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Robert Ernest Mann (1952-2022)

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Citation: Turner, N.E., Matheson, F., McCready, J., Watson, T.M., Stoduto, G., van der Maas, M. (2022). Robert Ernest Mann (1952-2022). *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 50, 3-5.

Editor-in-Chief: Nigel Turner, PhD

ISSN: 1910-7595

Received: 05/19/2022

Accepted: 05/20/2022

Published: 05/20/2022



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Abstract: None

Keywords: Obituary, Robert Ernest Mann.

Introduction

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr. Robert E. Mann in the early hours of Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Robert, or more often Bob, was born on March 23, 1952 and grew up in the unique community of Burwash, a village near Sudbury, Ontario. He earned his doctorate from the University of Waterloo. Dr. Robert Mann joined the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) in 1980 as a postdoctoral fellow. He was appointed as Scientist in 1985 and Senior Scientist in 1994. He continued to serve as Senior Scientist after the amalgamation of ARF and other institutions into the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in 1998. In addition, Bob was an Associate Scientist with the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and Associate Professor with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Bob's research focused on the epidemiology of alcohol, other drugs and gambling problems, and the identification of risk and protective factors. During his academic career, he published more than 300 papers, was cited nearly 5000 times, and published with 394 co-authors. From 2016 to 2020 he had published 15 papers on traffic accident research, 12 papers on pathological gambling, and 8 papers on cannabis. His research provided evidence-based improvements in public health policy and have greatly benefited Canadians. Dr. Mann is best known for his research and development work to reduce impaired driving. A highlight of this work were laboratory studies using a driving simulator. These studies had important impacts on impaired driving policies and the development and evaluation of educational and rehabilitative programs, such as the "Back on Track" program, a remedial measures program for impaired drivers in Ontario. Among his prestigious awards received for contributions to impaired driving research were the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), MADD Canada's Citizen of Distinction Award (2016), and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals (2021).

Bob also made significant contributions to the study of gambling, including epidemiological research on gambling, and its relationship to mental health and other addictive behaviours, through the CAMH Monitor and Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Study. In addition, he was one of the lead researchers on two problem gambling studies which resulted in pivotal best practice guidelines for prevention and treatment of gambling among older adults. He was further instrumental in bringing attention to the link between traumatic brain injury and problem gambling.

Bob touched many lives, generously devoting his expertise and time to working with community knowledge users and service providers and mentoring numerous junior researchers and colleagues. He is remembered with great fondness by his colleagues for his collegial spirit

and collaboration, but even more for his infinite kindness, politeness, and gentle disposition. Bob is also treasured by his graduate students and trainees as a humble and supportive mentor, one who generously encouraged all professional development opportunities. His passing leaves a void in the lives he touched.

For more information click on the following link to access the obituary published in the Globe and Mail (2022).

Reference

Globe and Mail (2022). <https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/theglobeandmail/name/robert-mann-obituary?pid=201949540>

