
Remarks on Receiving the Special Merit Award

Anthony R. Volpe, DDS, MS

It is a great honor for me to receive this prestigious Special Merit Award from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. Although I have not formally been a part of public health dentistry, I have always shared its dream of providing the best oral health for everyone.

This award today has even greater significance to me because it comes in conjunction with the Herschel S. Horowitz Memorial Symposium. As everyone knows, Hersch was my very beloved friend, mentor, and scientific advisor. I am sure that Hersch is here with us today in spirit and pleased that I am being honored with this Special Merit Award.

Also, as if to make the award even more important to me, the entire meeting is dedicated to national oral health—my favorite dental subject.

This conference has also helped to clarify a personal conflict that I am experiencing between what I read and what I see. I read that tooth decay is decreasing everywhere, but when I look closely at the dentitions of people across the world I see a different picture—a picture that suggests the re-emergence of tooth decay in all age groups.

This National Conference, with its "Spotlight on Oral Health," sends a very timely and important message to me (and hopefully everyone in den-

tistry), that preventive dentistry and the use of fluorides are still critical to the establishment and maintenance of the best oral health for all people.

With regard to "Lights, Camera, and Action," everyone in public health dentistry should be up on center stage to receive a great round of applause, because you are the ones who ...

**GIVE EVERYONE A SMILE
EVERY DAY.**

[Editor's Note: Dr. Volpe declined the \$500 prize associated with this award and asked that the funds be deposited in the Herschel Horowitz Scholarship Fund of the AAPHD Foundation.]

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