



The Walter F. Snyder Award for 2005

Presented to

John B. Conway, Ph.D.

Dr. John B. Conway is being honored for his more than 40 years as a professor, educator, author, and innovator in environmental health sciences. To quote, Jack, as he is known to his family and friends, "I feel that 'innovation' is necessary to function effectively in the environmental health profession. Technology changes almost daily and the new tools provided must be used effectively by the environmental health professional. It is no longer acceptable to do things the way they have always been done or to maintain 'status quo!'"

And, "status quo" was never acceptable to Conway, who developed curriculums in undergraduate and graduate programs, which were dynamic and included emerging technologies and the use of practicum/internship experiences as an integral part of graduate public health education. "Our challenge is to integrate the new technology that comes with recent graduates into our policies and operating procedures," writes Jack.

Following two years active duty in the U.S. Army, Conway was accepted at San Diego State University earning both his B.S. and Master of Science degrees in Biology in 1964 and 1967 respectively. Prior to working on his master's degree, he accepted his first environmental health position as a Public Health Sanitarian for San Diego County Health Department, San Diego, California and became a registered sanitarian in the State of California, in 1965. That same year he joined the National Environmental Health Association and has been an active contributing member to date.

In 1966, Conway 'tested the water' as an educator accepting the duties of teaching assistant, Division of Life Sciences, San Diego State College.

That planted a seed that would be cultivated later. With his MS in hand, he headed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as a Public Health Biologist to tackle public health concerns for the Division of Environmental Protection with the State of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources.

Not to remain "status quo," Conway applied for and was accepted in the Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota. He received his Master of Public Health in 1970 and was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Biology in 1973.

Dr. Conway returned to academia full time. As Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, he spent his summers as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. In 1976, our traveling Professor moved to Pullman, Washington, teaching at the Department of Bacteriology and Public Health, Washington State University. He then spent the summer back in Superior, Wisconsin as Academic Staff Member, Center for Lake Superior Environmental Studies.

In 1981, Dr. Conway joined the faculty of San Diego State University as Professor of Public Health in the Graduate School of Public Health. He also served as graduate advisor and Associate Director. During his tenure at San Diego State University, his side adventures included: Visiting Professor, Public Health Program in the School of Medicine, Autonomous University of Baja California, Tijuana, Mexico; Guest Researcher (sabbatical leave), Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

The School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York, welcomed Dr. Conway as Director of Professional Education Programs in 1993. The last three years in Albany, Jack served as the Interim Dean of the School. Keeping occupied year round, Jack could be found spending summers as a Public Health Officer in Grand Teton National Park, Moose, Wyoming.

The new millennium found Dr. Conway departing New York State to accept the position, Dean and Professor, College of Health Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso. He also served as Assistant to Provost. In 2002, Dr. John B. Conway was recognized for his achievements in research, scholarship, service and teaching with The Charles H. and Shirley T. Levell Endowed Chair in Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dr. Conway retired from the University of Texas El Paso in January 2004.

Never idle, Conway has authored or co-authored and published numerous papers, articles, technical reports and reviews. His most recent publications include: *Water Quality in Maxcy-Rosenau-Last, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, 14th Edition*; *Optimizing Professional Education in Public Health, Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*; and *On the Need to Teach Science to Environmental Health Students, Journal of Environmental Health*.

Dr. Conway's major research interests include: human health risk factors associated with deteriorating water quality; disaster preparedness and emergency response measures; and risk factors associated with contaminated food supplies. To that end he has served as a consultant to federal, state and local governments in the United States, Canada and Mexico to help resolve issues created by natural disasters and promote the advancement of science and health in our communities and our homes.

A community-minded citizen, Jack was and remains active in local community programs serving as a member of the El Paso Rotary Club, Team El Paso Healthcare Council, Community Partnerships Advisory Council (an organization that operates health clinics in the lower Rio Grande), and Community Voices Collaborative (health care services to the underserved and medically indigent).

Dr. Conway has been extensively involved in the work of NSF International both at the Joint Committee level (Drinking Water Treatment Units) and serving on the NSF Council of Public Health Consultants.

Jack and Susan, his wife of 43 years, reside in El Paso, Texas. They have two children, Julie and Steve.

"Jack has been a real contributor to public health protection throughout his career, and he is deserving of this award," states a colleague in the Environmental Health Association.

He truly fulfills the qualifications of an individual committed to environmental health as subscribed by the award's namesake. NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association take great pleasure in awarding to Dr. John B. Conway the 2005 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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James E. Jump
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Charles C. Johnson, Jr.
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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
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