## 2008 Morris Katz Memorial Lecture in Environmental Research

Dr. Tee L. Guidotti

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health School of Public Health and Health Services The George Washington University

Molecules, Meaning and the Prepared Mind

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 2:30 p.m.

York University Senate Chamber, N940 Ross Bldg. 4700 Keele Street, Toronto

Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry



## Abstract

More than most fields of science, the study of atmospheric chemistry and change presents examples of chance favoring the prepared mind and phenomena which are seen but not known. Contemporary issues in atmospheric pollution and change have been profoundly influenced by perception of the problem and by reasoning from analogy. Cases are presented from occupational health and airborne hazards, ambient air pollution, and global atmospheric change demonstrating how evolving perception has been both driven by and is productive of new insights into the health effects of exposure. Thinking "out of the box" is more than a cliché. Progress in this field has depended critically on openness to new ways of thinking, some of which has been counter-intuitive.

## **Biographical Sketch**

Tee Lamont Guidotti is a physician working in occupational and environmental health. He is now consultant in environmental and occupational health and medicine, since taking early retirement from his position as tenured professor at The George Washington University Medical Center and Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health in the School of Public Health and Health Services. Dr. Guidotti's primary interests are occupational and environmental lung disorders, inhalation toxicology, air quality, ecosystem and human health and the evaluation of scientific evidence for legal and policy applications.

Dr. Guidotti first became interested in air quality studies growing up in Los Angeles, where he obtained his B.S. in Biological Sciences at the University of Southern California. He trained in inhalation toxicology during his medical school career at the University of California at San Diego and wrote his thesis on nitrogen dioxide toxicity. Dr. Guidotti trained in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and occupational medicine at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, became board certified in each medical specialty, and obtained his MPH degree. He later obtained specialist credentials in occupational medicine in Canada and the United Kingdom and additional non-medical professional certifications in toxicology and environmental management. He was Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the University of Alberta for 14 years, during which he was a Killam Annual Professor.

During his career in Alberta he was heavily involved in air quality issues and served on numerous advisory panels, in consultant positions and as an advocate for research and training in air quality studies and inhalation toxicology. He has engaged in laboratory research on acute hydrogen sulfide toxicity and epidemiological studies on other air toxics. He worked extensively with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance. He served as co-chair of the Science Advisory Panel to the Western Canada Study on Animal and Human Health Effects Associated with Exposure to Flare Emissions, a massive (sixyear, \$12 million) study which delivered its report in 2006 on health effects on cattle and wildlife downwind of gas facilities.

## The Lectureship Fund

The Morris Katz Lectureship was made possible by the establishment of an Endowment Fund created through contributions from his family, his friends, his colleagues, private companies, universities and government. It is intended that this lectureship become self sustaining. Major contributions in support of this year's lecture have been made by:

> The Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry and The Ontario Ministry of the Environment

If you share in Morris Katz' enthusiasm and commitment to having a cleaner environment, please make a contribution to support this ongoing educational activity. Send your contribution in care of: The Morris Katz Memorial Lectureship, Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3 Canada.

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