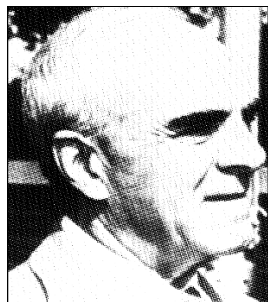


## Osborne Award Recipients

1963	William H. MacDonald	1988	Michael A. Pane
1964	Dennis J. Sullivan	1989	Milton Prystowsky, MD
1965	Cecil King Blanchard Wallace Todd Eakins	1990	John D. Slade, MD, FACP
1966	Charles Kientz, Jr.	1991	Charles I. Kauffman
1967	<i>No Award</i>	1992	Louise C. Chut, PhD, MPH David C. Byrnes
1968	Frederick P. Lee, MD Edward Gerner	1993	William A. Frascella, Jr., OD
1969	Roscoe P. Kandle, MD	1994	Walter A. Trommelen, MPH
1970	Joseph F. Emmons	1995	William Parkin, DVM, DrPH
1971	John Hanson	1996	Jack G. Sinagra
1972	Ralph T. Fisher	1997	Louis J. Lamanna
1973	Clyde R. Newell	1998	Ronald G. Ashley, Sr.
1974	Kenneth M. Jones	1999	Patrick O. Hanson, MA
1975	William J. Dougherty, MD Oscar Aquino	2000	Laurence P. Devlin, Jr.
1976	Carl Wendel	2001	Ronald Ulinsky
1977	Roberta L. Halligan	2002	George Van Orden, PhD
1978	Walter J. Nicol	2003	Lee B. Reichman, MD, MPH
1979	Dr. A. Peter Capparelli	2004	Jorge H. Berkowitz, PhD
1980	Jesse B. Aronson, MD, MPH	2005	Peter Correale
1981	Ronald Altman, MD, MPH	2006	John Surmay
1982	John H. Harrison, VMD	2007	Clement Ferdinando, MPH
1983	Ronald Cohen, PhD	2008	Frank A. Grisi
1984	Hon. Gov. Thomas H. Kean	2009	<i>No Award</i>
1985	John Carlano	2010	John O. Grun
1986	Ray F. English, Jr.	2011	<i>No Award</i>
1987	John J. Cane, DDS	2012	Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD
		2013	Kevin G. Sumner, MPH
		2014	Ruth Perry, MD
		2015	Sylvia Bookbinder, MPH



### Frank J. Osborne

*The late Frank J. Osborne began his public health experience in New Jersey as Assistant Health Officer of Montclair. This was followed by a stint as Health Officer of Orange. In 1924, he became Health Officer of East Orange, a post he held until he retired on December 31, 1961.*

*He was a member of the former State Board of Health from 1945 until 1947. In the 1950s, he was appointed by the State Commissioner of Health to be chairman of a committee of municipal health officers, which drafted a list of Recognized*

*Public Health Activities to be expected of all departments and a set of Minimum Standards by which to judge them. These were drafted for consideration of the Public Health Council of the State Department of Health, which subsequently adopted them as standards to which all good health departments should conform.*

*At a retirement dinner for Mr. Osborne on November 2, 1961, the New Jersey Health Officers Association announced that it was establishing an award for meritorious achievement in public health, which it would confer on deserving individuals from time to time, and that it would be called the Frank J. Osborne Memorial Award.*

*Mr. Osborne died January 22, 1965.*

**Frank J. Osborne Award  
for Meritorious Achievement  
in Public Health**

**MARK GREGORY ROBSON,  
PhD, MPH, DrPH**

**November 16, 2016  
Atlantic City, New Jersey**

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## MARK GREGORY ROBSON

It would be an exercise in futility to try and summarize Dr. Mark Robson's accomplishments in brief comments, given a dynamic career that has been progressively abundant in leadership, management and accolades over nearly four decades. But one requires only a glimpse into his achievements to see how profound an impact he has had on public health locally, nationally and globally. One must only scratch the surface to see that Dr. Robson has devoted his life to the assurance of safer communities, the mentoring of superior public health professionals, and improvement to the public's health.

