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## Senior Resource Group Member Spotlight: Ron Kendall

Matt Moore, SETAC North America Senior Resource Group



This month, the Senior Resource Group highlights the accomplishments and career of Dr. Ron Kendall, professor of Environmental Toxicology and Head of the Wildlife Toxicology Laboratory at Texas Tech University. Kendall received his B.S. from the University of South Carolina (1974), M.S. from Clemson University (1976), and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech (1980). Immediately after his Ph.D., Kendall received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) traineeship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to receive additional training in toxicology. This built on the interests he acquired during his B.S. and M.S. education of biology, chemistry, wildlife and environmental sciences emphasizing contaminants in wildlife.

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Kendall's career began at Western Washington University (1980-1989), where he founded the academic and research programs in environmental toxicology. In 1989, he was recruited to Clemson University. Along with colleagues and graduate students, he founded new academic and research programs in environmental toxicology at Clemson, including new facility development. In 1997, Kendall and some of his colleagues and graduate students were recruited to Texas Tech University, where he founded the Department of Environmental Toxicology, which has graduated 163 M.S. and Ph.D. students and has a large participation within SETAC.

Kendall served as SETAC North America Vice President (1991-1992) and President (1992-1993). Kendall was active in the globalization process of SETAC, and he participated in the first World Congress held in Lisbon, Portugal. Kendall has served on the Editorial Board of *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* since 1986 as terrestrial toxicology editor. He has authored more than 200 scientific publications and technical articles and published 12 books through SETAC and other outlets. He is particularly proud of the book "Wildlife Toxicology and Population Modeling: Integrated Studies of Agroecosystems" published through SETAC/Lewis Publishers and co-edited with his colleague, Dr. Thomas Lacher.

Kendall has served on many boards and scientific panels, including the National Academy of Sciences and the USEPA's Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (chair 1999-2002). As major professor, he has graduated 34 graduate students in environmental toxicology, and his students have won many awards. He and his research team have identified an avian wildlife disease, and they are working directly with the USDA to register a drug treatment. Kendall has received the Paul and Ruth Olscamp Outstanding Research Award at Western Washington University, the Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research at Clemson, and three medallions from Texas Tech, two of which were for outstanding research and one for the President's Book Award. He is also the recipient of the 2010 Gerald H. Cross Alumni Leadership Award from Virginia Tech for his career work and leadership in wildlife toxicology.

Kendall said, "SETAC has been a tremendous organization to facilitate education, research advancement and collaboration in environmental toxicology and chemistry. This resource did not exist when I was a student, and I am very glad that it exists now to facilitate development of future generations of outstanding environmental toxicologists who know how to solve environmental problems."

*The mission of the Senior Resource Group (SRG) is to identify, cultivate and mentor future SETAC leaders, as well as document the Society's history and evolution of environmental science. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SRG, or if you simply want more information about the group, please contact [Laura Swanson](#).*

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*Supporting the development of principles and practices for protecting, enhancing and managing sustainable environmental quality and ecosystem integrity.*



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