

For Immediate Release

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LEADERS ACROSS THE FINANCIAL, PUBLIC, AND RESEARCH SECTORS TO BE HONORED AT AFAR 35th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

EVENT: (New York, NY) The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) will host its 35th Anniversary Awards Dinner on **Wednesday, November 2, 2016** in New York City at the Le Parker Meridien Hotel, 119 West 56 Street New York, New York 10019, from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. The Awards Dinner is themed "**Let's Make this the Age of Aging Better,**" and will celebrate leaders in finance, philanthropy, and science for their commitment to the socioeconomic impact of aging research.

AFAR will present four Awards of Distinction. **Johannes J. Baensch, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer at Nestlé Skin Health S.A.**, will be presented the Honorary Leadership Award. **Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA**, will receive the *Chairman's Award*. **Frances Hesselbein, President and CEO, The Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute**, will be presented with the Icon of Aging Award. **Peter G. Peterson, Founder and Chairman, Peter G. Peterson Foundation**, will be presented the George E. and Marie J. Doty Award.

Additionally, AFAR will recognize its annual Scientific Awards: **S. Jay Olshansky, Ph.D.** will receive the Irving S. Wright Award, and **Luigi Fontana, M.D., Ph.D.** will receive the Vincent Cristofalo Rising Star Award in Aging Research.

The evening's awards will be presented by a range of notable executives, including **Paul A. Volcker**, Chairman of the Volcker Alliance and former Chairman of the Federal Reserve; **Michael W. Hodin, Ph.D.**, C.E.O. of the Global Coalition on Aging, and **Terry Fulmer, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.**, Executive Director of The John A. Hartford Foundation. **Dr. Max Gomez**, medical correspondent for WCBS-TV, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Founded in 1981, AFAR is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. AFAR funds physicians and scientists who are probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as age-related diseases, in order to help us all live healthier, longer.

"Over these past 35 years, AFAR proudly has awarded more than 172 million dollars in grants championing the cause and supporting the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine," states Stephanie Lederman, Executive Director. "Our grants have supported more than 4,000 investigators at more than 500 leading institutions across the United States as well as Ireland, Israel, Italy, and the United Kingdom. While the world's population over 65 years old is growing an unprecedented rate, AFAR's support of solid science in the biology of aging is more critical than ever."

WHEN: Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

WHERE: Le Parker Meridien Hotel, 119 West 56 Street, New York, New York 10019

About AFAR:

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers. AFAR engages the public through webinars, conferences and our online resource, InfoAging, featuring over two dozen downloadable guides, edited by guest experts on topics ranging from theories of aging, age-related conditions, healthy lifestyle tips, and more. Learn at www.afar.org or follow AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook.

About the Awardees



Johannes J. Baensch, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer at Nestlé Skin Health S.A., will be presented the **Honorary Leadership Award**. This award recognizes achievements of individuals and organizations whose work has impacted the field of aging research and improved public health. Dr. Baensch, is currently the Chief Scientific Officer at Nestlé Skin Health, a position he has held since March 2016. Since starting his career as Project Manager with Nestlé in Switzerland in 1991, he has had various roles within the Nestlé Group, including positions at the Singapore and Lisieux, France branches. In 2001, he took over the responsibility of Head of PTC Orbe (Switzerland) and, in 2003, was transferred to the Netherlands as Technical Manager Nordic-Netherlands Region. Johannes returned to Switzerland in 2005 as Vice President, Technical and R&D Manager Confectionery Strategic Business Unit. In 2007, he moved to Cereal Partners Worldwide (CPW) as Vice President Operations. In 2011, Johannes was appointed Nestlé's Head of Global R&D, renamed Global Head of Product & Technology Development in 2015. Johannes Baensch studied Food Science and Technology and holds a chemical engineering Doctorate from the University of Munich.



Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA, will receive the **Chairman's Award**. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the field of aging research through their activities and support of those involved in the field. Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., is President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA, a Fortune 100 financial services organization. The former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System, he is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and co-chairs its Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education. He serves on the boards of Alphabet, General Mills, and International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., and on the advisory board of Brevan Howard Asset Management. He is Chairman of The Conference Board and serves on the boards of the Institute for Advanced Study and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the Economic Club of New York, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Group of Thirty. Mr. Ferguson co-chaired the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on the Long-Run Macro-Economic Effects of the Aging U.S. Population. He holds a B.A., J.D., and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.



Frances Hesselbein, President and CEO, The Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute, will be presented with the **Icon of Aging Award**. This award recognizes individuals across the private and community sectors whose personal and professional contributions embody growing older with vitality. One of the most highly respected experts in the field of contemporary leadership development, Mrs. Hesselbein is the President and CEO of The Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute, founded as The Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management and renamed in 2012 to honor Mrs. Hesselbein's legacy and ongoing contributions. Mrs. Hesselbein was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States of America's highest civilian honor, by President Clinton in 1998 for her leadership as CEO of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. from 1976–1990, as well as her service as “a pioneer for women, volunteerism, diversity and opportunity.” Her contributions were also recognized by the first President Bush, who appointed her to two Presidential Commissions on National and Community Service. Mrs. Hesselbein serves on many nonprofit and private sector corporate boards, including Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, the Bright China Social Fund, California Institute of Advanced Management, and Teachers College, Columbia University Presidents Advisory Council.



Peter G. Peterson, Founder and Chairman, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, will be presented the **George E. and Marie J. Doty Award**. This award recognizes lay visionaries who through their generosity and compassion have laid the foundation and advanced the mission of AFAR. Mr. Peterson is founder and chairman of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a non-partisan organization dedicated to raising awareness of America's long-term fiscal challenges and promoting solutions to ensure a better economic future. In 1971, President Richard Nixon named him Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs. He was later named the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and he also assumed the chairmanship of President Nixon's National Commission on Productivity and was appointed U.S. Chairman of the U.S.-Soviet Commercial Commission. From 2000 to 2004, he chaired the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. In 1985, he co-founded The Blackstone Group, and over the next two decades he helped to grow the firm into a global leader in alternative investments. Mr. Peterson is chairman emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, founding chairman of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and founding president of The Concord Coalition. He co-chaired the Conference Board Commission on Public Trust and Private Enterprise. Mr. Peterson has served as a director of numerous corporations and is the author of seven books, including *Steering Clear: How to Avoid a Debt Crisis and Secure Our Economic Future*.

About the Speakers



Jay Olshansky, Ph.D., will share remarks.

Dr. Olshansky is an AFAR board member and Professor of School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is world-recognized public health expert, and co-editor of the recent book *Aging: The Longevity Dividend*.



Max Gomez, Ph.D., will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Dr. Gomez is the Emmy award winning Medical Correspondant for WCBS-TV.



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