

# 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee

## **Dr. Frank O. Richards, Jr.**

*Class of 1971*

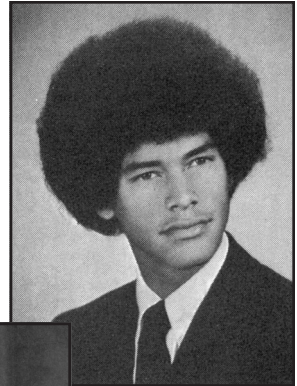
An expert in parasitic and tropical diseases, Dr. Richards has worked extensively in Latin America and Africa developing and assisting disease control programs, eradication and mass drug administration campaigns. He has been involved in the Guatemalan Mectizan distribution program since 1987 and in the Nigerian Mectizan distribution program since

1992. He participated in the launching and operations of two major regional river blindness programs: The Onchocerciasis Elimination Program for the Americas (launched in 1992), which reaches six countries in the Americas, and the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (launched in 1996) reaching 18 countries in Africa.

After graduating from University City High School in 1971, Dr. Richards earned

his Bachelor of Arts in chemistry at Williams College in 1975 and his Doctor of Medicine from Cornell University in 1979. After completing a residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and fellowships at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Emory University School of Medicine, he joined CDC's Division of Parasitic Diseases for his entire 22-year CDC career. During that time, he was assigned to the CDC Guatemala field station (1987-92), completed a fellowship in infectious diseases at Emory (1993), and was seconded to The Carter Center (1996-2002). Since retiring, Dr. Richards has returned to The Carter Center as technical director for the River Blindness Program.

Dr. Richards' awards include the Williams College Bicentennial Medal for his contributions to global public health, the Commissioned Corps Outstanding Service Medal for his battle against river blindness, the Department of Health and Human Service Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for the Guinea worm eradication effort, and most recently the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's 2005 Bailey K. Ashford Medal. He has authored or co-authored more than 130 articles, letters and chapters.



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