

Biographical Sketch

of

William Alexander Darity, Ph.D.

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William Alexander Darity, is a native of North Carolina. He received his education in that state: the Bachelor of Science degree from Shaw University, the Master of Science in Public Health (M.S.P.H.) degree from North Carolina Central University and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is presently Professor of Public Health, in the School of Public Health, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.

In 1965, when Dr. Darity accepted an appointment at the University of Massachusetts, there were three full time faculty members in the small Department of Public Health which offered a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree with a concentration in Environmental Health. He was appointed head of the Department in 1968. Under his aegis this program was expanded to offer, in what was then a Division of Public Health in a School of Health Sciences in which he served as Dean, the Master of Science degree with concentrations in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Community Health Education, Environmental Health and Health Administration. A Ph.D. program, offering concentrations in the above areas was developed as well as a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree to meet the needs of professionals who are seeking further education to better prepare them for professional practice. A Master of Science in Public Health Nutrition offered jointly by the Division of Public Health and the Department of Food and Science and Nutrition was also developed under Dr. Darity's direction.

Dr. Darity became the Dean of the newly created School of Health Sciences in September 1973, which included, in addition to the Division of Public Health (an accredited School of Public Health), a Division of Nursing (an accredited School of Nursing) and a Department of Communications Disorders, which offers majors and graduate study in audiology and speech language disorders. These Divisions of Public Health and the Division of Nursing are both full fledged Schools with their own Dean.

Immediately prior to his appointment at the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Darity served as Director of Program Development for the North Carolina Fund, Inc. (a statewide privately funded, non-profit, anti-poverty organization). His previous experience included 10 years with the World Health Organization (WHO) a specialized agency of the United Nations. This period with the World Health Organization included teaching at the School of Public Health, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon and the Higher Institute of Public Health, University of Alexandria, Egypt. During this period with WHO, he also served as a Health Consultant with the United Nations Relief and World Agency for Arab Refugees, and three years as WHO Regional Advisor for 17 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. This included 11 Arab countries, Israel, Cyprus, Iran, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Pakistan and West Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

In addition to his present duties at the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Darity is affiliated with many professional health organizations. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America; the Society for Public Health Education, Inc., of which he is a past President; and many of the national and regional professional and voluntary health organizations.

Dr. Darity is also a fellow of the American Public Health Association and was a member of the Awards Committee for many years. He was likewise a member of the National Cancer Institute Cancer Control Merit Peer Review Committee and the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute. He has served on various grant review committees for the National Institute of Health over the past seventeen years. Dr. Darity was the major consultant with WHO in establishing the first Master of Health degree in Africa, South of the Sahara at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria where he spent considerable time during the summers.

Dr. Darity has carried out research for many years in family planning. He has concentrated the last ten years researching and analyzing issues and health policies, practices, and disease incidence and prevalence rates, as well as mortality rates as they affect Black Americans and other ethnic/racial minorities.

He served as a consultant to the 1984-85 Department of Health and Human Resources Task Force on the Health Status of Blacks and other Minorities. Dr. Darity is presently serving on the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Board of Scientific Counsellors, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, National Cancer Institute and the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. His major effort now at University of Massachusetts is as Principal Investigator of a \$3.2 million, five year research study, on Smoking and Cancer in Black populations, funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Darity has delivered papers before numerous professional organizations and has published extensively in national and international health journals.

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