

“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



2022

Chancellor's John J. Conger Lectureship and Visiting Professorship

Friday, March 25, 2022

12:30 -1:30 p.m.

Virtual Lecture via Zoom

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

New Horizons in Consultation Psychiatry

Robert J. Hilt, MD

Professor, Department of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences

University of Washington School of Medicine
Director Partnership Access Line and Second Opinion
Consults, Seattle Children's
Associate Medical Director for Behavioral Health
Consultative and Community Based Programs

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.



Robert Hilt, MD

Robert Hilt, MD is a Professor in the University of Washington, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and a psychiatrist at Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Hilt attended medical school at University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and completed two residencies: one in Pediatrics at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City and a second residency in Psychiatry

at University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester. He completed a fellowship in Child Psychiatry also at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center.

Fifteen years ago he started the Partnership Access Line, a child mental health consultation service which now serves all primary care providers in Washington, Wyoming, and Alaska. He also directs Medicaid medication second opinion programs for Wyoming, Washington and Alaska, and psychiatric consults for Wyoming's foster care children receiving multidisciplinary team reviews. He has helped to develop several collaborative care programs, school support projects, and set up a statewide mental health referral service for parents in Washington State. Dr. Hilt's primary interest is to increase professional collaboration between mental health specialists and pediatric medical providers, as well as improving family access to high quality mental and behavioral health care.

Dr. Hilt came to the field of child psychiatry after an initial but brief career as a general pediatrician. His inspiration for re-training to be a child psychiatrist came from experiences working as a general pediatrician, and constantly seeing mental and behavioral health challenges among the families he cared for which were highly disabling but were unable to be adequately addressed within in his rural community. For instance, over the course of two years of rural pediatric practice he was never able to successfully get a child psychiatrist on the phone, let alone to see any of his patients. He then was able to witness during his psychiatric fellowship training at the University of Massachusetts the early development phase of what later became their statewide child psychiatry access program as an example for how to impact health systems at the macro level and build upon those ideas during his subsequent academic career in Washington State.