



William W. Stead, M.D.

*Stead Scholars Program:
Brief Synopsis of Dr. Stead's Career
And the Founding of the Program*

Dr. William Stead was a former employee of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), who had a distinguished career in medicine spanning over a period of more than 50 years. He held academic appointments at several outstanding medical institutions including the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Marquette Medical School, University of Florida College of Medicine and University of Arkansas College of Medicine. He made major contributions in basic research and in clinical medicine, publishing more than 150 academic papers.

In 1972, he joined the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) as Tuberculosis Control Officer and served in this position with distinction for 26 years, until his retirement in 1998. During his tenure at ADH, he made his most important contributions to science, developing innovative measures in tuberculosis treatment and control. He led the way in the introduction of short course chemotherapy for tuberculosis and provided groundbreaking contributions in tuberculosis control among the elderly and in the prison system. For his many contributions, he was awarded the Trudeau Medal by the American Thoracic Society, its highest award, and the James D. Bruce award from the American College of Physicians. He served on the editorial board of the Annals of Internal Medicine and was elected president of the American Federation for Clinical Research.

To honor his distinguished career, his friends throughout North America created an endowment to memorialize his work. Dr. Stead's family decided that the annual earnings from the endowment are to be used to establish a **Stead Scholars Mentorship Program** at the ADH. Over the past few years this has extended into a partnership with the College of Public Health (COPH). The scholars are selected from undergraduate students enrolled in four-year colleges and universities in Arkansas who are thinking of a career in public health or medicine. The endowment provides enough funds for two students to be selected each summer, and ADH and COPH fund additional slots each year. The first set of students were enrolled in 2012.

The number of applicants for this now prestigious program has increased each year. Between 2012 and 2019, a total of 45 students have completed the program. Due to COVID-19, the program was placed on pause in 2020 and 2021. We are now excited resume the Stead Scholars Mentorship Program. In 2022, 5 students successfully completed the program.

This is a full-time summer program (June and July). Each student receives a stipend (currently \$2,200) and is assigned a project in one of several possible areas, either within one of the Centers at ADH or at the UAMS College of Public Health. This experience provides the students with an introduction to public health, with exposure to applied and basic public health science and practice, and health policy development. The scholars are expected to attend weekly seminars and meetings held at ADH and COPH. At the completion of their internship, Stead Scholars present a brief paper to the Science Advisory Committee on their topic, in conjunction with their ADH or COPH mentor. The award process and selection of the scholars are made by a review committee composed of the Science Advisory Committee at ADH, as well and Department Heads, the Dean and Associate Deans at the COPH.