Mark Robson was raised on a farm in Burlington County, New Jersey, and at a young age developed an intellectual curiosity regarding the environmental and health aspects of farm life, food production and pest control. Dr. Robson pursued his interest academically, earning a BS degree in Agricultural Science with High Honors in 1977, an MS degree in Plant Science in 1979 and a PhD in Plant Science in 1988 – all from Rutgers University. He went on to earn a Master of Public Health degree from the Rutgers/UMDNJ Graduate Program in Public Health (now the Rutgers School of Public Health) in 1995.

Since 1980, Dr. Robson has found a unique way to combine his passion for public health and environmental science in the professional world, rising through the ranks of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the NJ Department of Agriculture during the 1980s, eventually becoming Director of the Department of Agriculture's Division of Regulatory Services in 1990. In this role, Dr. Robson was advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture on environmental science, food safety and pesticide issues, and helped assure the protection of New Jersey's consumers.

Dr. Robson took his talent and keen interest in public health to the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) in 1991. There he served as professor and Executive Director of the Institute, and then as Chair and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at the UMDNJ School of Public Health's (SPH) Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. As Chair of the SPH Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Dr. Robson provided leadership and guidance to faculty and graduate students alike, and also oversaw the admissions process for the Master of Public Health and certificate programs. In the intervening years since Dr. Robson first began managing programs and staff within the SPH and EOHSI, he has inspired a generation of health officials and colleagues in a common quest for better community health.

In 2006, Dr. Robson became Director of the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station while remaining professor with the UMDNJ School of Public Health and the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. As Director, Dr. Robson oversaw a staff of over 400 employees and an annual budget of \$85 million. In 2008, he became Dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, a position he held through 2014. Among his many responsibilities was management of the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education, which for decades has been a vital training resource to New Jersey's public health professionals. Dr. Robson also provided international leadership during this time as Director of the Thai

Fogarty International Training and Research in Environmental and Occupational Health Center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand – a unique and groundbreaking cooperative international graduate studies program in public and environmental health.

Dr. Robson has been awarded numerous fellowships and possesses an additional honorary DrPH degree in Public Health from Chulalongkorn University. He has served as editor or editorial board member for 15 international public and environmental health scholarly publications including *Public Health Reports*, the *Journal of Environmental Health*, *Global Health Perspectives* and the *Journal of Health Research*. Dr. Robson has peer reviewed approximately 50 different journals and has participated in dozens of other international and peer-reviewed activities, many with a leadership role.

Dr. Robson has developed and taught over 20 different graduate and undergraduate courses domestically and internationally, and has led countless international research and professional endeavors that have strived to improve occupational and community health. His research and training efforts have taken him to numerous countries, benefiting students, faculty and residents alike. Dr. Robson has been principal investigator or co-investigator in the administration of over \$10 million in grants to study important public and occupational health issues, providing further evidence of his commitment to bettering the health of our communities and workers. His grant-funded research has explored such diverse health-related topics as landfill inventories, tsunami relief, perchlorate in breast milk, endocrine disruptors, chromium, access to health care, methane recovery, integrated pest management, watershed safety, and myriad other global health and agricultural issues.

Dr. Robson has received over 50 distinguished awards from regional, national and international organizations for his leadership and forward thinking in the health sciences, including many prestigious honors for teaching excellence. Dr. Robson is widely regarded as one of the most engaging instructors in our field of study, and has personally advised hundreds of students through their doctoral dissertations, master's theses and undergraduate honors programs. In fact, he is arguably the single most influential and dedicated mentor in the state's public health arena.

Dr. Robson has made invaluable contributions to our knowledge base in public and environmental health, having been published nearly 150 times in peer-reviewed journals and having presented over 50 times at national and international conferences. He also has authored 25 publications for the state's Agricultural Extension program, which have directly helped the public in living healthier, risk-free lives. As if his ongoing professional and academic contributions are not consuming enough, Dr. Robson also makes time to serve as a Eucharistic minister and lector with his community church, and has been a 40 year member of his volunteer fire department, including service as Chief.

Dr. Mark Robson has devoted his career to edifying students, academics and professionals alike, and he embodies the values, spirit and accomplishments for which the Frank J. Osborne Award is bestowed.

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**New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials**  
**[www.njaccho.org](http://www.njaccho.org)**