

## BIOSKETCH

K.H. Ginzl, M.D.,  
Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Throughout my career in research and teaching in the area of medical pharmacology and toxicology, I have been "haunted " by NICOTINE. Starting with the pharmacology examen in 1948 at the Medical Faculty of the University of Vienna, Austria, when I was asked to explain the nicotinic effects of acetylcholine, and with our discovery in 1949 of the nicotinic-type neuromuscular blocking agent, succinylcholine, now used worldwide as a muscle relaxant in surgical anesthesia, nicotine has commanded my attention at every step of the way both as a tool in physiological research to trace nervous pathways and, in its own right, by revealing the intricacies of its mechanism of action, which uniquely combines physical relaxation and mental alertness and thus offers a persuasive explanation for the addictiveness of tobacco. My work on nicotine prompted the invitation to participate, as senior scientific reviewer, in the 1988 Surgeon General's Report on Nicotine Addiction and, in 1991, the nomination for the Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health.

Areas of research other than nicotine included serotonin, the early exploration of the properties of LSD, and the investigation of prostaglandins, whose powerful sensory stimulant effects were discovered during a tenure of Visiting Professor at the Cardiovascular Research Institute of the University of California at San Francisco in 1976. Over 100 publications comprise original research papers, review articles, and book chapters. I presented numerous reports at American, British, and German pharmacology and physiology society meetings and was invited speaker at seminars in various institutions and at national and international conferences and symposia. The stage changed from the Pharmacology Institute at the University of Vienna to the Universities of Oxford (WHO fellowship 1952-1953), Birmingham (1955-1957) and London (1957-1960); then across the ocean to Riker Laboratories and the Brain Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles (1960-1971), and finally, as Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (1971 till retirement in 1991).

However, it was not until the early 1980s that I "descended " from the proverbial Ivory Tower of SCIENCE into the social arena, realizing that there was indeed another side to nicotine than detached experimental enquiry. During this last phase of my professional career I joined forces with tobacco control advocates in the area of education, legislation as well as litigation, participating as expert witness on behalf of plaintiffs in several law suits against tobacco companies. I served on the Advisory Council of Stop Teenage Addiction to Tobacco (STAT) and have been a member of the Scientific and Policy Advisors of the American Council on Science and Health since 1989\*. In 1992, I relocated to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where I was elected to the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study (ASSIST) Executive Committee for New Mexico and Chairman of the Tobacco Free Las Cruces Coalition. In 1995, we passed a 100% smokefree restaurant ordinance in Las Cruces, the first of its kind in the Southwest, and in 2000, the nation's most comprehensive clean air ordinance in Dona Ana County, banning smoking not only in public places, restaurants, bars, etc. but also fifty feet from any building entrance. In support of our initiative I wrote numerous letters to local papers and appeared repeatedly at city council meetings. Our Coalition also helped achieve smoking bans in El Paso, Texas, and several other cities in New Mexico. I received special awards from STAT and ASSIST. From 1997 through 2002 I regularly lectured on tobacco in the Departments of Nursing and Social Sciences at New Mexico State University and gave talks and demonstrations to some 5,000 students from the third to the twelfth grade in the Las Cruces and Dona Ana County school districts. I also presented testimonies at the 1998 Congressional Committee on Environmental Tobacco Smoke and the 2002 National Conference on THE HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010 TOBACCO OBJECTIVES of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Late in 2003 I took up residence in Massachusetts.

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The recent indiscriminate push for intensifying and expanding the use of nicotine replacement therapy. NRT, as a 'Harm Reduction' alternative to smoking, supported in no small measure by tobacco control advocates, prompted me to review and emphasize the numerous risks of NRT, especially as children and pregnant

women are concerned. Several colleagues joined me in this timely effort that resulted in the 2007 publication: Critical Review: Nicotine for the Fetus, the Infant and the Adolescent? K. H. Ginzel, Gert S. Maritz, David F. Marks, Manfred Neuberger, Jim. R. Pauly, John R. Polito, J, Rolf Schulte-Hermann and Theodore A. Slotkin, J Health Psychol 12(2); 215-224. Obstetrics and Gynecology News invited me to write a Guest Editorial on this topic (Nicotine Replacement: Not in Pregnancy, Lactation. Ob.Gyn.News, May 13, 2007).

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\*In 2006 I resigned from ACSH in opposition to a publication by the Council that advocated smokeless tobacco as a 'Harm Reduction' alternative to smoking.