

Lydia Hopper, Executive Secretary
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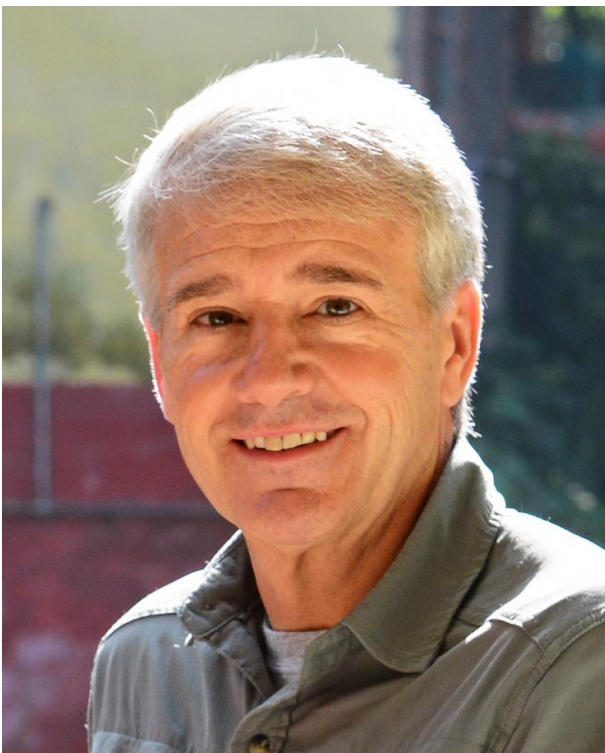
Fall 2024

2024 AWARDEES

2024 Distinguished Primatologist Award

The 2024 Distinguished Primatologist Award was announced at the 46th Meeting of the ASP in Riviera Maya, Mexico!

With the approval of the ASP Board of Directors, the Awards and Recognition Committee presented the 2024 Distinguished Primatologist Award for career achievement in primatology to **Dr. Randall C. Kyes**. This award honors a primatologist who has had an outstanding career and has made significant scientific contributions to our field.



Dr. Randall Kyes has had a significant, impactful, and accomplished career as a primatologist; he plays a truly unique role in our discipline. His expansion of the traditional translation dictum into “bush to bench to bedside” is novel, long overdue, and is leading to new information on the potential for cross-species pathogen transmission in wildlife settings. Dr. Kyes has had a profound impact through his extensive training and education programs around the globe.

Dr. Kyes earned his Ph.D. in Biopsychology from the University of Georgia in 1989. To date, Randy has been awarded nearly 85 research grants; has published over 100 journal articles, book chapters, and book reviews; and has widely disseminated his work with over 330 presentations and seminars.

Dr. Kyes’ research interests have evolved in such a way as they dovetail with some very “hot” topics in the world today, namely conservation biology and global health. He is especially interested in bidirectional transmission of

pathogens between humans and wildlife, particularly nonhuman primates, a topic that has been of growing awareness, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. His work has given rise to a revamping of the original goal of translational research (“from bench to bedside”) to focus on “bush to bench to bedside,” a phrase that recognizes that zoonoses are playing a much greater role in human health than in the past, due to both human overpopulation and habitat degradation.

By **Dr. Kyes’** own accounting, he has conducted more than 139 field study programs attended by nearly 2700 participants. These participants include university students and faculty, wildlife professionals, NGO staff, secondary school teachers, journalists, community leaders, local guides, etc. Due to his successful and long-running training programs, he routinely encounters situations where students who have taken his field courses are now sending their own students to his courses.

In addition to training, **Dr. Kyes** has carried out extensive outreach programs to children in remote village schools in Indonesia, Nepal, China, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, India, and Mexico. The goal of these programs is to help foster the next generation of global leaders who can implement the programs needed to ensure the future of their countries’ important natural resources, promote global health, and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity worldwide. To date, **Dr. Kyes** and his colleagues have completed over 170 outreach education programs for approximately 10,000 children.

Dr. Kyes remains a most effective ambassador for the biomedical research enterprise with primatologists and wildlife biologists in habitat countries, providing the US biomedical establishment with a mechanism to give back to habitat countries. To cite from one of his nomination letters: “**Dr. Kyes** is quite simply the very best at what he does, and has operated at this extraordinary level of performance for decades now.”

The Awards and Recognition Committee is pleased to present **Dr. Randall C. Kyes** with the ASP 2024 **Distinguished Primatologist Award**.