

Steven N. Austad, PhD

Dr. Steven N. Austad is a Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham. Trained in evolutionary biology, Dr. Austad became interested in aging during field studies on the opossum. Dr. Austad's current research seeks to understand the underlying causes of aging with a long-term goal of developing medical interventions that slow the age-related decay in human health. He is the author of more than 180 scientific papers covering nearly every aspect of the biological aging process. Dr. Austad is also a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the 2003 recipient of that Society's Robert W. Kleemeier Award for outstanding research. He has also received the Geron Corporation-Samuel Goldstein Distinguished Publication Award, the Nathan A. Shock Award from the Gerontological Research Center of the National Institute on Aging, the Irving S. Wright Award from the American Federation for Aging Research, and the IPSEN Foundation Longevity Prize.

Dr. Austad maintains a keen interest in communicating science to the general public, and in that capacity has served on the Science Advisory Board of National Public Radio and has been a consultant to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He has written popular science articles for numerous publications including *Natural History* magazine, *Scientific American*, *National Wildlife*, and *International Wildlife*. His trade book, *Why We Age* (1997), has been translated into eight languages.

Pre-aging research life:

Prior to entering aging research, Dr. Austad with a degree in English literature was a newspaper reporter, trained wild animals for the Hollywood film industry, and drove a taxi cab in New York City, and hustled pool nation-wide. With a PhD in evolutionary ecology, he has done biological field research in several parts of the United States, Venezuela, England, Kenya, Micronesia, and Papua New Guinea.