

Charlee Lambert and the World Health Organization:

2002 Honorees of the Rosalie Wolf Memorial Elder Abuse Prevention Awards

The new annual Rosalie Wolf Memorial Elder Abuse Prevention Awards were established collaboratively by the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI) to commemorate the life of Dr. Rosalie Wolf by honoring those who have followed in her path. The driving force behind the elder abuse prevention movement, Dr. Wolf founded and served as the President of NCPEA, edited the Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, conducted groundbreaking research and served as the founding Chairperson of INPEA.

The honoree in the national and international categories may be either an individual or organization and has demonstrated dedication and commitment to the ideals of Rosalie Wolf to prevent and reduce the incidence of elder abuse through research, education, policy or practice. A NCPEA committee unanimously selected the first national honoree.

International 2002 Honoree

The World Health Organization (WHO) Violence and Injuries Prevention Department and Aging and Life Course Program share the honor of receiving the 2002 award in the international category. Dr. Etienne Krug, Director, Violence and Injuries Prevention Department and Dr. Alexandre Kalache, Director, Aging and Life Course Program, accepted the award on behalf of WHO.

The initial work of WHO in crafting the first World Report on Violence and Health (October 2002) spearheaded the subsequent project to address elder abuse specifically. This report was in response to the 1996 World Health Assembly Resolution declaring violence as a major public health problem and Rosalie Wolf was a lead contributor to the Chapter on Elder Abuse.

In initiating a *Global Response Against Elder Abuse*, WHO, Aging and Life Course Program, has drawn worldwide attention to the issue and essentially put it on the agendas of all developing and developed countries.

The outcomes of this strategy have the potential to impact the quality of life of older persons, their families and communities as well as those who advocate for them, including researchers, educators, practitioners, policy developers and interested and concerned individuals. The goals of the WHO study embody the very ideals of Rosalie Wolf and are fundamental to her vision in generating an International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

National (US) 2002 Honoree

Ms. Charlee Lambert is the 2002 honoree in the national category. A pioneer in the field for over two decades, Ms. Lambert has been a leading voice in Georgia and nationally, speaking out against elder abuse and advocating passionately to protect the rights of victims and persons with diminished mental capacity. She was the founding Director of Georgia's Council on Elder Abuse and Neglect and managed its victim assistance line through the Atlanta Legal Aid Society; served on the Lieutenant Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force and on the House-Senate Joint Guardianship Re-write Study Committee as one of Georgia's strongest advocates for reform of the adult guardianship system; has served as an expert witness in elder abuse cases; and serves as an elder abuse consultant. An accomplished playwright, actress, director and producer, Ms. Lambert has used her plays, which have been performed nationally, to educate professionals and the public about elder abuse—promoting dialogue about the realities of elder abuse and how to prevent it. She has been serving as an AARP volunteer in various capacities.

“Charlee has trumpeted the cause of elder abuse more than any other person in Georgia...She truly cares...She is a creative leader capable of making you cry, laugh, get angry and believe that you can change the world—even a world where some people forget the golden rule.”