

## JUDY COOK/META SNYDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics has established a scholarship fund in honor of two long time AOEC members, Judy Cook and Meta Snyder.

**Judy Cook** was an active member of the occupational health section of APHA and served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC). At the time of her death, she was the Executive Director of the Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Centre. Judy graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science. The social activism that is Judy's legacy began with her involvement in the civil rights movement and other social causes. Moving to Winnipeg in 1975, Judy continued her work to improve the quality of life for others through her involvement with community health care, workplace health and safety and the labor movement.

Judy was representative of a number of non-medical professionals in APHA. Her name was not seen on presentations, she did not author epidemiological papers but her hard work made it possible for others to do that work. Columnist Doug Smith stated in the Winnipeg Free Press on January 4, 1999, "I don't think I saw Judy's name in the paper more than one or two times. She was a passionate fighter for worker health, but she never sought the limelight. She believed that her job was to help workers organize to save their lives - not to ride in on a charger and save them. Judy's example, particularly to those of us with more swollen egos, was always chastening." Judy worked with the public health and occupational health communities on both sides of the border to ensure a safe and healthy working environment regardless of nationality.

**Meta Snyder, RN, MPH**, was an active member of the Occupational Health and Safety Section of APHA and served on the Board of Directors of the AOEC. Meta began her career as an occupational health nurse in 1991 and later that same year, she began work at the National Center for Hazard Communication, part of the University of Maryland University College where she had primary responsibility for the development of undergraduate and continuing education programs in the field of occupational and environmental health. Meta was a leader in focusing attention on the important role nurses can play in promoting occupational and environmental health for individual patients, workers and communities. She was a co-editor of the 1995 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, "Nursing, Health & Environment" which recommended expanded training for nurses in occupational and environmental health and an expanded advocacy role for nurses for patients, their families and communities. She served on the National Academy of Science/IOM Committee on Enhancing Environmental Content in Nursing Practice.

In 1997, Meta received the Alice Hamilton Award, Occupational Health Section, APHA. This award is made in recognition for life-long contributions of individuals who have distinguished themselves through a career of hard work and dedication to improve the lives of workers.

Mary Miller in her online remembrance of Meta said, “We remember Meta's fighting spirit against the occupational disease that was claiming her life, AIDS. Even while Meta was fighting her own struggle with AIDS, she began a whole new career of volunteer work within the HIV community in Washington, D.C. She used her skills and talents as a nurse and writer to help others with the disease.”

**PURPOSE OF AWARD:**

The award is to help students and trainees in occupational and environmental health and safety travel to and participate at meetings related to OEM. It is open to all students, including undergraduate, graduate and post doctoral students, studying medicine, nursing, public health industrial hygiene and ergonomics. The value of each award is \$500.00. The AOEC will provide the stipend to be used to cover registration, transportation, lodging, and meals. Awardees will be responsible for providing the remainder of funds necessary to cover these expenses.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants should be enrolled in a program that can lead to work in the fields of occupational and environmental health and safety. Exceptions may be made for students who are applying to schools in one of the eligible areas if strong recommendations are included with their applications.