

NEW SCIENTIFIC EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL

Ruth A. Etzel is a pediatrician and medical epidemiologist. A native of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, USA, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota Honors College in 1976 and from the University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1980. She completed residency training in Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine and received her Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program there in 1985.

Dr. Etzel worked for 12 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where she founded and directed the Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch. She conducted investigations of numerous epidemics, including an outbreak of sudden deaths in Sierra Leone due to parathion poisoning and of sudden deaths in Guatemala from paralytic shellfish poisoning. She designed and oversaw studies that identified the cause of epidemic asthma in Barcelona and New Orleans, as well as investigations of the health effects of exposure to serious air pollution in Central and Eastern Europe and Mexico City.

Dr. Etzel founded the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Epidemiology and served as Chair from 1988 to 1992. She served on the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health from 1986 to 1994 and as Chair from 1995 to 1999. She is the founding editor of the American Academy of Pediatrics *Pediatric Environmental Health* (now in its 2nd edition). She served as a Member and Trustee of the American Board of Preventive Medicine for 9 years and as the Board's Vice Chair for Preventive Medicine and Public Health from 1997 to 2001. Currently she is the Treasurer of the American Society for Circumpolar Health and the Co-Chair of the Committee on Environmental Health for the International Pediatric Association. She has served on the Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the Expert Panel on the Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity of Genistein and Soy Formula for the Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction of the National Toxicology Program.



Ruth A. Etzel

Currently, Dr. Etzel is Research Director at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska, USA. She holds adjunct faculty appointments at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services in Washington, D.C. and at the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. For over 25 years, her work has focused on the effects of environmental hazards on children. Her research interests include investigating the effects of passive smoking on children, the environmental precipitants of asthma attacks and the health effects of exposure to molds and other indoor air pollutants. Dr. Etzel has received numerous research awards, including the Don C. Mackel Memorial Award from the CDC, the prestigious Arthur Flemming Award from the Washington, D.C. Jaycees, and the 1998 United States Public Health Service Professional Association Clinical Society Award for discovering the link between infant pulmonary hemorrhage and exposure to indoor molds.

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