

# Office of the Director

PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

### Seven Decades of Firsts with Seven CDC Directors



**James O. Mason, MD Dr.PH**  
**CDC Director 1983-1989**

James O. Mason serves as a member of the Avalon Health Care, Inc. and Bristol Hospice boards of directors. He served as the president and CEO of Avalon Health Care from 2005 until 2007. In April 1994 he was called into the leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and oversaw the religious activities of the Church throughout sub-Saharan Africa until his release in August 2000. He served As Vice President for Planning and Development and Professor, Department Of Preventive Medicine And Biometrics, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences during 1993. He served from 1989 until 1993 as Assistant Secretary of Health in the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services; being nominated to that position by President George H. Bush and confirmed by the Senate. He served as the United States delegate to the World Health Organization from 1990 until 1993.

He served from 1983 until 1989 as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Mason served as the executive director of the Utah Department of Health with responsibilities for public health and health care financing from 1979 until 1983. He was associate professor and chair of the Division of Community Medicine in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Utah College of medicine from 1978 until 1979. He directed the multiple hospital healthcare corporation owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1970 until 1975.

He received B.A. And M.D. Degrees from the University of Utah in 1954 and 1958. He received M.P.H. And Dr.PH degrees from Harvard University in 1963 and 1967. He served an internship in medicine (Osler Service) at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and was a resident in internal medicine at Peter Brent Brigham Hospital, Harvard Medical Service in Boston. He is certified in General Preventive Medicine by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

He and the former Marie Smith have been married for 64 years and they are the parents of seven children, 27 grandchildren and 36 great grandchildren.



**CDC**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

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