



## **THE 2013 WALTER F. SNYDER AWARD**

for Achievement in Advancing Environmental Health

Presented by NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association to

**VINCENT J. RADKE, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DAAS, CPH**

Vincent J. Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DAAS, CPH, is the 2013 recipient of the distinguished Walter F. Snyder award. He is being recognized for 43 years of distinguished environmental and public health service in enhancing the lives of people worldwide through leadership, dedication, service and a commitment to fostering collaboration. The award honors NSF International's co-founder and first executive director Walter F. Snyder, and recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental health.

In the 1970s, Mr. Radke was instrumental in helping to eradicate smallpox, the only human disease ever eliminated from the planet. As a surveillance and assessment officer with the U.S. Peace Corps in 1970, Mr. Radke worked with the Ethiopian government, tribal chiefs and school, health clinic and church staff to combat smallpox and establish cholera and tuberculosis immunization programs. The World Health Organization (WHO) requested Mr. Radke to assist with the eradication of smallpox in Bangladesh in 1975, and to document that smallpox had been eradicated from Kenya in 1977. For his work, he was awarded the Order of the Bifurcated Needle by WHO's Director General.

In the 1980s through early 1990s, Mr. Radke held several environmental health positions. As Director of Environmental Health in Stamford, Connecticut, he ran programs in water, sewage disposal systems, food services, noise control and air pollution. At the Virginia Department of Health, he provided sanitation and inspection services for water supplies, food service establishments, swimming pools, day care centers, pet shops and nursing homes. For his work responding to a cyclosporiasis outbreak related to pesto sauce, he and his colleagues at the Alexandria Health

Department received the Washington, D.C. Counsel of Government Award for Meritorious Service.

Mr. Radke was instrumental in establishing the Model Food Code in Northern Virginia in the mid 1990s, for which he received two annual Jerrold M. Michael Awards from the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association. He also helped to set up the Model Food Code for the State of Virginia.

In 2000 at the Institute for Environmental Assessment, Mr. Radke developed health, safety and injury reduction programs for school districts in Minnesota. He established school safety committees and implemented environmental compliance training for school employees in food safety, blood borne pathogens, chemical hygiene standards and laboratory safety.

In 2001, the Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hired Mr. Radke as a lead sanitarian to enhance food safety and security domestically and globally. He organized and led collaborative food safety activities within the CDC and with the National Center for Environmental Health and the National Center for Infectious Diseases, across many public health disciplines (epidemiology, behavioral science, laboratory and environmental health). He also led studies to identify environmental antecedents associated with foodborne illness, which required coordination between federal, state and local agencies.

Mr. Radke helped develop the Environmental Health Specialist Network (EHS-NET), a collaborative forum of environmental

health specialists to improve the practice of environmental health nationally. As co-leader of the EHSB innovation team, Mr. Radke has ushered the development of numerous national public health programs to raise the awareness of public health professionals on emerging environmental health issues and to improve the practice of the environmental health sciences.

Mr. Radke served as a mentor in the Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI), working with environmental health leaders from federal, state, local and tribal agencies across the U.S. His expertise was sought by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to assess water and sanitation systems following natural disasters in the Pacific Islands and the Philippines, and he has been a first responder in many hurricanes in the U.S.

Mr. Radke has served as president of two NEHA affiliates, the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association and the Virginia Environmental Health Association. He is NEHA technical advisor in disaster and emergency response and a board member of the American Academy of Sanitarians. He has served as a council member on the National Environmental Health Science and Professional Accreditation Council, reviewing and accrediting environmental courses of study in environmental health at undergraduate and graduate levels.

Kevan P. Lawlor, NSF International President and CEO, says, "Vince Radke's career achievements reflect the principles expressed by Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International. His service as a public health advocate, as well as a leader and a mentor, demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of public and environmental health. He inspires collaboration between agencies and people at all levels, and has helped establish many programs that have made a lasting global impact. These accomplishments make him an exceptionally worthy recipient of the Walter F. Snyder Award."

"Vince Radke is a respected leader in the environmental health field worldwide. He is highly regarded and respected due to his tireless service as well as his ability to encourage collaboration and drive change. Vince is an exceptional human health professional, as well as an inspiring human being. He deserves the Walter F. Snyder award," said Nelson Fabian, Executive Director and CEO of NEHA.

### 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 annually by NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association to a recipient who has achieved peer recognition for outstanding accomplishment in the field of environmental health, for notable contributions to public health and the quality of life, for work with all interests in solving environmental health problems, for utilizing voluntary consensus standards to attain 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	1988 Mark D. Hollis	1996 Robert M. Brown
1972 Ralph C. Pickard	1989 Boyd T. Marsh	1997 J. Roy Hickman
1973 William A. Broadway	1990 Harvey F. Collins	1998 Chris J. Wiant
1974 James J. Jump	1991 Trenton G. Davis	1999 Khalil H. Mancy
1975 Charles L. Senn	1992 Robert Galvan	2000 Friedrich K. Kaefenstein
1977 Charles C. Johnson, Jr.	1993 Amer El-Ahraf	2001 Robert W. Powitz
1978 Larry J. Gordon	1994 Nelson E. Fabian	2002 Gayle J. Smith
1979 John G. Todd	1995 Leonard F. Rice	2004 Peter D. Thornton
1980 Ray B. Watts		2005 John B. Conway
1981 Charles H. Gillham		2006 Arthur L. Banks
1982 Emil T. Chanlett		2007 Wilfried Kreisel
1983 John R. Bagby, Jr.		2008 Craig A. Shepherd
1984 William Nix Anderson		2009 Terrance B. Gratton
1985 William G. Walter		2010 James J. Balsamo, Jr.
1986 Albert H. Brunwasser		2011 Gary P. Noonan
1987 George A. Kupfer		2012 Harry E. Grenawitzke

