

## COA 2009 HEALTH LEADER OF THE YEAR HONORED AS A 2010 ROCK STAR OF SCIENCE™

Rear Admiral Susan Blumenthal, RUSPHS, (Ret.), COA's 2009 Health Leader of the Year has been named a "Rock Star of Science" by the GEOFFREY BEENE GIVES BACK™ Foundation and *GQ Magazine*. The Rock Stars of Science (R.S.O.S.) campaign brings together eight celebrity musicians and seventeen of the nation's top medical researchers, including two Nobel Laureates, to raise public awareness about the importance of science to society. This campaign pays tribute to "scientific heroes" in fields including cancer research, Alzheimer's/neuro-imaging/prevention trials, global health, women's health, heart disease, integrative medicine, autism, rare diseases, stem cell research, and space age studies.

RADM Blumenthal is one of this year's honored physicians, paired with rock star Jay Sean. She is the Founder and Director of the Health and Medicine Program at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) in Washington, DC, where she directs and co-chairs the *Commission on U.S. Federal Leadership in Health and Medicine*. RADM Blumenthal has also led the USAID-funded Palestinian/Israeli Health Initiative, an important CSPC project that used health diplomacy as a bridge for peace in the region. Additionally, Dr. Blumenthal serves as a Clinical Professor at Georgetown and Tufts Schools of Medicine, as Senior Medical Advisor at amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, and as Chair of the Global Health Program at the Meridian International Center in Washington, DC. She is also the Public Health Editor of the *Huffington Post*.

A goal of the Rock Stars of Science campaign is to increase the appeal of scientific careers to young people in the United States today. Mentoring the next generation of scientific leaders is a top priority for RADM Blumenthal. "The U.S. is witnessing an alarming decline in the number of young people pursuing research," she notes. "Only 12% of all college graduates hold jobs in the fields of science and



engineering. It is very important for youth to know that science rocks and that celebrated musicians are putting their names and faces behind the urgent need for more scientists and for increased investments in research." RADM Blumenthal adds, "Rock stars and scientists share passion, creativity, and the thrill of discovery. Where musicians use their minds, instruments and voices to create new rhythms, researchers use science and technology to make the music of medicine: new discoveries that improve health and eradicate disease."

"Today every country faces the double jeopardy of infectious illnesses such as HIV/AIDS added to the burden of chronic diseases including cancer, mental illness, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. We need brilliant, creative, and game-changing young people to become scientists, working across disciplines and sectors to discover cures and prevent illnesses from occurring in the first place," RADM Blumenthal underscored. "There is nothing more gratifying than to rock the world the way science, medicine and public health can. They definitely rocked my world!"

Rock icon, Jay Sean who is photographed with Dr. Susan Blumenthal said, "I went on to study medicine. I was halfway through my degree when my first record deal presented itself... But I'll always be a fan of science."