

As a follow-up to the Inter-American Investigation of Mortality in Childhood, PAHO asked Dr. Puffer and Dr. Serrano to work together on a new book, on patterns of birthweights. The resulting text analyzed data from 22 studies of birthweight patterns from 15 countries around the world, in order to assess the impact of low and deficient birthweights on infant mortality. The book also discussed the benefits of health education, food supplements, prenatal care, and other health services in reducing the prevalence of low birthweight and infant mortality. The text has been a best-seller for PAHO, which is still selling the book in both its English (7) and Spanish (8) editions.

Besides being recognized by PAHO this year as one of the Public Health Heroes of the Americas and receiving the Abraham Horwitz Award in 1978, Dr. Puffer has been honored by a number of other organizations. In 1970 she received an honorary degree of doctor of science from Smith College, where she had done her undergraduate studies in mathematics. In 1977 the Tennessee Public Health Association granted her its Centennial Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service in the Field of Public Health.

## REFERENCES

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3. Puffer RR, Serrano CV. Patterns of mortality in childhood: report of the Inter-American Investigation of Mortality in Childhood. Washington, D.C.: Pan American Health Organization; 1973. (PAHO Scientific Publication 262).
4. Puffer RR, Serrano CV. Características de la mortalidad en la niñez: informe de la Investigación Interamericana de Mortalidad en la Niñez. Washington, D.C.: Organización Panamericana de la Salud; 1968. (OPS Publicación Científica 262).
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6. Puffer RR. Practical statistics in health and medical work. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; 1950.
7. Puffer RR, Serrano CV. Patterns of birthweights. Washington, D.C.: Pan American Health Organization; 1987. (PAHO Scientific Publication 504).
8. Puffer RR, Serrano CV. Características del peso al nacer. Washington, D.C.: Organización Panamericana de la Salud; 1988. (OPS Publicación Científica 504).



### ***In Memoriam***

Ruth Rice Puffer

31 August 1907 - 2 September 2002

We regret to announce the death of Dr. Ruth Rice Puffer. She will be fondly remembered by her family, her friends, and her colleagues in the field of public health around the world. The family requests that persons wishing to honor her memory make contributions to a special endowed fund that provides scholarship support for students from outside the United States to study at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Contributions can be sent to: The Ruth Rice Puffer Fund, c/o Linda Smeyne, External Affairs, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, United States of America.