

Introduction of Cheryl L. Perry, Recipient of the 2004 Research Laureate Medallion

John P. Elder, PhD, FAAHB, Recipient of the 2003 Research Laureate Medallion

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce Dr Cheryl Perry, the 2004 recipient of the American Academy for Health Behavior's Research Laureate Award. Her address this evening is entitled "Getting Beyond Technical Rationality in the Design and Development of Multicomponent Health Behavior Programs With Youth."

Dr Perry is a professor in the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health where she has been on the faculty since 1980. Dr Perry received her PhD from Stanford University, her master's degree from the University of California, Davis, and her bachelor's degree from UCLA. During her time at UC Davis, she was also a teacher in the Davis and Sacramento Joint School Districts and subsequently went on to be vice principal of the Davis Joint Unified School District. Soon thereafter she migrated west to Palo Alto, Calif, where she was first a research assistant at the Stanford Heart Disease Prevention Program and subsequently Research Associate and Director of Youth Health Promotion Research of SHDPP.

Dr Perry has been a recipient of many honors over her career. A few among these include the inaugural Distinguished Women's Scholar Award given out by the University of Minnesota in 2001; the John P. McGovern Award in Health Promotion given by the University of Texas in 1998; the Distinguished Scholar Award given by the American Association for Health Education in 1997; membership in Delta Omega, the National Honor Society for Public Health in

1992; the American School Health Association Research Council Award for Long term Contributions to School Health Research, in 1990; the Leonard Schuman Excellence in Teaching Award given by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in 1990; and many others. Among her many other highly visible achievements was her service as Senior Scientific Editor of the 1994 Surgeon General's Report, which was entitled that year *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People*.

It is perhaps her work in smoking prevention research for which Cheryl is best known. I first met Cheryl in early 1981 soon after we had taken up our respective positions with the Minnesota Heart Health Program and the Pawtucket (Rhode Island) Heart Health Program. In spite of her then junior status, Cheryl was a recognized leader in both community heart-disease prevention and tobacco control circles. Her peer-led smoking prevention approach, which she developed with her colleagues at the Stanford Heart Disease Prevention Program, not only became the standard in Stanford health promotion research, but also was continued and extended at Minnesota. When we began our own school-based interventions within the Pawtucket Program, we as well referred to Dr Perry's work as the prototype for our smoking prevention efforts. School-based smoking prevention has progressed substantially since those days, not only with the continued work of Dr Perry and her colleagues in Minnesota but also throughout the country and internationally. Nevertheless, virtually every published community trial outcome or review article in this broad area of smoking prevention references her landmark research of nearly 25 years ago as well as much of her work that has since ensued. My own Project SHOUT, a smoking prevention

John P. Elder, professor, Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

Address correspondence to Dr Elder, 9245 Sky Park Court, Suite 221, San Diego, CA 92123. E-mail: jelder@mail.sdsu.edu

effort in San Diego County, was aided invaluablely by referring to her published research and by her consultation to us.

In all, Dr Perry has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and books, most of which focus on health promotion and prevention programs among children and adolescents. Incredibly, nearly 40% of her publications are first-authored.

Dr Perry's general school-based health promotion approach constituted the framework for the national Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH) funded by NHLBI in 1986 and to a large extent, for the Trial of Activity in Adolescent Girls (TAAG) cooperative trial funded in 2000. Among her current research interest are alcohol use prevention among Chicago teens, a study of vegetarianism among high school students and young adults, and tobacco use prevention in India, funded by the NIH Fogarty Center. This most recent inter-

national work extends Dr Perry's worldwide program development and consultation experiences, with previous efforts in Europe, South America, and elsewhere.

In a recent interview published in the *American Journal of Health Behavior*, Cheryl noted that she early on had to learn a flexible and adaptive coping style due to her shorter physical stature. As one of many who have competed with her for NIH funding, you can take my word that we have never noticed.

I have known Dr Cheryl Perry for nearly a quarter of a century, and I have worked with her for much of that time. A year ago, I received one of the greatest awards in my career as the recipient of the Research Laureate Medallion. With the presentation this evening, that reward has even more significance to me. My compliments to the American Academy of Health Behavior for their excellent choice in selecting Dr Cheryl Perry as the 2004 recipient of the Research Laureate.