



University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities



UCEDD Director Receives Pioneer for Persons with Disabilities Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services selected Phyllis R. Magrab, Ph.D., director of the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD) and professor of pediatrics, as the recipient of its *2008 Pioneer for Persons with Disabilities Award*. The award was presented by Margaret Giannini, M.D., F.A.A.P., director of the DHHS Office on Disability on October 27, 2008 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building.

Dr. Giannini stated "I applaud Dr. Magrab as she is an outstanding advocate, administrator, researcher, and clinician who has made major contributions to the disability community,"

Dr. Magrab is an educator, scholar, and skilled clinician, recognized as an international champion for children with disabilities who had dedicated her career to improving the quality of life for vulnerable children and their families. She has been director of the Center for Child and Human Development at Georgetown, a major research and training and public policy program, since 1975 and also has been chief of pediatric psychology since 1969. For the past 40 years she has provided service, conducted research, and trained future professionals in the care of children with chronic illnesses, disabilities and mental health needs and their families. Howard J. Federoff, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president for health sciences and executive dean of the School of Medicine at Georgetown University Medical Center, says Magrab's lifelong dedication to children is remarkable. "Dr. Magrab's tireless dedication to the welfare of children is an inspiration to us all. She is a champion of children and very deserving of this outstanding distinction for her extraordinary contributions. The Georgetown University Medical Center community joins me in congratulating Dr. Magrab."

Dr. Magrab is one of the founders of the field of pediatric psychology and her text, *Psychological Management of Pediatric Problems*, represents one of the first works in the field establishing its academic presence. She has written/edited

ten major books as well as numerous articles and chapters that reflect her personal commitment and philosophy of caring.

Dr. Magrab has contributed significantly to the field of training clinical psychologists and has served as chairperson of both committees and conferences that have further defined the field. Over the past two decades, Magrab has been actively involved in developing public policy to ensure society's commitment to children and youth with special needs. She was one of the pioneers in the field of maternal and child health and children's mental health to establish community-based, family-centered systems of care for children and youth with disabilities, chronic medical conditions and mental health needs.

Dr. Magrab is also actively involved in global issues related to social exclusion, education and development, and literacy - informing, guiding and developing policy and practice. She is working, on behalf of Georgetown University, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on its agenda of Education For All (EFA) and with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on policies for serving at-risk children in their communities. She is especially concerned with social justice issues surrounding global initiatives relating to children and the human rights agenda. In 2006, she was named a UNESCO Chair to honor this work and to establish her continuing role in implementing EFA and the UN/UNESCO literacy agenda.