

Charles Benjamin (Ben) Beard
Registry of Honor
2010

Charles Benjamin (Ben) Beard was born in Sheffield, Alabama in 1957 to Chuck and Elaine Beard and was a graduate of Sheffield High School, class of 1976. During his years at Sheffield High he served as president of the honor society and captain of the wrestling team. As a Sheffield wrestler, he won the individual state championship one year and placed third two other years and was a member of Sheffield's 1972 Class 3A state championship team. After graduating, he earned a B.S. in 1980 at Auburn University, a M.S. in 1983 at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine, and a Ph.D. in 1987 at the University of Florida. He served in a research training post at Yale University School of Medicine from 1987 to 1991. In 1991, he joined the Division of Parasitic Diseases at CDC to conduct research on the prevention and control of malaria and Chagas disease, and studied the epidemiology of *Pneumocystis* pneumonia in persons with AIDS. He served as Section Chief in the Entomology Branch from 1999-2003 before joining CDC's Division of Vector-borne Infectious Diseases in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2003 where he serves as Chief of the Bacterial Diseases Branch and leads CDC's national program on Lyme disease, plague, and tularemia. While at CDC, Ben has worked mostly in tropical medicine and international health. His scientific interests include public health and the ecology of insect-borne diseases.

More recently he has been coordinating CDC's work in understanding and mitigating the potential impact of climate variability and change on infectious disease ecology and was recently appointed as the Associate Director for Climate Change in CDC's newly formed National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases. He has published over 100 scientific papers, books and book chapters, and has served on a variety of committees and panels both inside and outside of CDC. In 2002, he was awarded the CDC & ATSDR Honor Award in International Health. He is currently an Associate Editor for *Emerging Infectious Diseases* and past president of the Society for Vector Ecology. On the personal side, Ben has been married to his wife Linda for 22 years- they have three children: Nate (20), Josh (18) and Catherine (12). His hobbies outside of work include spending time with his family, fly fishing, participating in church activities, and doing HIV/AIDS volunteer work in the township of Cape Town, South Africa.