

INPEA' s 2007 International Rosalie S. Wolf Memorial Award in Elder Abuse

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), an organization of professionals designed to help strengthen the capacity of member countries in combating elder abuse across the world, has announced that Toshio Tatara, Ph.D., Professor of Social Welfare at Shukutoku University College and Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare Studies in Chiba, Japan, is the recipient of INPEA's 2007 International Rosalie S. Wolf Memorial Award in Elder Abuse. This award is given, in memory of the late Dr. Wolf, a renowned gerontologist, to the researcher or practitioner in the field of aging who is recognized to have made the most outstanding contributions to efforts to prevent elder abuse in a given year.

The award ceremony for this award is scheduled to be held at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland on June 15th 2007, during the Global Symposium on Elder Abuse to be sponsored by WHO. Starting this year, WHO has designated June 15th as the World's Elder Abuse Prevention Day. Elder abuse researchers and elder rights advocates from a number of countries around the world are expected to come to this symposium. As being the advisory group on elder abuse matters for the United Nations, INPEA works closely with WHO and United Nations NGO Committee on Aging to assist the UN member nations in strengthening their programs to address elder abuse.

In the meantime, by designating June 15th as the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), INPEA has been making an effort to spread the idea of the importance of preventing elder abuse throughout the world since the last year. The Japanese Committee of INPEA, headed by Noriko Tsukada, Ph.D., Professor for Nihon University Graduate School of Business, organized the world's kick-off event to observe the first WEAAD on June 15th (which was June 14th in New York time), 2006.. This year's second WEAAD will be observed by a two-hour program of the INPEA Japanese Committee at the Ikebukuro Campus of Shukutoku University in Tokyo on June 15th,

from 10:00am to 12:00noon. Several distinguished speakers are scheduled to talk at this event.

The past recipients of the International Rosalie S. Wolf Memorial Award in Elder Abuse are the following four people:

- The late Gerry Bennett, M.D., Professor of Geriatrics at the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry (England).
- Lia S. Daichman, M.D., INPEA President (Argentina).
- Gloria Gutman, Ph.D., Immediate Past President of the International Association of Gerontology (IAG) and Professor Emeritus at Simon Fraser University (Canada).
- Alexandre Kalache, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of the Ageing and Life Course Programme at WHO (Brazil).

Toshio Tatara, Ph.D., the fifth recipient of this prestigious award, is an international researcher, educator, and elder rights advocate with more than 30 years of professional experience in the human services field. He has conducted research in a number of countries in North America, Europe, and Asia over the years, and is the author of more than 80 journal articles, book chapters, and books published in the United States and Japan. Dr. Tatara served as the first director of the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) from 1988 to 1998, directed a large number of research projects on elder abuse, and trained many young aging researchers.

Finally, a few words about Dr. Wolf are in order. As a senior researcher and an administrator of the Aging Research Institute of the University of Massachusetts Worcester, Dr. Wolf had conducted a large number of research studies on aging (many of which were related to elder abuse) and published articles and books for nearly 30 years until she passed away in July 2001. She was instrumental in bringing about the Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect (JEAN), the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), and most importantly, INPEA in 1997. (By T. Tatara/May 1, 2007)