



THE 2010 WALTER F. SNYDER AWARD
For Achievement in Advancing Environmental Health

Presented to:

JAMES J. BALSAMO, JR., MS, MPH, MHA, RS, CSP, DLAAS

James J. Balsamo, Jr. is being honored for over 40 years of significant contributions to the field of environmental health during his career with both the City of New Orleans Health Department and Tulane University.

Early on, Mr. Balsamo was employed as a sanitarian with the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD), where he worked to establish the first comprehensive Institutional Environmental Health Program. While there, Mr. Balsamo was also a senior medical corpsman with the US Army Reserves and worked part-time at a commercial plasmapheresis center. He gained first hand experience of the operation of the plasma donor centers' procedures. He testified as a private citizen on the need to regulate plasmapheresis centers and later was the first to inspect these facilities for compliance with the newly adopted regulations.

As Deputy Director of the Office of Personal Health Protection with the NOHD, Mr. Balsamo developed a "Foodborne Disease Outbreak Kit" for use by New Orleans Sanitarians investigating suspected foodborne illness cases.

Mr. Balsamo left NOHD in 1973 to be the Assistant Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Tulane University. Here he organized the first Hospital Environmental Health and Safety Program at the then new Tulane University Hospital. He served as the first Chair of the Hospital Safety Committee.

At Tulane University Hospital, Jim introduced the concept of scavenging waste anesthetic gases used in general anesthesia during operations. By capturing these potentially toxic gases, the health protection of medical personnel was significantly improved.

In 1979, Jim became the Director of the Tulane University Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) and has remained in that position through today. In his 30 years as Director, he expanded programs to address federal, state and local environmental health mandates. His staff grew from 5 to 20 professionals to meet expanded programs and added responsibilities, including the first known integrated pest management program for a private university.

After the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington D.C. and the subsequent anthrax in the mail incidents, Jim worked with, and trained, the Tulane University mail center staff at various campuses how to protect themselves while handling large amounts of mail and packages received at Tulane. He also developed policies and procedures to handle suspicious packages and mail received by the University.

For five years Mr. Balsamo coauthored a column in the Journal of Environmental Health entitled "Tools for Environmental Health" that covered proper maintenance, calibration and use of portable field environmental monitoring instrumentation. He co-presented "Instrumentation Workshops" at several state and national conferences.

As a teacher, Jim provided training seminars for nurses in Louisiana preparing to take Board examination to become Certified Occupational Health Nurses. Jim also participated in several training cycles for the Peace Corps, teaching the volunteers basic sanitation and preparing them for their new tasks. At a local community college, Jim developed and taught a course on how to monitor for environmental conditions. He is also Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health at the Tulane

University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, Environmental Health Sciences Department teaching courses in Institutional Environmental Health and Industrial Hygiene and Safety.

Jim has served 8 years on the NSF Council of Public Health Consultants (CPHC) that provides public health ratification of NSF standards. Kevan Lawlor, NSF President and CEO expressed, "Jim Balsamo has career achievements that mirror the principles of Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International. His encouragement to young environmental professionals, his Tulane University staff, his long time chairmanship of the NEHA Scholarship Committee and his dedication to the CPHC demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of environmental health at all levels. These characteristics, and his accomplishments, make him a very worthy recipient of the Walter F. Snyder Award."

In addition to serving as Chair of the NEHA Scholarship Committee, Mr. Balsamo has worked with NEHA to bring more students and young professionals into NEHA. He also served as Technical Chair for the Institutions and Schools Section. He was the NEHA President from 2004 – 2005.

"Over all the years I have known Jim, his passion for environmental health has been unequalled" said Nelson Fabian, Executive Director of NEHA. "It is appropriate we present the 2010 Walter F. Snyder Award to James J Balsamo, Jr. a longtime NEHA member and Past President."

In addition to his personal property losses as a result of Hurricane Katrina, his service to the hurricane ravaged areas in 2005 and the unique clean up efforts needed to restore functional operation of a completely flooded and devastated Tulane University demonstrate the depth of his knowledge and his concern for people.

Mr. Balsamo has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice for many cases throughout the United States, its territories and possessions for matters involving conditions of confinement for incarcerated persons. He has served as an expert witness in several prison litigation proceedings.

For over 40 years, Jim has filled the role of teacher, mentor, scientist and leader in environmental health. Congratulations Jim.

Walter F. Snyder

Executive Director, National Sanitation Foundation (Now NSF International), 1944 - 1965

For ten years, Walter F. Snyder directed the environmental health program for the City of Toledo, Ohio. Through his studies and first-hand experience, he was convinced that progress on countless vital problems of public health could best be resolved by bringing representatives of government, industry and user groups together on neutral ground where they could discuss their differences and reconcile their viewpoints.

In 1944, Walter F. Snyder resigned from his position in Toledo and returned to the University of Michigan to help found the National Sanitation Foundation at the School of Public Health. He served as Executive Director until his death in 1965.



The Walter F. Snyder Award is presented by NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to a recipient who has achieved peer recognition for outstanding accomplishment in the fields of health and the environment... for notable contributions to public health and the quality of life, for demonstrated capacity to work with all interests in solving environmental health problems, for knowledge and proficiency in utilizing voluntary standards to obtain environmental health objectives, and for leadership in securing action toward advancement of environmental health goals.

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. Kaefenstein
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		2009 Terrance B. Gratton

