

***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.*

Dr **Guy S. Parcel**, is executive dean and the John P. McGovern Professor in Health Promotion and the M. David Low Chair in Public Health at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. He also serves as professor of behavioral sciences at the UT School of Public Health and professor of pediatrics at the UT Medical School at Houston. Dr Parcel is a Fellow of the American School Health Association. He has directed NIH- and CDC-funded research projects to develop and evaluate programs to address sexual risk behavior in adolescents, diet and physical activity in children, smoking prevention in adolescents, and self-management of childhood chronic diseases including asthma and cystic fibrosis.

Dr Parcel received his BS and MS degrees in health education at Indiana University and his PhD at Pennsylvania State University with a major in health education and a minor in child development and family relations. Dr Parcel has authored or coauthored numerous scientific papers, book chapters, and books over the past 30 years. From 1992 to 2002 Dr Parcel was the number 2 top recipient of research funding at UT Health Science Center at Houston with a total of over \$21 million in awards in the 10-year period. In 2003 he received the Patty Distinguished Alumni Award from the Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; in 1999 he received the Texas Society for Public Health Education Dorothy Huskey Award; in 1990 he received the American School Health Association's William A. Howe Award for outstanding contributions and distinguished service in school health, and in 1985 he received the Alumni Fellow Award from The Pennsylvania State University.

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