

State School Researcher Gets Public Health Award

The highest honor of the Public Health Association of New York City—the Haven Emerson Award—was to be presented to Dr. Saul Krugman today for his role in developing measles vaccine and for his hepatitis research at Willowbrook State School.

The award is being given at a reception during the 31st annual conference of the association at the New York Academy of Medicine, Manhattan.

Dr. Krugman, professor

and chairman of the pediatrics department of the New York University School of Medicine, is director of the hepatitis research project at Willowbrook State School. He is a director of measles vaccine study at Willowbrook which was instrumental in the licensing of one strain of vaccine.

Since 1962, there has not been a single case of measles at the state institution, whose population is about 5,600.

Also at the reception, merit awards will be given to Dr. Morris Schaeffer, assistant commissioner and director of the Bureau of Laboratories for the city Health Department; Louis Simon, manager and secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Laundry Workers joint board and vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and to three public health nurses.

The citation accompanying the Haven Emerson Award notes Dr. Krugman's work in achieving comprehensive health care for children living in the Bellevue Hospital district, his measles vaccine studies and hepatitis research.

The citation states, "In all his work, Dr. Krugman has proceeded quietly and cautiously, avoiding publicity and emotional controversy. Throughout he scrupulously guarded the rights and sensibilities of patients and their families."

Dr. Krugman and the hepatitis research program were harshly criticized by state Sen. Seymour Thaler, Queens Democrat, for injecting live hepatitis virus into the children and for conducting the research with mentally retarded children, whom Thaler maintained could not protect themselves.

Dr. Krugman recently was honored for his research by the Benevolent Society, Willowbrook Chapter, of the New York State Association for Retarded Children. The society represents 1,000 parents of children at the state school.

Medical Journal Cites Island Study

The hepatitis research project directed by Dr. Saul Krugman at Willowbrook State School is the topic of the lead article and an editorial in the May issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"These recent studies . . . represent an important contribution to our knowledge of hepatitis that would have been impossible without the judicious use of human beings in carefully controlled experimental studies," states the editorial.

The Willowbrook research has resulted in the discovery of two different strains of infectious hepatitis. This knowledge offers a logical explanation for the occurrence of second attacks of hepatitis at the institution, Dr. Krugman and his associates stated in the article.

The article was written by Dr. Krugman, Dr. Joan P. Giles, his assistant, and Dr. Jack Hammond, Willowbrook director. The research was carried out in a series of seven separate trials from September 1964 to January 1967.