

HER ONLY PATIENT IS EVERY CHILD ON EARTH.

DR. HELEN CALDICOTT, PASSIONATE CHAMPION OF A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD, WINS THE 2003 LANNAN PRIZE FOR CULTURAL FREEDOM.

The Lannan Foundation has awarded its fifth annual Prize for Cultural Freedom to Dr. Helen Caldicott, the tireless and eloquent opponent of nuclear madness.

“Nuclear weapons and nuclear energy are medically contraindicated for all life on earth,” she has written. “As a physician, I consider it my responsibility to preserve and further life. Thus, as a doctor, as well as a mother and a world citizen, I wish to practice the ultimate form of preventive medicine by ridding the earth of these technologies that propagate disease, suffering and death.”

After practicing pediatrics in Adelaide, Australia and as a faculty member of the Harvard Medical School, Dr. Caldicott left clinical medicine to practice global preventive medicine because of the imminent threat of nuclear war during the Cold War. In 1971 she led Australian opposition to French nuclear tests in the Pacific. In 1978, to educate her colleagues about the medical horrors of nuclear power and nuclear war, she co-founded Physicians for Social Responsibility. In the 1980s she briefed President Reagan and other world leaders on the medical consequences of their nuclear gamesmanship. In 1985 she was nominated by Linus Pauling for the Nobel Peace Prize; it was awarded that year to an organization she helped form, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. She has written five books, including *Nuclear Madness*, *Missile Envy* and most recently, *The New Nuclear Danger*.

“We were all lucky to escape annihilation during those hostile years,” she writes. “But in 2003, unbeknownst to the world, the danger persists: Russia and America still target each other with 2,500 hydrogen bombs on tenuous hair-trigger alert, and Russia’s early-warning system is dangerously eroded. Regional nuclear conflict in North Korea, India or Pakistan could trigger global nuclear holocaust.”

As the current U.S. administration drags the world into new nuclear nightmares, Dr. Caldicott has founded the Nuclear Policy Research Institute. “It is vital that people be presented with the truth,” she writes. “Today more than ever, we need what Einstein referred to as a ‘chain reaction of awareness.’”

THE IMPENDING THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR: A SYMPOSIUM

To catalyze that “chain reaction,” in January the Nuclear Policy Research Institute will sponsor a three-day symposium, open to the public, on this urgent issue. Russian as well as U.S. scientists and experts will speak, and all Presidential candidates are being invited to address the symposium as well. To learn more about the symposium, go to nuclearpolicy.org.



ABOUT THE LANNAN FOUNDATION:

Lannan Foundation is a family foundation dedicated to cultural freedom, diversity and creativity through projects which support exceptional contemporary artists as well as inspired native activists in rural indigenous communities. Understanding that globalization threatens all cultures and ecosystems, the foundation is particularly interested in projects that encourage freedom of inquiry, imagination and expression.

In 1999 the foundation established the Prize for Cultural Freedom, an annual award designed to recognize people whose extraordinary and courageous work celebrates the human right to freedom of imagination, inquiry, and expression. Last year the Lannan Prize was awarded to the writer Arundhati Roy of Delhi, India.