

Basic Health International Honored With International Community Health Promotion Award

Cervical Cancer Prevention in El Salvador recognized for VIA Training Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rome, Italy – December 7, 2010 – Basic Health International – a New York-based nonprofit associated with the Mount Sinai Medical Center Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences– was selected as one of three winners for the International Community Health Promotion Awards. The International Health Promotion Awards (IHPA) were established by URAC and the Global Knowledge Exchange Network (GKEN), two nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving health worldwide. The goal of IHPA is to support “cross-fertilization” of health promotion ideas within the healthcare industry to facilitate discussion, partnership and learning among organizations.

The Awards recognize organizations that have implemented innovative health promotion programs that have made real and reproducible effects that dramatically improve health around the world. The winners were announced on December during a symposium in Rome, Italy and were chosen by a distinguished panel representing the best of domestic and international health care policy and practice.

Basic Health International (BHI) was founded in 2005 with the goal of eradicating cervical cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean. BHI trains in-country generalist physicians and nurses in low-tech, low-cost cervical cancer screening and treatment techniques that can be used in areas without electricity or running water. These methods allow local healthcare providers to screen and treat large numbers of women living in the most rural and inaccessible locations. To date, we have trained over 80 healthcare providers. In 2010 alone we trained 19 physicians and 8 nurses from the Salvadoran Ministry of Health, and donated 8 cryotherapy units that are used to provide the lifesaving treatment for precancerous lesions.

“The most exciting aspect of our program is that every day local Salvadoran healthcare providers are screening and treating the women of their communities. In 2010, our 20 active providers screened over 2000 women.”

–Dr. Miriam Cremer, BHI Founder and President

For more information about the International Health Promotion Awards, go to <http://www.aihpa.org/>.

To find out more about Basic Health International, please visit www.basichealth.org.

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