Who was Steven M. Horvath, Ph.D.?

Steven M. Horvath, Ph.D. was a 64-year member of the American Physiological Society, joining in 1943. Dr. Horvath obtained a B.S. in chemistry from Oberlin College, a B.A. in chemistry and physical education, as well as an M.S. in physiology from Miami University of Ohio. In 1939, Dr. Horvath commenced his Ph.D in Biological Sciences at the Harvard Fatigue Laboratory, under the tutelage of Dr. D. Bruce Dill. In the Harvard Fatigue Lab, Dr. Horvath began performing field studies of individuals working in extreme temperatures and altitude. This line of work continued while Dr. Horvath was at the US Army Armored Medical Research Lab at Fort Knox during World War II, during which time he traveled to the South Pacific and Arctic to study the ability of normal young men to survive and adapt to stressful situations. In 1961, Dr. Horvath joined the faculty of the Department of Physical and Health Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he established and served as the director of the Institute of Environmental Stress (1962-1984). During this time, he studied marathon runners during competition to investigate human exercise capacity under competitive conditions and the post-race recovery process. Recognizing the importance of adapting to stress during the aging process, Dr. Horvath worked on the proposal to establish the Center for Aging Research at University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2001, Dr. Horvath became Professor Emeritus at the University of Buffalo, SUNY. Dr. Horvath took great pride in the achievements of his students, post-docs and colleagues, and during his career he authored over 550 book chapters and peer-reviewed manuscripts.

The Steven M. Horvath Professional Opportunity Award was established by his three children after his passing on March 21, 2007. This award provides funds for junior physiologists to attend and participate fully in the Experimental Biology meeting, and is granted to underrepresented minority graduate students or postdoctoral fellows.