given to honor an outstanding individual -- it also creates a collective of scientists and advisors who come together to interact and collaborate in a way that is unique in the scientific community. The end result is more promising research strategies more quickly.

"The Elizabeth Glaser Scientist Award reflects the dynamic qualities for which Elizabeth herself is remembered -- a keen sense of mission, unswerving vision and a passion for bringing hope to children with HIV/AIDS," said Susie Zeegen, co-founder of the Foundation. "With the awarding of nineteen scientists to date, the Foundation is building an invaluable network of Elizabeth Glaser scientists whose efforts will help us to unlock the mysteries of this deadly disease and may hold the key to finding an effective vaccine."

The Pediatric AIDS Foundation was co-founded ten years ago by Elizabeth Glaser, Susan DeLaurentis and Susie Zeegen. As mothers, the three friends were compelled to take action when Elizabeth discovered that she, her daughter and her son were all HIV infected. Discovering that virtually nothing was being done when it came to pediatric AIDS issues, the three women formed an alliance to draw international attention to the issue of pediatric HIV/AIDS and to create a future of hope for children and families affected by this disease. Today, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is the leading national non-profit dedicated to funding and conducting research focused on pediatric HIV/AIDS that will lead to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in infants and children. The Foundation takes a leading role in establishing a national pediatric AIDS research agenda as well as promoting education, awareness and compassion. Elizabeth Glaser died in 1994.

SOURCE Pediatric AIDS Foundation

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