



Samuel J. Wycoff

Obituary

Samuel J. Wycoff, DMD, MPH, an emeritus professor of dentistry and public health at UCSF, died September 19, 2003, at his San Francisco home at the age of 74. Born in Berry, AL, Dr. Wycoff graduated from the University of Alabama and opened his own dental practice in Jackson, MS. Soon after, his passion of promoting public health and proper dental care prompted him to leave private practice behind. After earning an MPH from the University of Michigan, Dr. Wycoff became a regional program director for dental health for the US Public Health Service. Subsequently, he turned his attention to academics and became professor and chairperson of the Department of Preventive Dentistry and Community Health at Loyola University in Chicago.

In 1969 Dr. Wycoff moved to San Francisco to become the first chairperson of the Division of Preventive Dentistry and Community Health at the UCSF School of Dentistry. "Many of the faculty did not understand what

Sam was doing and resisted the concept of community dentistry," said Steve Silverstein, a professor at the UCSF School of Dentistry. Nevertheless, Dr. Wycoff continued to champion the idea that educating people about the importance of dental hygiene had a critical impact on public health. As a result of this dedication, he received numerous academic and professional awards for his work. Dr. Charles Bertolami, dean of the UCSF School of Dentistry, described Dr. Wycoff as "a compassionate and caring individual who left an important legacy for the entire dental profession."

Dr. Wycoff was a pioneer in the early days of the HIV epidemic, conducting research into health care practitioners' infection control techniques and attitudes about treating patients with AIDS. He helped create protocols used to assess the dental needs of geriatric patients in long-term care.

Dr. Wycoff is survived by his sister-in-law, Frances Wycoff of Concord, NC, and many nieces and nephews, who are the children of his late siblings, Eugene and Virginia. Memorial gifts can be directed to UCSF Foundation for the Sam Wycoff Memorial Fund for Dental Public Health, 745 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0970, San Francisco, CA 94143-0970.

Congratulations

MESA, ARIZONA (November 17, 2003)—The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) announced the addition of the **Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health** (ASDOH) to the commission's roster of programs available to students through its Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). Beginning in fall 2004, ASDOH will be eligible to receive PSEP students from the states of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico,

North Dakota, and Wyoming. "It is gratifying that WICHE recognized the quality of our dental education program by granting an exception allowing ASDOH to accept WICHE scholars three years ahead of schedule," exclaimed ASDOH Dean Jack Dillenberg. "Arizona's WICHE applicants can receive up to a \$16,500 annual scholarship for a commitment to practice in Arizona after graduation."

The Mesa, AZ-based and accredited ASDOH, which enrolled its inaugural class in 2003, offers an innovative curriculum designed to prepare students to become high-quality practitioners. In addition, the four-year program allows students to earn a certificate in public health management, helping them focus on care needed by underserved communities in the Southwest, rural West, and in Native American communities. ASDOH students will provide dental care during their fourth year of education in community settings including community health centers, veterans hospitals, Luke Air Force Base, and other locations throughout Arizona and nationwide.

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education works collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. The Professional Student Exchange Program is the oldest of WICHE's exchange programs, launched in the 1950s. Through PSEP, students pursuing their professional education out of state pay resident tuition or reduced tuition at private institutions. PSEP currently enrolls 710 students in 13 fields.

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