Nan Tobler Award for the Review of the Prevention Science Literature

Alexander Wagenaar, PhD

The Nan Tobler Award for the Review of the Prevention Science Literature is given to an individual or team of individuals for contributions to the summarization or articulation of the empirical evidence relevant to prevention science.

This year, we are pleased to present the Nan Tobler Award to Dr. Alexander C. Wagenaar. Dr. Wagenaar is Professor in the University of Florida, Department of Health Outcomes & Policy. He has published a book, numerous book chapters, and over 170 scientific articles on social epidemiology, public health policy, legal evaluations, community intervention trials, alcohol and tobacco studies, violence prevention, traffic safety, and injury control. He has a strong interest in evaluation of public policy changes and community-level interventions, using both randomized trial and controlled time-series research designs and statistical methods. He currently also serves as Associate Director of the Public Health Law Research Program at Temple University, the national program office for a $17 million initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is a scientific reviewer for two dozen journals, is a member of the Editorial Board of Prevention Science and the Journal of Safety Research, and is an Assistant Editor of the journal, Addiction.

Dr. Wagenaar’s research focuses on three broad areas: (1) group-randomized or controlled time-series trials of preventive interventions at the state, community and institutional levels designed to improve the health of children and adolescents; (2) empirical evaluations of the effects of national, state and local public health policies;
and (3) meta-analyses of the literature on these topics. Particular content foci include alcohol use, automobile crashes, injuries and violence.

In 1999, Dr. Wagenaar received the prestigious Jellinek Award for lifetime achievement in research on alcohol. In 2001, he received the Innovator’s Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and in 2004 was named by the Institute for Scientific Information as a Highly Cited Researcher, an honor limited to less than one-half of one percent of published scientists worldwide. In 2009, he received the Prevention Science Award from the Society for Prevention Research for the contributions of his three decades of research in advancing the methods and outcomes of prevention research. In 2010, he received an honorary Research Professorship award from the University of Florida Foundation.