

***ViewPoint** features candid conversations with prominent health behavior scholars. The column focuses on the human or interpersonal side of research and addresses such topics as how renowned researchers were initiated into the world of research, why they continue to do it, personal challenges encountered over the years, ingredients necessary to be a success as an investigator, key characteristics and qualities of inspirational mentors, sources of consternation, challenges that lie ahead, hot topics worthy of pursuit, and books and materials that are must reading. The intention is to share the viewpoints and thinking processes of our leading health behavior scholars. We hope that the column will be an inspiration to young and seasoned scholars alike.*

Author of 5 books, 20 book chapters, and more than 150 papers in scientific and professional journals, Dr **David F. Duncan** is a prolific researcher and scholar. The primary focus of his research has been on drug use and abuse, a field in which he was a pioneer of the harm reduction approach and co originator of the self-medication hypothesis of the addictions. The diversity of his research in other areas has led to his making contributions in virtually every area of health education.

His career has alternated between work in research, clinical, educational, and public policy positions, often holding more than one position at a time. Living in Bowling Green, Ky, while recuperating from some serious health problems, he currently operates a small research consulting firm, teaches 2 web-based courses for Brown University Medical School, and is one of the directors of a primary care center serving the health care needs of the poor in his medically underserved area. His websites can be accessed at <http://www.duncan-associates.com> and <http://commonplacebook.tripod.com> Conversation took place on November 5, 2002. #0006

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