

ROSS F. CONNER



Dr. Conner is on the faculty of the University of California at Irvine, where he is Director of the Center for Community Health Research in the School of Social Ecology. He is the Past President of the American Evaluation Association, a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society, and was a W.K. Kellogg Foundation National Fellow (1984-1987). Dr. Conner received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in social psychology and evaluation from Northwestern University and his B.A. in psychology from The Johns Hopkins University. He also serves on the faculty of the Evaluators' Institute (Washington, DC, and San Francisco, CA), the Claremont (CA) Graduate University's Evaluation and Applied Research Methods summer institute, and the Healthforum (San Francisco), teaching and advising on community-based health promotion and evaluation. Dr. Conner is currently President of the Board of Trustees of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation, involving national and regional evaluation organizations throughout the world. At the end of this year, Dr. Conner will step down from his university position to pursue new national and international projects.

Dr. Conner works in the area of community health promotion and disease prevention. Using the World Health Organizations' "healthy communities" framework, he works in partnership with communities of many types and sizes, in the US and abroad. Currently, he is the principal investigator for the **ACCT Project: Achieving Cancer Control Together with Koreans and Chinese in Orange County, California**. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The California Endowment and the Irvine Health Foundation are the project's co-sponsors. This five-year "healthy communities" project, mainly focused on breast and cervical cancers, is a collaboration among the Korean community, the Chinese community, the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, and the university. Dr. Conner is also undertaking an assessment and strategic review of The California Endowment's **CommunitiesFirst** grant program, which has supported over 1,000 communities to select and act on health improvements. He recently completed an 8-year evaluation of the **Colorado Healthy Communities Initiative**, an extensive effort involving 28 Colorado communities; this evaluation investigated the processes, outcomes and impacts of this citizen- and community-based approach to health promotion and it included community indicators for 15 of the communities. This evaluation received the American Evaluation Association's 2002 Outstanding Evaluation Award. Dr. Conner is also involved in an **HIV/AIDS prevention** program for Latino immigrant males. He previously worked on HIV/AIDS prevention with migrant workers from Mexico, Central and South America, for which he received the 1992 UC Health Net Wellness Lecturer Award.

Dr. Conner is the author/editor or co-author/editor of 9 books, including *AIDS: Science and Society* (2004, 4th ed.; co-authored with Fan and Villarreal), *AIDS Crossing Borders: The Spread of HIV among Migrant Latinos* (1996; co-edited with Mishra and Magaña), and *Advancing Public Policy Evaluation: Learning from International Experience* (1992; co-edited with Hudson, Mayne and Bemelmans-Videc). In addition to his work in health planning and promotion, Professor Conner has written papers on his evaluation projects in other areas, including education, criminal justice and leadership development. His writings also include papers on evaluation utilization in program improvement and policy formation, experimental and quasi-experimental designs in evaluation, international and cross-cultural evaluation issues, and evaluation training. His work is or has been supported by a variety of programs, agencies and foundations, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the California Endowment, the Irvine Health Foundation, the American Bar Association, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the California Community Foundation, California Policy Seminar, The Colorado Trust, the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Forest Service/U.S. Department of Agriculture, the St. Joseph Health System, the International Development Center of Japan, and the University of California.

Dr. Conner's professional service includes current or former assignments on advisory and grant review panels for various groups (for example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health), editorial review boards of professional journals (for example, the *American Journal of Evaluation* and *New Directions for Program Evaluation*), and special professional committees (for example, the Committee on International Evaluation for the American Evaluation Association; currently, he is the Association's representative to the board of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation). Dr. Conner served on the Centers for Disease Control-sponsored Blue Ribbon Panel on evaluating community-based health-disparities prevention programs located primarily in minority communities and was an advisor to the CDC's Global AIDS Program. He also has been an advisor or consultant to a number of organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences, the Rockefeller Foundation, College Board, U.S. National Institutes of Health, Peace Corps, National American Red Cross, Healthcare Forum, James Irvine Foundation, State of California Universitywide AIDS Research Program, and the California Agriculture Leadership Program. Recently, he assisted the Eurasia and Horizonti Foundations with evaluation training for the South Caucasus countries of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Dr. Conner has

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helped found several local programs and has a wide variety of community service experiences. He served in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, where he learned to speak French and Arabic. He also speaks some Spanish.

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