



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Release Date – April 7, 2011**

Contact: Nancy A. Kelly, MHS, Executive Director

Email: [N.Kelly@hvousa.org](mailto:N.Kelly@hvousa.org)

Phone: (202) 296-0928

### **Isador Lieberman, MD, MBA, FRSC(C) Recognized for Commitment to Global Health**

[Washington, DC – April 7, 2011] Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is pleased to announce that Isador Lieberman, MD, MBA, FRSC(C), is a recipient of the sixth annual *HVO Golden Apple Award*. As part of its World Health Day observances, HVO created this award to recognize the extraordinary educational contributions of volunteers to international program sites. Each volunteer honored with this award has demonstrated a strong commitment to HVO's educational mission by working on curriculum development, teacher training, didactic or clinical training, or the enhancement of educational resources.

Dr. Lieberman has been instrumental in the conception and design for the Uganda Spine Mission, which provides spine care to patients in Mulago, Uganda and educates spine health care providers. Over the past five years, Dr. Lieberman has taken as his responsibility fundraising and organization of the Spine Mission. He has provided didactic and clinical teaching to the residents, medical students, and nurses and this training has greatly improved spinal care in the region.

Dr Lieberman is a fellowship-trained Orthopaedic and Spinal Surgeon who was recruited to the Texas Back Institute in 2010. Prior to that he practiced at the Cleveland Clinic. He is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, and holds specialist certification from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He completed medical school and residency at the University of Toronto. He completed spine surgery and trauma surgery fellowships at the Toronto Hospital in Canada and at Queen's Medical Center in Nottingham, England. He held a full time academic appointment at the University of Toronto and was on the academic staff of the Toronto Hospital up to his 1997 recruitment to the Cleveland Clinic. In 2002 he obtained his Masters degree in Business Administration from Cleveland State University. Shortly after this he was appointed to the faculty of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at the rank of Professor of Surgery. In 2007 he transitioned his practice and administrative duties to Cleveland Clinic Florida where he was appointed Chairman of the Spine

Department. Most recently he was recruited to the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano where he is the director of the scoliosis and spine tumor programs.

Dr Lieberman specializes in the surgical treatment of spinal disorders. His clinical interests include: minimally invasive/endoscopic spinal surgery, adolescent and adult scoliosis, deformity reconstruction, cervical and lumbar degenerative disorders including herniated discs and stenosis, spinal tumors, infections and trauma. Dr Lieberman's research interests include: clinical outcomes in spinal surgery, biomechanics of spinal implants, robotics for spinal surgery and disc replacement technologies. He has conceived and developed a number of spinal surgery instruments and implants and has seventeen issued and twelve pending U.S. patents. Dr Lieberman is recognized nationally and internationally for his contributions to minimally invasive/endoscopic spinal surgery and for his contributions to the treatment of osteoporotic vertebral compression fractures. He has over seventy peer-reviewed publications and over 50 book chapters to his credit. He has presented over 150 invited lectures at universities, hospitals, national meetings and international meetings.

In addition to his institution related responsibilities Dr Lieberman was chairman of the "Multidisciplinary Patient Care Committee" and served as vice chairman of the "Operative Coding Committee" for the North American Spine Society. He served on the Global Outreach Committee of the Scoliosis Research Society and also sits on the Adult Spine Evaluation Subcommittee for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He continues to serve on the scientific advisory board for a variety of prominent medical device manufacturers and start up spine companies. In 2005 he founded the implant development company Merlot OrthopediX.

The World Health Organization's Global Health Workforce Alliance has stated, "Health workers are the heart and soul of health systems. And yet, the world is faced with a chronic shortage – an estimated 4.2 million health workers are needed to bridge the gap, with 1.5 million needed in Africa alone. The critical shortage is recognized as one of the most fundamental constraints to achieving progress on health and reaching health and development goals." They estimate that one billion in the world will never see a health worker in their lives.

"I am very pleased that the contributions made by Dr. Isador Lieberman towards improving orthopaedic services are being recognized with this award," said Nancy Kelly, HVO's Executive Director. "By highlighting the accomplishments of volunteers like Dr. Lieberman, we hope to raise awareness of global health issues and encourage others to work towards better health care around the world."

World Health Day is celebrated annually by the World Health Organization and the international community. Since 1950, it has been held each year on April 7<sup>th</sup> and focuses on a relevant global health issue. This year's theme is "Antimicrobial resistance: No action today, no cure tomorrow" which will promote the safeguarding of medicines for future generations. For more information on World Health Day 2011, visit (<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2011/en/index.html>).

A private, non-profit organization, HVO was founded in 1986 to improve global health through education. HVO designs and implements clinical education programs in child health, primary

care, trauma and rehabilitation, essential surgical care, oral health, blood disorders and cancers, infectious disease, nursing education, and wound care. In more than 25 resource-poor nations, volunteers train, mentor, and provide critical professional support to health care providers who care for the neediest populations in the most difficult of circumstances. For more information about volunteering, visit the HVO [website](#).

####