Distinguished Lecturer

MICHAEL MERSON, M.D.

"GLOBAL HEALTH: EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD"

Baylor College of Medicine Cullen Auditorium - 3:15 pm

Also included throughout the day will be presentations from Baylor students and faculty involved in global health initiatives.



Dr. Merson is the founding director of the Duke Global Health Institute and the Wolfgang Joklik Professor of Global Health at Duke University and Vice Chancellor for Duke-National University of Singapore (NUS) Affairs.

Dr. Merson has authored more than 175 articles, primarily in the area of disease prevention. His most recent contributions concern HIV policy and prevention in developing countries and broader global health issues. He is the senior editor of Global Health: Disease, Programs, Systems, and Policies, which is a leading global health textbook in the United States.

He has served in advisory capacities for UNAIDS, WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, World Bank, Doris Duke Foundation, World Economic Forum, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and on several NIH review panels and advisory committees. He is a member of the Commission for Smart Global Health Policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Dr. Merson has received two Commendation Medals from the U.S. Public Health Service, the Arthur S. Flemming Award for distinguished government service, the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal and two honorary degrees and is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Merson earned his medical degree at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center. After serving as a medical intern and resident at Johns Hopkins, he worked in the Enteric Diseases Branch at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and served as the Chief Epidemiologist at the Cholera Research Laboratory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. His research focused on the etiology and epidemiology of acute diarrheal diseases, including cholera, in developing countries and on the cause of travelers' diarrhea in persons visiting these countries.

From 1978 until 1995, Merson worked for the World Health Organization (WHO). Merson was director of the Diarrheal Diseases Control Program for 10 years and then served as director of the Acute Respiratory Infections Control Program from 1987 to 1990. From 1990 to 1995, he headed the worldwide effort to control the AIDS epidemic as director of the WHO's Global Program on AIDS.

In April 1995, he joined Yale University School of Medicine as its first Dean of Public Health and as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. He also led a number of training programs that strengthened the capacity of scientists in Russia, China, India and South Africa to undertake HIV/AIDS prevention research.

In 2006, Dr. Merson was named Director of the newly created Global Health Institute at Duke University.