

Dr. G. Alan Marlatt (1941-2011)

One of my professional regrets is that I did not have the opportunity to interview Dr. Alan Marlatt before his death from cancer on March 14, 2001. We had communicated about doing a career retrospective interview, but his untimely death prevented a conversation we were both looking forward to. His passing is a great loss to the addictions field and to the broader helping fields that he influenced.

After completing a B.A. in psychology at the University of British Columbia (1964) and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Indiana University (1968), Dr. Marlatt served as Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington and Director of the University of Washington's Addictive Behaviors Research Center. His professional contributions span his pioneering work in relapse prevention and the broader arena of harm reduction approaches to alcohol- and other drug-related problems.

Dr. Marlatt's contributions to the field have been widely acknowledged, including the Jellinek Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to knowledge in the field of alcohol studies (1990), the Innovators in Combating Substance Abuse Award presented by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2001), and the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism (2004).

There are some brief topical interviews with Dr. Marlatt available on the internet. The links below will help interested readers locate these.

<https://www.psychotherapy.net/interview/marlatt-harm-reduction>

<http://archive.sciencewatch.com/ana/st/drink/09janSTDriMarl/>

<http://www.andjrnl.org/article/0002-8223%2894%2992361-2/abstract>

<http://www.podcast.org.il/the-jeff-wolfsberg-show-podcast-27322/college-alcohol-abuse-interview-with-dr-g-alan-marlatt-%D7%A4%D7%A8%D7%A7-3400251/>

Below is a link to the statement released by the University of Washington on Dr. Marlatt's life and work.

https://depts.washington.edu/abrc/Marlatt_release.pdf