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Faculty member earns career achievement award



Dr. Paul Bowser, professor of aquatic animal medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, was presented with the S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award during the 50th annual Western Fish Disease Workshop and American Fisheries Society (AFS) Fish Health Section Annual Meeting in Utah earlier this month.

The S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award is the highest award from the AFS Fish Health Section and is a career achievement award for service and contributions to the field of aquatic animal health. The award was named after the late Dr. Stanislaus F. Snieszko, the founding director of the Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory. Snieszko, whose career extended from the early 1930s to 1984, is credited with bringing fish health – both nationally and internationally – into the era of modern medical science.

"Paul has served in the highest offices and many other committees of the Fish Health Section," said Dr. Ronald P. Hedrick, professor at the University of California, Davis. "He is a major player in fish health nationally and internationally and continues in that capacity as a leader in major disease issues in the northeast."

Bowser coordinates the activities of the Aquatic Animal Health Program at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine and also serves as the associate director of the AQUAVET Program, a joint educational program in aquatic veterinary medicine that is sponsored by the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Prior to joining the faculty at Cornell University, Bowser held faculty positions at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University and at the Bodega Marine Laboratory of the University of California at Davis.

Bowser's research has focused on topics including parasitic, bacterial, and viral diseases of fish; tumor biology in fish; evaluation of new therapeutic compounds in fish; and emerging diseases of fish. Most recently his laboratory group has been heavily involved in the investigation of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia that has been found in a wide diversity of fish species in the Great Lakes Basin.

He received his B.S. from Cornell University, his M.S. from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. from Auburn University.