

NEWS

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* * * Sleep researcher honored.

DALLAS--Dr. Howard P. Roffwarg, professor of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, was named co-recipient of the first annual Nathaniel Kleitman Award for non-research contributions to sleep disorders Oct. 30. The award, shared with Dr. Ismet Karacan of Baylor Medical Center, Houston, was made at luncheon ceremonies at the annual meeting of the Association of Sleep Disorders Centers at the AMFAC Hotel. Making the presentation was Dr. William Dement, president of the group.

Roffwarg, head of sleep research at UTHSCD, was honored for his editorship of the first "Diagnostic Classification of Sleep and Arousal Disorders," which comprised an issue of the journal Sleep (Volume 2, Number 1, 1979), published by Raven Press. Karacan is head of Baylor's Sleep Disorders Center.

The plaques, presented along with a cash award, read:

"To that person who has contributed the most to the field through service rather than research, whose efforts will facilitate sleep research in the translation of research findings to practical benefits for the American public."

Kleitman, for whom the award is named, was the first researcher in sleep disorders to dedicate his entire career to the field. He is now retired and lives in Santa Monica, Calif.

Roffwarg graduated from Columbia University and also received his M.D. there. His internship was done at Stanford University Hospital in San Francisco, and his residency in psychiatry was at New York State Psychiatric Institute and Presbyterian Hospital.

The researcher joined the laboratory of Dement and Dr. Charles Fisher at Mount Sinai Hospital in 1961-62. He then became an instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia and served as director of the Sleep EEG Laboratory at New York State Psychiatric Institute. During much of this time Roffwarg was assistant attending psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and Vanderbilt Clinic of Presbyterian Hospital. In addition, he was visiting research associate in the laboratory of Dr. Francois Michel at the University of Lyon's Faculte des Sciences during the summers of 1965 and 1966.

From 1966 until 1971 the psychiatrist was assistant professor of psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and was director of the Sleep Research Laboratory in the Department of Psychiatry at Montefiore Hospital. Before coming to Dallas in 1977, Roffwarg was professor of psychiatry and associate professor of neuro-sciences at Albert Einstein. He has been named Research Scientist awardee for both levels I and II by the National Institute of Mental Health. The researcher has also been named to many professional societies, received numerous other awards and honors and served as editor of outstanding publications in his field.

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