



The 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award For achievement in advancing environmental health

Presented to:

Terrance B. Gratton, Dr.P.H., D.A.A.S., R.S.

Dr. Terrance B. Gratton is being honored for his significant contributions to the field of environmental health during his nearly 40-year career within the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department, the U.S. Public Health Service and academia. These contributions were a result of strong leadership, determination, resourcefulness and the ability to organize communities and state organizations to implement and execute major environmental health improvements.

Early in his career, Dr. Gratton was employed as a sanitarian with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department (SAMHD), where he worked to improve food establishment inspections in the lower income areas of the city. He was then promoted to the engineering section of SAMHD, where his primary responsibility was the inspection of daycare facilities, institutions and nursing homes. He later became the chief trainer of new sanitarians, where he taught food codes and San Antonio Metropolitan Health ordinances, improving the overall education and quality of sanitarians' work with environmental health issues.

He then joined the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) in 1977. During his career with the USPHS, Dr. Gratton spent 18 years with the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Oklahoma,

Kansas and Arizona, and five years with the Bureau of Prisons in Fort Worth, Texas. Throughout his tenure with the IHS, Dr. Gratton's leadership and determination led him to organize and implement several major environmental improvement projects that provided quality of life improvements to several tribes in his jurisdiction.

"Dr. Gratton has long been involved in environmental health activities at the local, state and national levels and always with great devotion to the people whose lives were being affected by poor environmental quality," said Nelson Fabian, Executive Director of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). "His dedication to the IHS over 18 years improved the lives of thousands of families living on the reservations. It is because of contributions like this and his outstanding leadership that Dr. Gratton is a worthy recipient of the Walter F. Snyder Award."

While with the IHS in Oklahoma, Dr. Gratton worked with the Ponca Tribe to resolve major environmental issues on the reservation. He secured funding for operation and maintenance of the reservation's on-site wastewater systems and solid waste collection. Not only did the clean up reduce the environmental impact on soil and water, but it contributed to a better quality of life.

After transferring to Kansas, Dr. Gratton worked with several Native American tribes to restore the environmental quality of their reservations. The Prairie Band Pottawatomie Tribe lacked running water, which caused several health and sanitation issues for members living on the reservation. Dr. Gratton led the effort to extend rural water lines to the reservation.

Many of Dr. Gratton's contributions to environmental health have been demonstrated through his dedication to education and research. While serving as an Institutional Environmental Health Officer for the IHS, Dr. Gratton put into practice a training program that trained and certified the entire infection control nursing staff from the six Indian Health Service hospitals as Infection Control Practitioners in Oklahoma.

After retiring from the USPHS in 2000, Dr. Gratton turned his attention to educating the next generation of public health service leaders. As a full-time faculty member at the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of North Texas Health and Science Center School of Public Health, Dr. Gratton teaches the required Environmental Health core courses for the MPH program and contributes to the required Environmental Determinants core courses for the Ph.D. program.

Dr. Gratton has published numerous articles in professional journals and has served as a peer reviewer for educational publications. He remains an active and long-time member of the Texas and National Environmental Health Associations, Public Health Associations, the American Conference of Government Industrial

Hygienists and attained the highest credentials for environmental health practitioners as a Diplomat of the American Academy of Sanitarians (DAAS).

"Terry is a strong leader, a talented educator and a role model for young sanitarians in Texas and across the U.S. Terry is generous with praise and never lacking for words of support," said Steve Claybrook R.E.H.S., R.S., Past President of Texas Environmental Health Association.

Long time colleague Dr. D. B. Barnett said, "Terry's professionalism, personality and concern for both health and the environment have left an irrefutable legacy with his students, his peers and the many citizens with whom he has worked."

Dr. Gratton serves on several institutional and academic committees, including Chair of the Health Science Center Safety Committee. He is a founding member of the Alpha Sigma chapter of Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society and has received the Public Health Student Association Award for outstanding contributions for service and events. He has also received an Outstanding Teaching Award from the University of North Texas School of Public Health.

"Dr. Gratton's contributions to the environmental health profession throughout his career have left a lasting positive impact in areas such as education, training and sanitation," said Kevan P. Lawlor, NSF President and CEO. "It is his outstanding leadership and dedication to environmental health that resonate with the principles held by Walter F. Snyder, and make him an ideal recipient of the 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award."

The Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award

1971 Callis A. Atkins	1987 George A. Kupfer	1994 Nelson E. Fabian
1972 Ralph C. Pickard	1988 Mark D. Hollis	1995 Leonard F. Rice
1973 William A. Broadway	1989 Boyd T. Marsh	1996 Robert M. Brown
1974 James J. Jump	1990 Harvey F. Collins	1997 J. Roy Hickman
1975 Charles L. Senn	1991 Trenton G. Davis	1998 Chris J. Wiant
1977 Charles C. Johnson, Jr.	1992 Robert Galvan	1999 Khalil H. Mancy
1978 Larry J. Gordon	1993 Amer El-Ahraf	2000 Friedrich K. Kaeferstein
1979 John G. Todd		2001 Robert W. Powitz
1980 Ray B. Watts		2002 Gayle J. Smith
1981 Charles H. Gillham		2004 Peter D. Thornton
1982 Emil T. Chanlett		2005 John B. Conway
1983 John R. Bagby, Jr.		2006 Arthur L. Banks
1984 William Nix Anderson		2007 Wilfried Kreisel
1985 William G. Walter		2008 Craig A. Shepherd
1986 Albert H. Brunwasser		

