Dr. Cora Downs Will Get 1971 Public Health Award

Dr. Cora Downs of Lawrence is one of three Kansans named to receive 1971 Kansas Public Health Assn. awards. The other two are Hester McCurley of Kansas City and Harry Wettig of Overland Park.

They will be honored at the annual KPHA Crumbine Banquet on May 19 at the Ramada Inn Downtown in Topeka. Dr. Downs is the banquet speaker.

DR. DOWNS has received international recognition as a research scientist. Her work has led to breakthroughs in bacterial identification, rabbit fever control and study of rickettsia, the family to which the “Q” fever organism belongs.

A native of Kansas City, Dr. Downs received her A.B., M.A. and Ph.D. from Kansas University. She has served continuously at KU, rising from instructor in 1917 to full professor of microbiology in 1936. She has retired as a full-time professor, but continues to serve as advisor to the microbiology department's research program on “Q” fever.

Dr. Downs has been a research associate at the Rockefeller Institute and has served as a civilian expert and later as consultant at Fort Detrick for the military. She was a senior research fellow of the National Institute of Health and was at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology at Oxford, England in 1959-60.

IN 1953, Dr. Downs was named Summerfield Distinguished Professor of Bacteriology and in 1964 was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from KU. She has received the Theta Sigma Phi journalism award and was elected to the KU Women's Hall of Fame. A member of both the Society and American Academy of Microbiology, Dr. Downs has published more than 100 original papers.

Mrs. McCurley has been a public health nurse in the Kansas City area health department for 31 years. Wettig is director of the office of special staff services, health services and mental health administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Kansas City, Mo.

Congratulations!

Larry M. Dunn Jr.