

Inside The Academy

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In this issue, **Inside the Academy** profiles Dr Elbert D. Glover, Professor and Chair of the Department of Public and Community Health at the University of Maryland at College Park. After 15 years at West Virginia University School of Medicine, Dr Glover accepted the leadership challenge in 2005 for an already distinguished faculty at the University of Maryland with one goal in mind: "Becoming the top health education department in the nation!" Dr Glover's roots in health education are deep having completed 3 degrees in this area: BA (1969) from Texas Tech University; MA (1972) from Texas A&I, Kingsville; PhD (1977) from Texas Woman's University. It is noteworthy that Dr Glover was one of the first male students to be admitted to the PhD program at the formerly all female institution.

Dr Glover's career as an academician began at Texas A&M University (1975-76) as a visiting lecturer. He subsequently went to the University of Kansas as assistant professor (1976-78) and then to Texas Christian University (1978-82) where he was the Director of the Health Education program. He moved on to Oklahoma State University as associate professor in 1982 and served one year as chair of the Health Department before accepting a position with the Oklahoma Health Systems Agency (HSA) during 1983-84. With the HSA system being abolished by the Reagan Administration, Dr Glover returned to academia at East Carolina University (1985-88), rising to the rank of professor. He joined the health education faculty of the Pennsylvania State University (1988-90) where he also established the Center for Tobacco Research. He relocated his research endeavors to West Virginia University in 1990. Dr Glover's multifaceted activities led to an array of titles and responsibilities at the West Virginia Uni-

versity School of Medicine of the Robert C Byrd Health Science Center — Director, Addiction and Psychiatric Medicine Research Center; Professor, Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry; and Professor, Department of Family Medicine. Beyond these academic assignments in career replete with research accomplishments, other academic venues have included teaching assignments at Texas Woman's University (1979) and at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (1980).

Since the mid-1970s, Dr Glover's research has been focused on the social and behavioral aspects of tobacco use and nicotine dependence. In the 1980s, some of his studies of smokeless tobacco use among children and youth, and the oral and biomedical outcomes related to use, influenced the 1986 preparation of the *Surgeon General's Report of the Health Consequences of Smokeless Tobacco Use*. For more than a decade now, this interest in tobacco has expanded to chemical and behavioral interventions to facilitate withdrawal from nicotine dependence. He maintains essential interest in the physician's role in smoking cessation. He has delivered some 500 invited medical grand rounds and other workshops on the subject of cessation to physicians throughout the world.

Dr Glover has conducted clinical trials with various nicotine pharmacologic adjuncts, including chewing gums, transdermal patches, oral inhalers and nasal sprays, and sublingual tablets. His spiraling success and expertise in clinical trials led directly to his participation in additional trials with other drugs, thereby contributing knowledge to future solutions concerning complex health conditions. For instance, he has investigated compounds for treatment of depression, generalized anxiety, diabetes, adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Alzheimer's disease, bipolar disorder, binge eating, and obesity. In performance of these and other projects, Dr Glover has received tens of millions of grant dollars and published more than 120 papers in peer-reviewed journals. His clinical trials projects follow him to the

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University of Maryland.

Dr Glover serves in editorial capacities for at least 20 prominent health journals, including, but not limited to *American Journal of Public Health*, *Addictive Behaviors*, *NCI Journal*, *Journal of Clinical Advances in Smoking Cessation*, *Physician & Sportsmedicine*, *Public Health Reports*, *American Journal of Health Education*, *Journal of School Health*, *Journal of Family Practice*, *Journal of Alcohol & Drug Education*, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, and *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Of significant note, he is responsible for the transformation of the former *Health Values* into the *American Journal of Health Behavior*, a research-intensive publication for which he has served for over 17 years as editor-in-chief.

As early as the 1980s, Dr Glover envisioned the formation of a professional organization whose principal mission would be to advance health education and health behavior research and whose composition would consist of the nation's and the world's leading health behavior research scholars. This dream became reality in 1997 with the formation of the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB). In addition to being the principal founder of the AAHB, he served as the organization's first president until 2002. His philosophical and entrepreneurial guidance established an entity that continues to serve the needs of a special niche of professionals, while also contributing to the evolving status of health educators.

Dr Glover has achieved a special status among scholars. He is a Fellow of the

American Academy of Health Behavior, the American School Health Education, and the Royal Institute of Public Health (United Kingdom). Moreover, he has been honored as the American Association of Health Education Scholar (2003) and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Scholar (2004). His provocative and timely keynote presentations at the annual meetings of these organizations in recognition of these honors are the subject of study and discussion in numerous institutions of higher learning. These scholarly accomplishments notwithstanding, his professional influence has reached out to lay audiences as well. His work has been featured in both popular print media (*People*, *USA Today*, *Reader's Digest*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*) and electronic media (*20/20*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS Morning News*, *Dateline*, and *ABC News with Peter Jennings*).

In summary, Dr Glover's career as a researcher and distinguished scholar has advanced both knowledge and practice. His role as a visionary has moved the status of health educators and health behavior specialists to a new level. Whereas his scholarly activities have taken him to the far corners of the world and his research has transcended many disciplines, he has never abandoned his dedication as a teacher and steward of the health education profession. Dr Glover has created a rich legacy for others to follow and is an inspired mentor for novice and accomplished scholars alike. His fellow researchers and colleagues of the American Academy of Health Behavior proudly salute his achievements **Inside the Academy**.