

## THE 1986 AMCA MEMORIAL LECTURER

A. RALPH BARR

Ralph Barr is Professor of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. He was born on August 13, 1926 in Fort Worth, TX. He earned the B.Sc. from Southern Methodist University in 1948 and the D.Sc. from John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1952 under the direction of Lloyd Rozeboom. After short stints of teaching Medical Entomology at the University of Minnesota (1952-65) and the University of Kansas (1955-58), Dr. Barr served as Supervisor of Vector Research in the California Department of Public Health at Fresno (1958-65) and built his laboratory into one of the finest mosquito research groups in the world. After a short period on the staff of Public Health for the University of California, Berkeley, he moved to the School of Public Health at UCLA in 1967. His laboratory became a world center for medical entomology, with emphasis on *Culex* mosquitoes. He served several terms overseas as Visiting Professor in Singapore, Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia.

The hallmark of Barr's scientific work has always been quality. His more than 100 publications reflect thoughtfulness, careful ex-

perimentation and elegant analysis. The bulk of his work has been on biosystematics and genetics of the *Culex pipiens* complex. Among landmark discoveries was the demonstration that the "cytoplasmic incompatibility" was not chromosomal but due to a rickettsial organism that was passed transovarially. Other landmarks were his genetic analysis of sex ratio distortion and meiotic drive in *Culex*. He built the definitive linkage maps for *Cx. pipiens* with many morphological markers, then provided cytological maps of salivary gland chromosomes. More recently, he and his students have done elegant biosystematic work with sibling species of *Anopheles*.

Dr. Barr's wisdom and good sense are often tapped. He has consulted for WHO, NIH, U.S. Army and Navy, NSF, NAS, AIBS, etc. In medical entomology, everyone knows that he will give you straight, honest answers, without frills and hyperbole. His editorial services are much in demand. He has served and chaired all the major journals in our field. For AMCA, he has chaired Editorial Boards of both *Mosquito News* and *Mosquito Systematics*.