



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

News Release

November 2, 2003

PAHO Director and OECS Ministers of Health in Barbados for Health Journalism Awards on November 7

The new Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Dr. Mirta Roses Periago will deliver the feature address at the 11th annual presentation of PAHO/Caribbean Media Awards for Excellence in Health Journalism on Friday November 7 at the Grand Barbados Beach Resort starting at 7:30 PM.

A total of 16 awards and Certificates of Merit will be presented to winners from English-speaking Caribbean countries. Several overseas-based journalists and judges in the competition will arrive in Barbados between Thursday and Friday November 5-6, 2003, to participate in the event, courtesy of the BWIA, one of the two corporate sponsors. Winners will receive cash prizes ranging between US\$1-1,500 each, a PAHO plaque and a BWIA return ticket to any destination in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Among the special guests at the presentation function will be Ministers of Health, Permanent Secretaries and other senior Government personnel in Health Ministries from the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The Media/Communications Advisor at PAHO's Caribbean Program Coordination (CPC) office, Ms. Clare Forrester, described the arrangements for this year's function as an Oscar-style presentation format.

The PAHO Advisor said that this year the Regional Coordinating Committee received a record number of entries with several countries showing renewed interest in the competition. This she said was an indication that the activity was realizing its aim of increasing the quantity and consistency of health information in the media.



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The PAHO/Caribbean Media Awards is one of the two longest consistently running media competitions in the English-speaking Caribbean and has become a premier event on the calendar of journalists and other media workers in the region.

The competition is sponsored by PAHO in collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF, in association with Sagicor and BWIA.

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