More than 30 years after HIV/AIDS first appeared, there are an estimated 37 million cases worldwide with nearly 70% of HIV+ patients living in Sub Saharan Africa followed by Southeast Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The vast majority of individuals affected by HIV are in low and middle income countries. More than 3 million children were infected by HIV positive mothers during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding (1).

The CARES initiative was launched and driven by a social and civic responsibility to support the fight against HIV/AIDS. Public and private partnerships are being explored to identify areas for Beckman Coulter to contribute for the broader purpose. We seek to develop alliances with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), implementing partners, and health policy organizations to align our efforts. Beckman Coulter is meeting tomorrow’s needs today by our commitment to leading the fight against HIV through the development of innovative solutions for the monitoring of CD4+ lymphocyte depletion and viral load levels. Our simple, robust and sustainable tests have been made available to millions of patients and allow the Health Departments to channel more funds towards better treatment programs.

Beckman Coulter Joins

By focusing on innovative, yet affordable solutions for HIV monitoring, Beckman Coulter supports the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target to ensure that by the year 2020, 90% of people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (2).

Beckman Coulter develops, manufactures and markets products that simplify, automate and innovate complex biomedical testing. For more than 80 years, our products have been making a difference in peoples’ lives by improving the productivity of medical professionals and scientists, supplying critical information for improving patient health and delivering trusted solutions for research and discovery. Scientists use our life science research instruments to study complex biological problems including causes of disease and potential new therapies or drugs.

For further information, please contact The Beckman Coulter CARES Award: CARES@beckman.com
www.beckmancares.com

REFERENCES
Recognising those who improve the lives of people impacted by AIDS

The Beckman Coulter CARES Award celebrates the vision and endeavor of an individual whose humanitarian work, combined with their own commitment, has significantly improved the lives of local people impacted by AIDS. The goal of the award is to recognize dynamic individuals whose commitment and work serve as inspiration for the community.

Potential winners can be nurses, healthcare workers, national coordinators, lab scientists and even clinicians, or lay people who are active in community outreach work. This could include a social worker providing AIDS counseling.

While this is intended as an international award, in its inaugural year Beckman Coulter wants it to focus on the needs of one of the regions of the world most stricken by HIV/AIDS. The 2017 call for nominations will be launched at the annual congress African Society of Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) which takes place 3rd-8th December 2016, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Beckman Coulter CARES Award accepts nominations in all areas of humanitarian endeavor across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Recipients may have distinguished themselves through their work in genetics, the environment, medical education, humanitarian relief, the transformation of public education and human rights.

Nominators from the AIDS community and the public are encouraged from a region of the world most stricken by HIV/AIDS. In turn, Judges of the Award will be privileged to consider candidates from across the continent — young women and men whose specific body of work has had social impact in the field of AIDS. While most have sought to make change through non-profit mechanisms, the social good of others may have been achieved through other avenues. An internationally recognized panel of Judges selects the Award recipient(s) and bestows an award of $5,000.

We are looking for this year’s AIDS heroes: people who have a vision for change that will better the AIDS community in a meaningful way, and who have created a mechanism for acting on that vision in ways that deliver measurable results. We evaluate that against the following criteria:

• Individuals, not organizations. We want to hear about the individuals who created the vision on which the organization / endeavor is based.
• Nominees who have created a mechanism for acting on their vision in ways that deliver measurable results.
• Nominees who exhibit impact in their work within the HIV community.
• Nominees whose values and universal regard for humanity inspire others and serve as a role model within their community.

Who we are looking for

Samuel Boova, Director Alliance Development for High Burden HIV Markets said:

“The award is to give a platform to the work and stories of those we see as the unsung heroes of individual communities — people who have shown individual dedication, commitment and courage or who have made a difference in the battle against HIV/AIDS. The nominee will be selected by an independent panel of judges and will feature on the CARES website. But it is not just the final winner whom we will be honouring; the story behind the top three nominees will also be featured on the CARES website.”

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The Beckman Coulter CARES Award recognizes humanitarians whose work, while inspired by personal commitment is of benefit to people living with or impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The Nomination process

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The four questions

1. What is your nominee’s vision for change to improve outcomes fighting HIV/AIDS in their community?
2. How has your nominee impacted their community and lives of PLHIV by enacting his/her vision and what have been the measurable results?
3. How has your nominee impacted their community and lives of PLHIV by enacting his/her vision and what have been the measurable results?
4. How do your nominee’s values and universal regard for humanity inspire others? Describe how your nominee has inspired others.