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**Contact:** Gary Sky (303) 846-6245

## **Tri-County Health Department Director Receives National Epidemiology Award**

Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department, earned national recognition from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) at their national convention, held in Denver June 8 - 12. The organization presented Dr. Vogt, with its 2008 “Pump Handle Award” to acknowledge his contributions to the field of applied epidemiology and outstanding professional achievements on the local, state, national and international levels.

The Pump Handle Award commemorates the actions of Dr. John Snow, a 19<sup>th</sup> century physician and the “Father of Applied Epidemiology” whose map of the location of the residences of cases during a cholera epidemic in England led him to identify a town water pump as a likely common source of disease exposure. He removed the handle from the pump, forcing residents to get drinking water from a different water source, thus ending the epidemic.

CSTE is a professional association of over 1,000 public health epidemiologists working in states, local health agencies, and territories. A longtime member of CSTE, Dr. Vogt served two terms as the organization’s president, and was a member of their Executive Committee for eight years.

“Richard Vogt exemplifies the best in public health epidemiology, and his career is a testament to how much the contributions of a single dedicated person can change lives for the better,” said CSTE President Eddy Bresnitz, MD, MPH. “It was a particular pleasure to present the award in Colorado, where his medical career began, and where his public health leadership continues to the present day.”

Dr. Vogt began his career in Colorado, where he completed his undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate medical education. Later, he worked in various public health positions across the nation, including serving as State Epidemiologist in public health departments in Vermont

and Hawaii. In 1997, Dr. Vogt joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a Medical Officer and was assigned to work with the World Health Organization as polio eradication advisor to the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

After three years in Egypt, he returned to the United States and became a consultant to the Denver Public Health Department in the CDC-funded Denver Center for Advanced Public Health Preparedness. Over his career, he has authored or co-authored more than 85 peer-reviewed publications.

In 2001, Dr. Vogt joined Tri-County Health Department as Executive Director, where he has led efforts to increase immunizations among medically underserved children, producing significant improvements in local vaccination rates. He has also encouraged the growth of chronic disease and injury prevention services, as well as increasing HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention efforts.

Tri-County Health Department is the largest local health department in Colorado, serving the 1,250,000 residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties through 11 offices across the greater metro Denver region. Services include disease control and prevention, immunizations, birth and death certificates, nutrition services, tobacco prevention, family planning, prenatal care, environmental health services, restaurant inspections and emergency preparedness. For more information, visit [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org).

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