

PROFILE 2009



James D. YAGER

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Dr. Yager is an expert on the mechanisms of estrogen carcinogenesis. Dr. Yager's ongoing research is focused on investigating mechanisms by which endogenous estrogens and their metabolites and environmental chemicals with estrogenic activity (xenoestrogens) contribute to the development of "spontaneous" breast cancer with the goal of developing strategies for assessing genetic and environmental risk factors and for prevention. His research on estrogen carcinogenesis has been continuously funded through grants from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1978. He is the author or co-author of over 200 publications, book chapters and abstracts and has trained a numerous doctoral and postdoctoral students. Dr. Yager has served on a variety of research-related advisory boards and review panels, including various NIH grant, program project, center and doctoral training program review panels. He served on the National Academies of Science/National Research Council Committee on Toxicity Testing and Assessment of Environmental Agents which published two reports, the second of which presented a new, innovative paradigm for the toxicity testing process in the context of risk assessment. Dr. Yager is also on the editorial boards of several scientific journals.

In his role as the senior associate dean for academic affairs, Dr. Yager is responsible for overseeing, facilitating, and coordinating existing, and development of new academic, training, and continuing education programs in the School of Public Health. Working with members of the School's faculty, Dr. Yager was instrumental in facilitating the development of and funding for the School's Open CourseWare program, which has resulted in the free availability of the content of over 70 of the School's courses to individuals throughout the world who desire access to this knowledge for self-improvement, use in teaching, or use in their professions. The School's OCW web site now is visited by individuals from over 120 countries. In collaboration with School faculty and the Pan American Health Association, Dr. Yager was instrumental in facilitating the development of a novel internet-based certificate program in Spanish titled "Certificate Program in Epidemiology for Public Health Managers". Five cohorts of 30 students from various countries in Central and South America have completed this one-year highly successful customized certificate program. It serves as a model for training and capacity building of public health professionals in developing and developed countries.



Since 2003 Dr. Yager has also been an Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) representative on the Council of Education in Public Health (CEPH), the body that accredits schools and programs of public health in the United States and internationally. He was elected president of CEPH for 2009.

