

## **Sydney Parker, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sydney Parker retired from the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) in 2015. In her 20 years with CHEST she had many roles, including Vice President for Health and Science Policy, responsible for development of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines on several medical and surgical topics in cardiopulmonary medicine and critical care; development of ACCP materials for patient education; and for assessing future pulmonary and critical care workforce needs. She later served as Vice President for Development and Outreach, and Senior Director and Vice President for Grant Development, working with industry, government and foundation partners to develop resources supporting ACCP educational activities. She coordinated the initial cultural diversity programs of the College to provide a Network for pulmonary and critical physician members who were from a wide range of cultures.

From 1978 through 1994 Dr. Parker worked in the Division of Lung Diseases of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), serving as Chief of the Prevention Education and Research Training Branch. In this role she administered a portfolio of grants and contracts that funded asthma and COPD clinical trials and other research and training programs in pulmonary disease. She participated in several international Bilateral Scientific Agreements, headed scientific delegations to the Soviet Union and Italy, and represented the NHLBI in Argentina, New Zealand and Australia.

Dr. Parker's research portfolio at NHLBI included funding research grants and contracts in the epidemiology and treatment of asthma, and asthma patient education. She worked with the American Lung Association to distribute asthma education research findings and program materials nationwide. She advocated for, and initiated the National Asthma Education Program, and initiated the development of the first national clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of asthma. After moving to Chicago to work for the American College of Chest Physicians, she helped to found the Chicago Asthma Consortium in 1996 and served on its Board of Directors for 22 years.

Dr. Parker received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Montevallo and an M.A and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in Clinical Psychology. She did postdoctoral work in Science and Public Policy at Duke University, including serving as legislative assistant to the Committee on Aging of the North Carolina General Assembly, and as a Congressional Science Fellow under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Duke University.

Dr. Parker was married to Jack Whitley for 23 years until his death in 2007. Jack was a communications attorney and served as President of StaRadio, which operates several radio stations in the US west and midwest. Their daughters are Leila and Allison, both of whom live in Chicago.