

U.S.'s Georges Benjamin Among World-Class Judges for First Global Healthy Workplace Awards

LONDON & PHILADELPHIA, February 20, 2013 - Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, is among renowned health experts from five continents who will serve as judges for the first Global Healthy Workplace Awards and Summit. Amid an aging global workforce and the increasing costs and productivity declines that stem from poor health, the Awards and Summit is a search for the healthiest workplaces in the world - those where programs and practices are making the biggest impact on the health and well-being of employees and their surrounding communities.

Georges Benjamin will serve as a judge at the first Global Healthy Workplace Awards and Summit, sponsored by the Cigna Foundation. (Photo: Business Wire)

Sponsored by the Cigna Foundation, The Global Healthy Workplace Awards and Summit will be held April 10-12 in London at the Waldorf Hotel. Worldwide workplace health program submissions are being reviewed by the international panel of health leaders. The judges will recognize the healthiest workplaces that other employers can learn from and replicate in their own environment.

"It will be highly interesting to see how leading Healthy Workplace programs from around the world compare to the US leaders, especially given the differing health care systems, approaches to prevention and views on health care costs as a business driver," Benjamin said.

Other judges include Tracy Kolbe-Alexander, a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town, South Africa; Dame Carol Black, UK National Director for Health and Work and chairman of the Nuffield Trust; Annie Ling, director of the Adult Health Division, Health Promotion Board, Ministry of Health, Singapore and Alberto Ogata of Brazil, president, Brazilian Association of Quality of Life.

For the first time, the basis for the awards criteria will be the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Workplace Framework, which is specifically targeted to employers worldwide and intended to create greater awareness of workplace health and encourage workplaces to implement programs following the WHO model. The WHO model covers four main avenues of influence: physical work environment, psychosocial work environment, personal health resources and enterprise-community involvement. Awards will be given in three categories: large employers, small and medium-sized enterprises and organizations that excel in one of the four areas of the Healthy Workplace model.

The Global Healthy Workplace Awards and Summit is being hosted by the Global Knowledge Exchange Network (GKEN) in association with two international organizations with extensive health experience, International Health Consulting and i-genius. GKEN represents a global network of business and government executives focused on exchanging knowledge about better health systems practices. International Health Consulting provides specialist advice on workplace health with a focus on multi-national employers. With members in more than 200 countries, i-genius is a world community of social entrepreneurs.

For more information, go to www.globalhealthyworkplace.com.

About the Cigna Foundation

The Cigna Foundation is a private foundation funded by contributions from Cigna Corporation (NYSE: CI) and its subsidiaries. The Cigna Foundation supports organizations sharing its commitment to enhancing the health of individuals and families, and the well-being of their communities, with a special focus on those communities where Cigna employees live and work.

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