

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.  
Interim Commissioner

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Schleiter*

*PHONE: 443-984-2623*

*[Mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov)*

## **Physician HIV Advocate Is Recipient of 2009 Dr. Sebastian Russo Award**

**BALTIMORE, MD** (September 30, 2009) – Interim Commissioner Olivia D. Farrow announces that Glenn Treisman, MD, PhD, director of the AIDS Psychiatry Service at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is the winner of the 2009 Dr. Sebastian Russo Memorial Award.

The Dr. Sebastian Russo Award was created by the Baltimore City Health Department in 2007 to recognize healthcare providers who have made significant contributions to their fields by providing dedicated and compassionate service to low-income individuals and families. The award honors Dr. Sebastian Russo, a Baltimore City family physician known for his tireless and devoted service to his patients. Before his tragic death in 1980, Dr. Russo 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 able to pay.

Mayor Sheila Dixon presented Dr. Treisman with the award.

“This year’s award recipient, Dr. Glenn Treisman, exemplifies the values that Sebastian Russo held dear and practiced every day,” stated Mayor Sheila Dixon. “A world-renown pioneer in the field of AIDS psychiatry for more than two decades, Dr. Treisman has touched hundreds, if not thousands, of lives in Baltimore City.”

Dr. Treisman is professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and professor of Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is also director of The Johns Hopkins AIDS Psychiatry Service (APS), which provides clinical care to HIV-infected patients at Johns Hopkins Hospital and several Baltimore City Health Department clinics.

By working with persons with HIV to improve their quality of life, increase their ability to tolerate and engage in medical treatment and decrease their risk for transmitting HIV, Dr. Treisman has helped improve their prognosis while helping reduce the spread of the disease.

“Dr. Treisman has been called the ‘father of AIDS psychiatry.’ Twenty years ago, the mental health needs of persons with HIV were largely overlooked by the medical community. Dr.

Treisman not only challenged the status quo, but completely changed the way healthcare providers diagnose and treat these issues,” said Interim Commissioner Farrow.

The idea for the award was conceived after senior Health Department staff met with Dr. Russo’s daughter. Michelle Sheldon-Rubio RN, BSN, CDE, senior diabetes educator at the University of Maryland Joslin Diabetes Center, was the winner of the 2008 award.

###