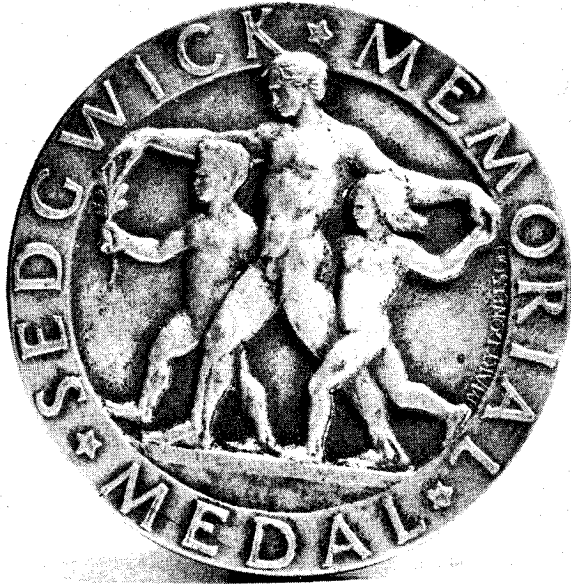


SEDGWICK MEMORIAL MEDAL



The Sedgwick Memorial Medal is awarded by the American Public Health Association for distinguished service and the advancement of public health knowledge and practice. Established in honor of the late Professor William Thompson Sedgwick, who was president of APHA in 1915, the Sedgwick Memorial Medal has been presented annually since 1929.

LARRY J. GORDON, MS, MPH

1987 Sedgwick Memorial Medal



The American Public Health Association is honored to recognize the notable career and exemplary public health leadership of Larry J. Gordon, MS, MPH, by naming him the 1987 recipient of its Sedgwick Memorial Award for Distinguished Service in Public Health. Currently Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health and Environment, he also is cited for his special contributions to environmental health.

The Sedgwick, APHA's oldest and most prestigious award, has been presented annually since 1929 and was established in honor of the memory of the late professor, William Thompson Sedgwick, president of APHA in 1915.

Like Sedgwick, Gordon is a visionary, a biologist, a sanitarian, and a teacher - one who has trained, inspired and mentored thousands of young public health workers to explore the interrelationships of the human organism with its environment, so that people may not only live, but live well. He also has led APHA in its mission to improve public health, urging it to maintain a strong scientific basis for all of its actions.

Gordon's particular focus in developing model environmental health agencies at the local and state levels, tied closely with his continued insistence that environmental health be integral to society's total health effort, is commended. He has set a high example for his colleagues to emulate and his name will add further lustre to the list of Sedgwick awardees. Gordon began his career in 1949 as a high school science teacher, but when higher education and public service called to him, he answered. While earning his MS in Biology from the University of New Mexico, and his MPH from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, he also designed, and helped create, the nation's first local environmental health department for Albuquerque. As department director from 1955 to 1968, he broadened that agency's health mission to include not only traditional environmental sanitation, but also to assure the safety, comfort, and well-being of present and future generations, through his municipal programs, long-range planning, growth management, prevention and protection objectives.

At the state level, he created New Mexico's Environmental Improvement Agency and directed it from 1971 to 1973. Today, New Mexico is still the only state in which all occupational health and safety functions are centralized within the state health agency.

He not only expanded the range of the agency's environmental health programs and improved many internal program functions - including public information procedures, staff training and career development - he also recommended the creation of the still-active Environmental Improvement Board, a state wide policy body.

Gordon is recognized for his key roles in the passage of numerous New Mexico statutes affecting municipal health departments, air quality, water pollution control, and occupational safety and health. He also established the Metropolitan Environmental Health Advisory Board and the City/County Air Quality Control Board, still active today as advisory and regulatory bodies, and the current city/county air pollution program, one of

the earliest in the country. In 1966, he directed the nation's first Governors' Conference on Environmental Planning.

A visionary, Gordon saw the need for a comprehensive state laboratory in New Mexico. Through his efforts, that need became a reality in 1973, when the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory System was established. He was the first director of the laboratory which today serves a variety of local, state and federal programs in its \$5.5 million facility. Three years later, as state administrator for Health and Environmental Programs, he helped the governor and legislative leaders to enact legislation establishing the New Mexico Health and Environment Department, of which he was deputy secretary from 1978 to 1982.

He returned to Albuquerque from 1982 to 1986 as director of the Environmental Health Department where he developed one of the few municipal health department's hazardous waste programs in the nation, and created and chaired both an Air Quality Task Force and the Mayor's Aquifer Water Quality Steering Group. Gordon also wrote the *Guide to the Role of Local Health Officials in Local Management of Hazardous Waste*, a standard for local communities; drafted the current city wide policy on smoking in the workplace; developed air pollution legislation; and successfully recommended the creation of a state Environmental Quality Advisory Board.

Early this year, at the invitation of New Mexico's Governor Garrey Carruthers, Gordon became a member of his cabinet and is currently working to revive the state Health and Environment Department.

As was Sedgwick, Larry Gordon is a widely recognized public health leader, as evidenced by his many professional affiliations, memberships, and awards. An active APHA member for more than three decades, he has served the Association in a variety of ways including serving on the Action Board, the Task Force on National Population Policy, the Executive Board, and as president of APHA. While president, he led the Association in fighting anti-health and anti-environment policies and inspired others to renew their commitments to public health priorities.

