

In this issue, **Inside the Academy** profiles Dr John P. Elder, Professor of Health Promotion, San Diego State Graduate School of Public Health, and Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics, University of California-San Diego. A native Nebraskan, he received a BA degree in psychology from the University of Nebraska and later earned MA and PhD degrees in clinical psychology from West Virginia University. Subsequently, Dr Elder completed the MPH at Boston University, specializing in international health. Prior to pursuit of his college education, he spent 2 years of service in the United States Marine Corps.

His first postdoctoral position was as clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, a post he held between 1979 and 1981. Leaving the site of his doctoral training, Elder took on the post of Intervention Director in the highly acclaimed Pawtucket Heart Health Study until 1984, in addition, serving part of that interval as assistant professor of community medicine at neighboring Brown University. From the mid-1980s through the mid-1990s, Dr Elder capitalized on his professional public health training in global affairs by becoming the Senior Technical Advisor for the Health Communications for Child Survival (HEALTHCOM) Project, under the sponsorship of USAID and the Academy for Educational Development. This set of activities brought him to such unique locations as Indonesia, New Guinea, Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Yemen. Concurrent with this assignment, Dr Elder began his career at San Diego State University. The 1990s also presented him opportunity for several guest and visiting teaching assignments, most prominent of which included ones at the University of Magdeburg (Germany) and Spain's National School of Pub-

lic Health in Madrid. In all, Dr. Elder has consulted in 20 different countries. Besides child survival issues, his international work has been in other aspects of maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, dengue fever control, soil and fisheries conservation, research design, and social marketing.

Dr Elder's efforts have garnered him approximately 22 grants and contracts as principal investigator and at least \$28 million in direct costs. As co-principal investigator or coinvestigator on 19 other projects, his activities have resulted in another \$15 million in funding. He currently serves as principal investigator of 4 NIH-funded research projects (total funding \$9 million), including a tobacco prevention program for Hispanic families and their middle school children, targeted and tailored nutrition communication for Latinos, the San Diego component of the Trial of Activity for Adolescent Girls, and obesity prevention in Latino home and community Environments. These latter 2 projects are active through at least 2006.

Dr Elder is a prolific writer, having authored 3 books (most recently, *Behavior Change and Public Health in the Developing World*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 2001) and 225 other publications in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, and behavioral epidemiology over the past 25 years. His authorship crosses the boundaries of numerous educational, social and behavioral, and clinical sciences in some of the leading journals in each of these major fields of study. He has published in Spanish as well as English. Some of his recent work includes developing a social marketing campaign for the prevention of HIV infections and the promotion of voluntary testing and counseling in the African nation of Lesotho.

It comes as no surprise that Dr Elder's work draws numerous awards and professional recognitions. He has been a recipient of multiple awards for being an outstanding teacher at San Diego State University. One of his research interventions (*Sembrando Salud*), targeted at adolescent Hispanic migrant farmworkers, was recognized in 2003 by

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the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in its national registry of effective programs. A Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior, Dr Elder became just the third recipient of the Academy's coveted Research Laureate Medallion and gave the Laureate Address at the Academy's Third Scientific Meeting in St. Augustine, Florida in March 2003. The text of his Laureate presentation (Reaching out to

America's immigrants: community health advisors and health communication) can be found in the *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 27(suppl 3), S196-S205.

For over a quarter of a century, Dr Elder has been a champion of research and teaching, of international health programs, and of overall excellence in scholarship. It is with great pride that we report his career achievements **Inside the Academy**.