



Dr. Michael Osterholm Receives 2022 Distinguished Service Award from NABT



Dr. Michael Osterholm. Photo by Stuart Isett

September 30 2022 - The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) is proud to announce that [Dr. Michael Osterholm](#), director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota, has been named the recipient of the [2022 NABT Distinguished Service Award for Enhancing Education through Biological Research](#).

“I am so proud of NABT and the Board of Directors for selecting Michael Osterholm for the Distinguished Service Award for 2022. As one who studied and taught microbiology for several years, I am excited to see we are honoring a biologist who has had such a worldwide impact on the field of epidemiology and infectious diseases,” said Chris Monsour, president of NABT. “His work on public health issues and epidemiology has saved countless lives and I cannot think of a better recipient of this award.”

The *NABT Distinguished Service Award* was established in 1988, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the association. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to biology education through

their research, writing, and teaching. [Notable recipients](#) include Lynn Margulis, Nancy Wexler, Francis Collins, E.O. Wilson, Sean B. Carroll, Rita Colwell, Temple Grandin, and Bonnie Bassler.

“I’m so honored! I owe so much of my career to a biology teacher who took me under their wing and gave me the tools and inspiration to become an infectious disease epidemiologist! Honestly, my biology teacher deserves this award every bit if not more than me!” said Dr. Osterholm in a statement. “I’m truly humbled.”

Dr. Michael Osterholm is Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, the director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, a professor in the Technological Leadership Institute, College of Science and Engineering, and an adjunct professor in the Medical School, all at the University of Minnesota. He is also a proud alumnus of the University of Minnesota, earning his MS, MPH, and PhD there.

For the past 45 years, Dr. Osterholm has been building and leading world-class infectious disease epidemiology teams who are at the forefront of issues on food safety and zoonotic diseases. He has led numerous investigations of outbreaks of international importance, including foodborne diseases, the association of tampons and toxic shock syndrome, and hepatitis B and HIV in healthcare settings.

As one of the world’s foremost experts on infectious diseases, Dr. Osterholm became one of the most trusted and popular communicators on the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 2020, Dr. Osterholm was appointed to then President-elect Joe Biden’s *Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board* and continues to be a source of fact-based information, including via CIDRAP’s weekly “Osterholm Update: COVID-19” [podcast](#).

The author of more than 315 papers and abstracts, including 21 book chapters, Dr. Osterholm is a frequent consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department of Defense, and the CDC. He is also the author of the New York Times best-selling 2017 book, *Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs*, in which he not only details the most pressing infectious disease threats of our day but lays out a nine-point strategy on how to address them, with preventing a global flu pandemic at the top of the list.

Dr. Osterholm has received numerous honors for his work, and he is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).

NABT is proud to name Dr. Michael Osterholm as the recipient of the 2022 *NABT Distinguished Service Award*. He will be presented with the award at the [2022 NABT Professional Development Conference](#) in Indianapolis. After the award presentation, Dr. Osterholm will be the closing general session speaker on Saturday, November 12th at 4:00 PM Eastern.

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About NABT: Since being established in 1938, the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) has been the recognized "leader in life science education." Thousands of educators have joined NABT to share experiences and expertise with colleagues from around the globe; keep up with trends and developments in the field; and grow professionally. For more information about NABT, please visit www.NABT.org.

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