Michael Wessells Receives American Psychological Association's 2009 International Humanitarian Award

Michael Wessells, PhD, professor of clinical Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health, professor of psychology at Randolph-Macon College, and until recently, senior advisor on child protection for Christian Children’s Fund, received the 2009 International Humanitarian Award from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Wessells was selected for his extraordinary commitment to the health of children and families.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wessells has applied his expertise in psychosocial assistance for the benefit of children and families affected by forced migration, disasters, and ethnopolitical violence. As a global leader in post-conflict reconstruction and child protection, Dr. Wessells has worked for numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the world, including the United Nations, the U.S. State Department, and the American Psychological Association’s Division of Peace Psychology. His contributions to publications in the field have also been widely influential – Dr. Wessells is associate editor of *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* and the author of *Child Soldiers: From Violence to Protection*. In addition, Dr. Wessells has been an integral leader in creating guidelines for mental health workers – he was a key contributor to the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings* (2007), and is currently serving as the co-lead, also known as the global focal point, for the psychosocial sector of the upcoming revised version of the *Sphere Handbook*, which sets the global humanitarian standards for emergency response.