

*“The future of individual families, whatever their form, will depend on...the degree to which we are able collectively to view ourselves as our brothers’ and sisters’, and above all, our children’s keepers--all our children,”*

**- DR. JOHN J. CONGER**

In his presidential address at the 1981 American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention

**For contributions or more information about how to support the John J. Conger, PhD, Lectureship, please contact:**

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Children's Hospital Colorado



2021

## Chancellor's John J. Conger Lectureship and Visiting Professorship

Friday, April 2, 2021

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Virtual Lecture via Zoom

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/293160798>

## Poverty Really Sucks for Children; and This is also Bad for our Society

Jan L. Wallander, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences  
University of California, Merced

Sponsored by the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, the CHA/ PA Program and the Medical Alumni Association at the University of Colorado School of Medicine

## John Janeway Conger, PhD

John J. Conger, PhD, was a gifted leader who joined the University of Colorado School of Medicine as a Professor of Clinical Psychology in 1953. He dedicated 24 years of his career in varying capacities ranging from Chief of the Division of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry to Dean of the School of Medicine, Vice-President for Medical Affairs, and Acting Chancellor of the Health Sciences Center.

Before coming to Colorado, Dr. Conger graduated from Yale University and served in the Navy during World War II as the Commander of a destroyer escort at the age of 25. After receiving his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Yale University in 1948 and serving on the faculty of Indiana University in 1951, he was named the first Chief Psychologist of the U.S. Naval Academy.

A distinguished scholar and researcher, Dr. Conger focused much of his career on Child Mental Health Policy and the overwhelming gap between diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems. He was the co-author of the most influential textbooks on child and adolescent development of his generation and received an award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children from the Society for Research in Child Development. His research led, among other areas, to his involvement with the Presidential Task Force on Highway Safety, setting standards for motor vehicle safety including seat belts, air bags, collapsible steering columns and improved highway design.

Dr. Conger served on numerous prestigious national and international committees including President Carter's Commission on Mental Health. He was also President of the American Psychological Association and Chairman of an Advisory Committee at the John F. Kennedy Center on Education and Human Development. From 1959-1961, he was special consultant to the Division of Research Grants for the National Institutes of Health. At the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Dr. Conger served as Vice-President and Director of the Health Program.

Dr. Conger was a member of the Governor's Committee on Mental Health for Colorado and Chairman for the Mental Health Advisory Group for the Colorado Department of Public Health Association from 1957-1961. He also received numerous notable awards throughout his career including the University of Colorado Medal in 1986 for outstanding achievement and distinguished contributions to the welfare of the University, the state, and the nation.

The Chancellor's John J. Conger Lectureship and Visiting Professorship at the University of Colorado was endowed by the Conger Family and Bonnie Camp, MD, PhD, to follow Dr. Conger's lead in promoting awareness of the plight of children and facilitating continued improvement in human health and development.

## Jan L. Wallander, PhD

Jan L. Wallander, PhD, is Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences at University of California, Merced, with a focus on health and developmental psychology. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Norwegian Scientific and Technical University. He previously served as the Chair of Psychological Sciences and was the Founding Co-Director of the Center of Excellence on Health Disparities, the Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship, and the Health Sciences Research Institute. Dr. Wallander also served on the Board of Directors of the University of California's Global Health Institute. Previously he was Vice President for a private research and development company and Professor and Associate Director of a large, interdisciplinary research center at University of Alabama at Birmingham. Additionally, he has held various leadership roles in national and international scientific organizations and activities. His 30th PhD candidate graduated under his direct supervision in 2020.

Dr. Wallander has internationally recognized expertise in the areas of health, behavior, and development in children and adolescents, with a special interest in the disparities experienced in vulnerable groups. His research has led to over 400 scientific journal publications and presentations at meetings and institutions nationally and internationally. This prolific work has resulted in grant awards in excess of \$70 million. His work on health, quality of life, and well-being in pediatric populations has been highly influential as reflected in over 9,000 citations and numerous awards and recognition and invited talks and presentations in advancing the field of health, development and behavior of vulnerable youth.

