

Press Release

Tennessee Registered Dietitian Jane V. White Receives American Dietetic Association's Highest Award Thursday, January 01, 2009 ADA's Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo
Media contacts: Jennifer Starkey, Ryan O'Malley 800/877-1600, ext. 4802, 4769
media@eatright.org

CHICAGO - Registered dietitian Jane V. White, a national authority on improving elderly people's nutritional status and improving nutrition education in postgraduate medical education settings, has been named the 2009 recipient of the Marjorie Hulsizer Copher Award, the American Dietetic Association's highest honor.

An emeritus professor in the department of family medicine at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, White will receive the award October 17 at the Opening Session of ADA's Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Denver, Colo.

The Copher Award is named for an early 20th-century pioneer in dietetics who was recognized by the British and French governments for her service in World War I and was chief dietitian at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. After her death, a gift from her husband to ADA established the Marjorie Hulsizer Copher Award in her honor.

An ADA member for 40 years, White has served as ADA's president; member and speaker of the House of Delegates; member of the Board of Directors of ADA and the American Dietetic Association Foundation; member and chair of ADA's Coding and Coverage Committee; member of ADA's Health Care Reform Task Force; and chair of ADA's Physician Nutrition Education Project, among many other leadership positions. In 1996, she received ADA's Medallion Award for service to the Association and the dietetics profession. White is ADA's representative to the American Medical Association's Lifestyles Advisory Committee and the Relative Value Update Committee's Health Care Professional Advisory Committee, or RUC HCPAC.

White has worked at the University of Tennessee since 1975, beginning as a nutrition consultant to the department of family medicine. She developed a written curriculum in nutrition, one of the first in a family practice residency program. The curriculum served as a prototype for the first national nutrition curriculum developed by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, for which White was a principal contributor. In the words of a colleague, White "has spent her lifetime modeling the position of the registered dietitian as the nutrition expert working in tandem with the physician and the rest of the health-care team."

White has written or co-authored chapters in more than a dozen books and nearly 50 peer-reviewed journal articles on the role of nutrition in disease management and health care, and given well over 100 professional presentations to medical and other health professional organizations. In her lengthy association with the Boy Scouts of America, White has been an Assistant Scout Master and member of the Executive Committee of the Great Smoky Mountain Council; received the council's Silver Beaver Award; and holds the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts' honor society.

White is a graduate of St. Mary's Dominican College, interned at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and earned a doctorate from the University of Tennessee.