

Duncan Clark Awardee

John Last, MD, MPH

1994

John Murray Last is Emeritus Professor at the University of Ottawa. Born in Australia in 1926, John Last obtained his MB BS in 1949 and his MD (by thesis) in 1968, from the University of Adelaide. In the interim he undertook 5 years of hospital-based training, 5 years in general practice, and served as a ship's surgeon. In 1960 he obtained a DPH from the University of Sydney, and was then appointed Visiting Fellow, Medical Research Council Social Medicine Research Unit, London Hospital Medical College, England (1961–62).

Last has made substantive contributions to public health higher education, especially in the public health reference literature, including the dissemination of methods for public health research, and to clarifying related ethical issues. He has held academic posts at the University of Sydney, the University of Vermont, and the University of Edinburgh, and has been professor of epidemiology and community medicine at the University of Ottawa since 1969.



He has made numerous contributions to the public health reference literature, especially in the capacity of a scientific editor. He edited four editions of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (1980, 1986, 1991, 1998), eponymously known as "Maxcy-Rosenau-Last" and is editor-emeritus of the 15th edition in 2008. As founding editor, he produced four editions of the Dictionary of Epidemiology (1983, 1988; 1995, 2001). He was scientific editor of the Canadian Journal of Public Health 1981-1991 and interim editor of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 1988-89.

In 2012 John Last was admitted as an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of his service to public health sciences.