



## The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1997

Presented to  
**J. ROY HICKMAN**

In presenting J. Roy Hickman with the Walter F. Snyder Award for 1997, we recognize an individual who has demonstrated unwavering commitment and valued leadership in the field of environmental health for more than thirty years. His integrity, dedication, common-sense approach to problem solving and ability to build consensus on many controversial issues are a living testament to the qualities that define this award.

Mr. Hickman earned a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in 1953 and Masters of Science in Medical Biochemistry and Pharmacology in 1956 from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom (U.K.). He began his career as a scientific officer with the U.K. Atomic Energy Establishment in Harwell, conducting research on the impact of, the then new technology of irradiation on the safety of food products. Within three years, he was promoted to senior scientific officer, Technological Irradiation Group, Wantage Research Laboratory, U.K., and invited to serve as a consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.

In 1967, Hickman emigrated to Canada accepting a position as Toxicologist, Food and Drug Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare, Canada. Appointed Head, Hazardous Products Section, Health Protection Branch in 1969, he took the lead in drafting new consumer protection legislation, the Hazardous Products Act. His efforts in assessing the safety of food additives and contaminants led to his appointment as an advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) on food irradiation and consultant to the Organization

for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris.

Hickman soon found himself back in Europe. His reputation as a leading expert in irradiation on the safety of food culminated in a three-year appointment as the first Director of the International Project in the Field of Food Irradiation sponsored jointly by the FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency, Division of Atomic Energy in Agriculture, Vienna, and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. He was based in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Returning to Canada in 1974 as Director of the Bureau of Chemical Hazards, Hickman enthusiastically assumed the responsibility for managing the Bureau's programs which included drinking water quality, air quality, consumer product safety, occupational health as well as safety of the public from the presence of the myriad of industrial chemicals in the general environment. Again he was recognized for his expertise in these areas and asked by the Canadian Government to develop a policy framework and strategic plans for the management of toxic chemicals.

Appointed Director General, Environmental Health Directorate, in 1989, Hickman participated and led federal, provincial and industrial groups in the development of major environmental legislation in Canada. This legislation includes the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Drinking Water and Materials Safety Act and various tobacco control legislative measures (e.g., the Tobacco Act).

As newly appointed Senior Director General, Hickman has already prepared and submitted a revised version of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to Canada's House of Commons.

"Mr. Hickman has championed voluntary standards," states a supporting colleague, "most recently, the Drinking Water Materials Safety Act. This Bill mandates the current voluntary certification process and relies almost exclusively on the existing Canadian Standards infrastructure for its implementation. This certification by third-party organizations makes the Act a cost-effective solution to a very real and serious health problem."

Another colleague and staff member addressing his leadership style stated, "He provides leadership to his own staff by his integrity, guidance for scientific endeavours and common-sense approach to problem solving." She continues, "His contributions in the international arena have been outstanding and reflect years of dedication. . . he supports these activities both by his personal expertise and involvement as well as dedicating the resources of the organization that he directs."

Mr. Hickman's advice and guidance have been actively sought by public health agencies both within and outside Canada. His contributions to advancement in the environmental health field are visible through the numerous boards and committees on which he serves (i.e., member, International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Water Quality Board, as Chairman of the Health Effects Committee and as Canadian Co-Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Research). He has been a member of NSF International's Council of Public

Health Consultants since 1983 and Council Chairman, 1995.

Internationally, his outstanding work in environmental health has been recognized by his appointments to a wide variety of expert groups advising the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In 1996, he was appointed Chair of the Programme Advisory Committee of the International Programme on Chemical Safety and President of the Inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) in 1997. The IFCS brings together senior representatives from governments, industry and environmental non-governmental organizations from more than 170 countries to provide guidance, develop strategies, and foster understanding of issues in the field of chemical safety.

A colleague of many years sums up Mr. Hickman's accomplishments this way: "Considering his many years in the field of Environmental Health which produced significant contributions in many important fields, I would conclude that these efforts have increased the quality of life to not only people in North America but to the world at large."

For these contributions and others accumulated over a span of thirty years, NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association take great pleasure in honoring J. Roy Hickman by presenting him the 1997 Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality.

### Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award

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Ralph C. Pickard  
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Charles L. Senn  
Charles C. Johnson, Jr.  
Larry J. Gordon  
Ray B. Watts

John G. Todd  
Charles H. Gilham  
Emily T. Chanlett  
John R. Bagby, Jr.  
William Anderson  
William G. Walter  
Albert H. Brunwasser  
George A. Kupfer

Mark D. Hollis  
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