

In my professional work, I am most proud of my graduate students who have committed themselves to a career of research and service in public health. A number of my former students have become friends and colleagues. They are sensitive to issues of economic and social equality and are advocates of peace and justice, in addition to being intelligent and motivated to accomplish worthwhile public health research. When I visit them or meet them at conferences, I am very glad that I had the privilege of having contributed to their formation as public health scientists.

I am also proud that I conducted epidemiological research that was directly used to set national standards for air quality. The study that made the biggest contribution

was the Chattanooga schoolchildren study, which I designed and organized in 1968 and 1969. We trained PTA volunteers to take pulmonary function measurements of elementary schoolchildren from three areas of Chattanooga, one of which was close to a large TNT manufacturing plant and which emitted significant amounts of nitrogen dioxide. At that time not much was known about the human health effects of nitrogen dioxide in air, but this was an important air pollutant coming from both electric power plants and automobiles. Our study showed that schoolchildren living close to the plant had more acute respiratory disease and poorer lung function than the other children in the study. The results were the primary health data used to establish a national air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide.

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