

Dr. John Sidle Named “Health Care Hero”



In a ceremony in downtown Indianapolis on March 9, Dr. John Sidle, co-field director for research for the IU-Kenya Partnership, was named an *Indianapolis Business Journal* “Health Care Hero.”

Sidle was recognized for treating both the homeless in Indianapolis and HIV-positive patients in Kenya. Sidle also developed an HIV-prevention program in Kenya that confronts the risks posed by alcohol abuse and the commercial sex trade.

“John has been the doctor to many citizens of Indianapolis who barely know where their next meal is coming from,” wrote Bill Tierney, M.D., IU-Kenya Partnership director for research, in his letter nominating Sidle for the award. “Yet John treats each and every patient with dignity, respect, energy and intelligence.”

While serving as team leader of the IU-Kenya Partnership from 1998-2000, Sidle witnessed the tragedy of the first waves of the brutal HIV-AIDS pandemic, when dozens of patients died each week of untreated AIDS in the small Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret. He returned to Kenya, beginning in 2003, to help establish an electronic medical record system which was the first of its kind in Africa. IU-Kenya Partnership leaders credit Sidle with creating the infrastructure for research that sustains the HIV-AIDS treatment that has saved thousands of lives.

Carter Wolf, executive director of the Indianapolis homeless service center Horizon House, says Sidle shows the same dedication to the poor when he practices medicine in the U.S. “John has consistently provided medical care to the homeless with remarkable dedication and commitment,” Wolf wrote in recommending Sidle for the award.

Congratulations to John on this well deserved recognition. As the *Indianapolis Business Journal* wrote in its profile of John for its March 12 edition, “Through Sidle’s efforts over the years, hope is being delivered to countless people both here and in Africa.”