

Glenna Picton
713-798-4710
picton@bcm.edu
www.bcm.edu/news

BIPAI doctor to receive Chapman University's highest honor for service

HOUSTON – (Aug. 25, 2009) – Dr. Anthony Garcia-Prats, a pediatrician with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (www.bayloraids.org), has been selected to receive Chapman University's (www.chapman.edu) highest honor – the Albert Schweitzer Award of Excellence -- for his achievements in bringing quality medical care to the children of Lesotho and Tanzania.

Former U.S. Sen. George McGovern will present Garcia-Prats with the award during a special ceremony at Chapman University Aug. 26.

Garcia-Prats is an assistant professor of pediatrics with BIPAI, an internationally-renowned program of Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital that provides HIV/AIDS care and treatment to more than 30,000 children and families worldwide.

"Tony Garcia-Prats is an outstanding physician and humanitarian," said BIPAI's founder Dr. Mark Kline, chair of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) and physician-in-chief of Texas Children's Hospital (www.texaschildrens.org). "He epitomizes the selfless service to mankind that characterized Dr. Schweitzer's life. Tony's contributions to the health and well-being of HIV-infected children in Lesotho and Tanzania have been enormous. He is most deserving of this award."

Garcia-Prats has been a doctor with BIPAI's Pediatric AIDS Corps since August 2006. He served in the Lesotho Children's Clinical Center of Excellence through February 2009 and currently is leading a scale-up of the new BIPAI center in Mbeya, Tanzania (<http://www.bcm.edu/news/item.cfm?newsID=1392>).

Since its inception in 1982, the award has been presented to individuals or organizations that exemplify the spirit and philosophy of the late Dr. Albert

Schweitzer, a philosopher, physician and humanitarian

(<http://www.chapman.edu/schweitzerInstitute/excellenceAward/Default.asp>).

McGovern has been a longtime supporter of global nutrition needs.

He has held appointments as the worldwide director of the United States Agency for International Development's Food for Peace program (<http://www.usaid.gov/>) in 1961 and the United Nations ambassador on world hunger in 2001.

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