

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Health Department Seeks to Honor Health Professionals Committed to Service in Baltimore City**

BALTIMORE, MD (March 18, 2008) – The Baltimore City Health Department is seeking nominations of healthcare providers who have made significant contributions to their fields by providing dedicated and compassionate service to low-income individuals and families. Winners will receive the Sebastian Russo Memorial Award.

This award, created in 2007, honors Dr. Sebastian Russo, a Baltimore City family physician known for tireless and devoted service to his patients. Over his long career, Dr. Russo exemplified a commitment to reducing barriers to health care access. Before his tragic death in 1981, he was embraced by his community, who recognized the value of a physician who made house calls, learned multiple languages to communicate more effectively with patients, and charged only when patients were truly able to pay.

Any health care doctor, nurse, physician's assistant or other health professional practicing in Baltimore City may be nominated for the Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award. The deadline for nomination submissions is April 30, 2008.

The idea for the award was conceived after senior Health Department staff met with Dr. Russo's daughter last year.

"This award gives us an opportunity to demonstrate how much we value those who provide an extraordinary service to Baltimore," said Dr. Laura Herrera, Chief Medical Officer of the Health Department.

Nomination forms for the Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award are available online at [www.baltimorehealth.org](http://www.baltimorehealth.org) or can be picked up in the Administrative Suite on the third floor of the Baltimore City Health Department at 210 Guilford Avenue. For more information, call (410) 396-4388.

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