American Academy of Sanitarians
Wagner Award
Recipients

Richard L. Roberts 1981
John P. Nordin 1982
Dr. John G. Todd 1983
Larry J. Gordon 1984
Dr. Geswallow A. Verrone 1985
Richard A. Moats 1987
Dale H. Treusdell 1988
George A. Kupfer 1990
Worley Johnson, Jr. 1991
Bruce R. Chelikowsky 1992
Charles Dee Clingman 1993
Webster Young, Jr. 1995
Dr. Robert W. Powitz 1996
Dr. Franklin B. Carver 1997
Colonel Anthony C. Aiken 1999
Captain Gary P. Noonan 2000
The Davis Calvin Wagner Award

The Davis Calvin Wagner Award was established by the American Academy of Sanitarians in 1980. This award was established as a result of the generous contribution of $10,000 followed by $1,000 in 1999 to the Academy by Carruth J. Wagner, M.D., a retired United States Public Health Service Assistant Surgeon General. He asked that the Award be established to recognize outstanding Academy Diplomates in memory of his deceased brother, Davis Calvin Wagner.

Dr. Wagner has a long and distinguished career in the field of preventive and public health. He has always been a strong advocate and promoter of the Professional Sanitarian as a key and leading member of the Public Health Team. During his tenure in the USPHS as Director and Manager of many national and international programs and activities, he has always been quick to recognize the capabilities of the Professional Sanitarian, and placed numerous Sanitarians in important comprehensive health programs throughout the country.

When making the $10,000 plus contribution to the Academy, Dr. Wagner asked that the funds be placed into an interest bearing account. Monies from the interest on the principal amount was to be applied in a way determined by the Academy, as a honorarium, for recognizing outstanding Diplomates of the Academy.

Dr. Wagner is currently associated with the California State Department and resides in Sacramento. The Academy is indebted to Dr. Wagner for his kind generosity in establishing the Award and especially for his long standing support and promotion of the Professional Sanitarian.

The Davis Calvin Wagner Award represents the highest honor and recognition the Academy can bestow upon a Diplomate for outstanding professional work accomplishments and contributions to the Sanitarian Profession.

The Award includes an individual engraved, wooden plaque with the recipient’s name, date and location of presentation, along with a traveling plaque, started in 1997, which contains all the names & dates of previous Wagner Award Recipients, plus a $500 honorarium, and a $250 check for travel expenses. The plaque and honorarium are presented to the recipient at the Academy Reception which is usually held during the Annual Educational Conference of the National Environmental Health Association.

Captain Gary P. Noonan
Wagner Award Recipient 2000

CAPT Noonan is a highly regarded and unique environmental health expert in the field of childhood lead poisoning prevention as well as an invaluable member of the Commissioned Corps, U.S. Public Health Service. His contributions and highly effective interpersonal skills have led to the development of new prevention initiatives in many foreign nations, have contributed to improved international relations, and helped improve public health practice. Among the many countries CAPT Noonan has provided consultation, technical assistance, and training to are: Russia, China, India, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Peru, Chile, and Mexico. Among his many accomplishments in international lead poisoning prevention are the following:

- Design and implementation of the environmental sampling portion of several pediatric blood lead evaluation studies in Russia in response to the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission agreements.
- Development and implementation of a sampling strategy, as well as strategies for source elimination, that were instrumental in identifying the source of an acute outbreak in Egypt from contaminated flour.
- Developed and implemented a food and water sanitation program for use by common ship carriers in Egypt, using the CDC’s Vessel Sanitation Program as a model. To date, approximately 250 vessels on the Nile have been inspected.
- Provided consultation and training to the Ministry of Health of the People’s Republic of China, Beijing Medical University, Chile, Mexico, and Peru to identify sources of lead contamination and methods to control them. As a result of his efforts, prevention strategies have been implemented in each of these countries.

Prior to working in the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch, CAPT Noonan was assigned as an Industrial Hygienist where he served as both a Section Chief and as a Branch Chief to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). While there he was involved in a number of significant projects; most notably, he was the principal investigator on a major study of the efficacy of SCBA that are used by firefighters leading to the development of SCBA that provide higher levels of protection for firefighters.