A founder of the American Inter-Society Academy for Certification of Sanitarians, he also chaired the Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators, is on the President's Council of the National Audubon Society, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association of New Mexico. He is a member of the Public

Health Subcommittee of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, and past president of the New Mexico Public Health Association. He is a consultant to the US Public Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Sanitation Foundation, and the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

Widely published, with more than 100 articles in professional journals, Gordon was also a frequent expert witness before Congress on environmental and public health issues. His many awards include: the Davis Calvin Wagner Award by the American Academy of Sanitarians, 1984; the Walter F. Snyder Award in 1978; honorary membership in the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, London, 1981; the Walter S. Mangold Award from the National Environmental Health Association, 1961; and two Samuel J. Crumbine Awards from APHA for "Outstanding Achievement in Developing a Comprehensive Program of Environmental Health," in 1959 and 1965.

Dedicated to increasing knowledge from his first job as a science teacher, he strives to improve the training of other environmental and public health professionals. He is a member of the National Accreditation Council for Environmental Health Curricula, serves on the Council on Education for Public Health, has worked with the Bureau of Health Professions, Education and Manpower Training, Washington, DC, and serves as a clinical associate at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and as adjunct professor at the University's Graduate School of Public Administration

In bestowing the 1987 Sedgwick Memorial Award on our colleague, Larry Gordon, APHA takes careful note and more than a little pride in the truly outstanding contributions he has made to protect and enhance the environment in America and especially in his own state of New Mexico, and fervently hopes that there are many more dedicated environmentalists like him throughout the United States who are actively involved in stemming the destruction of our national resources and working to preserve clean air, pure water, and beautiful parks for our own enjoyment and well-being and especially for all those who shall come after us.

Previous Recipients of the Sedgwick Memorial Award

1929 Charles V. Chapin, MD
1930 Theobald Smith, MD
1931 George W. McCoy, MD
1932 William H. Park, MD
1933 Milton I Rosenau, MD

1959 Louis I. Dublin, PhD
1960 Fred T. Foard, MD
1961 Frank G. Boudreau, MD
1962 Ira V. Hiscock, ScD, MPH
1963 Gaylord W. Anderson, MD, DrPH

1934	<i>Edwin O. Jordan, PhD</i>	1964	<i>Leona Baumgartner, MD, PhD</i>
1935	<i>Haven Emerson, MD</i>	1965	<i>Willimina R. Walsh</i>
1936	<i>Frederick F. Russell, MD</i>	1966	<i>Fred L. Soyer, MD, DrPH</i>
1938	<i>Wade H. Frost, MD</i>	1967	<i>George Baehr, MD</i>
1939	<i>Thomas Parran, MD</i>	1968	<i>Herman E Hilleboe, MD</i>
1940	<i>Hans Zinsser, MD</i>	1969	<i>Marion W. Sheahan, RN</i>
1941	<i>Charles Armstrong, MD</i>	1970	<i>Hugh R. Leavell, MD, DrPH</i>
1942	<i>C.-E. A. Winslow, DrPH</i>	1971	<i>Margaret G. Arnstein, RN, MPH</i>
1943	<i>James S. Simmonr, MD</i>	1972	<i>Paul S. Correly, MD, DrPH</i>
1944	<i>Ernest W. Goodpasture, MD</i>	1973	<i>/sidore S. Falk, PhD</i>
1946	<i>Karl F. Meyer, MD</i>	1974	<i>Myron E. Wegman, MD, MPH</i>
1947	<i>Reginald M. Atwater, MD</i>	1975	<i>Leroy E. Burney, MD, MPH</i>
1948	<i>Abel Wolman, DrEng</i>	1976	<i>Malcolm H. Merrill, MD, MPH</i>
1949	<i>Henry F. Vaughan, DrPH</i>	1977	<i>Lester Breslow, MD, MPH</i>
1950	<i>Rolla Eugene Dyer, MD</i>	1978	<i>M. Allen Pond, MPH</i>
1951	<i>Edward S. Godfrey, Jr., MD</i>	1979	<i>Doris E. Roberts, RN, MPH, PhD</i>
1952	<i>Kenneth F. Mazcy, MD, DrPH</i>	1980	<i>Lorin E. Kerr, MD, MSPH</i>
1953	<i>Carl E. Buck, DrPH</i>	1981	<i>Dwight F. Metzler, CE, SM</i>
1954	<i>Wilson G. Smillie, MD, DrPH</i>	1982	<i>C. Rufur Rorem, PhD, CPA</i>
1955	<i>Albert J. Chesley, MD</i>	1983	<i>Milton I. Roemer, MD, MPH</i>
1956	<i>Frederick W. Jackson, MD, DPH</i>	1984	<i>Milton Terris, MD, MPH</i>
1957	<i>Lowell J. Reed, PhD</i>	1985	<i>HenrikL. Blum, MD, MPH</i>
1958	<i>Martha M. Eliot, MD</i>	1986	<i>C. Arden Miller, MD</i>