

## 2004 ASTDD/ADA/CDC Community Water Fluoridation Special Merit Awards

### Commander David Apanian

David Apanian served at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1996 to 2003 as a national fluoridation engineer. During his tenure, Dave directed efforts leading to major accomplishments in the management of state water fluoridation programs.

In particular, he worked closely with ASTDD to develop the Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS), which allows state managers to track the fluoridation status of all water systems, input monthly data via the Internet, and produce surveillance and management reports. WFRS allows states to monitor not only the extent, but also the consistency and quality of water fluoridation. Dave developed WFRS and then implemented several major revisions in response to comments and requirements expressed by participating states. He also prepared a comprehensive user manual and a training course, and then built on WFRS to develop "My Water's Fluoride and Oral Health

Maps," applications that display fluoridation status information to the public. While he was with CDC, CDR Apanian also improved the Fluoride Proficiency Testing Program for reference labs to streamline and automate the reporting process. Training programs for state fluoridation engineers, technicians, and oral health personnel were improved, and a second training location was opened in Sacramento, California.

The Fluoridation Merit Award recognizes CDR David Apanian's dedication to improving oral health in the United States through improved water fluoridation programs.

### The California Endowment

The California Endowment (TCE), a private, statewide health foundation with approximately \$3 billion in assets, was created in 1996 as a result of Blue Cross of California's formation of WellPoint Health Networks, a for-profit corporation. Since its inception, TCE has awarded more than 3,400 grants totaling over \$988,000,000 to

community-based organizations throughout California. TCE's vision is healthy lives for the people of California, facilitated through the availability of quality health care for everyone, a healthy start for children, and healthy communities.

TCE's mission is to reach this vision of a healthy California through two primary paths. The first has a personal health emphasis: to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities. The second has a public health emphasis: to improve the overall health status of the people of California. TCE has made grants totaling an estimated \$15 million in support of water fluoridation, and has also assisted in developing community water fluoridation policy in California. Through TCE's partnership with the Fluoridation 2010 Workgroup, California has moved forward in ensuring that most California citizens have access to the oral health benefits of fluoridated drinking water and in meeting the Healthy People 2010 objective for water fluoridation. TCE has also contributed funds in support of other oral health issues in California.

The Fluoridation Merit Award recognizes the California Endowment for demonstrating its commitment to improving the public's health through its sustaining support of community water fluoridation efforts in California.

### California Fluoridation 2010 Workgroup

The California Fluoridation 2010 Workgroup was created to implement 1995's California Fluoridation statute, which requires all cities with 10,000 service connections to fluoridate their systems once funds from another source are provided. The Workgroup includes representatives from the California Dental Association, the Dental Health Foundation, the California Fluoridation Task Force, and the California Department of Health Services, which was given the charge to raise funds for this purpose and



Members of the California Fluoridation 2010 Workgroup receive the ASTDD/CDC/ADA Fluoridation Merit Award. Left to right: David Nelson (California Department of Health Services), Jon Roth (California Dental Association), Wynne Grossman (Dental Health Foundation), Dr. Tim Collins (California Fluoridation Task Force), Dr. Scott Presson (CDC), Judith Feinstein (ASTDD), and Jane McGinley (ADA).

convened the Workgroup. These four original members of the Workgroup administer fluoridation funds. Recent additions to the Workgroup include representatives from Delta Dental of California, the American Association of Pediatrics, and the California Medical Association.

One notable award to the Workgroup is \$15 million from the California Endowment. This award is to be utilized for the purchase of capital equipment for fluoridation. With additional funds from CDC, combined

funding should provide enough support for California cities to assist the state in meeting the Healthy People 2010 goal for community water fluoridation.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the wholesaler that provides water to 18 million Southern Californians, is on track to provide fluoridation by 2006, and a number of other California's cities are now fluoridating or in the process of implementing water fluoridation as a result of the Workgroup's efforts. In

addition to funding, the Workgroup has provided many hours of testimony and technical assistance to cities considering fluoridating their drinking water.

The Fluoridation Merit Award recognizes the California Fluoridation 2010 Workgroup and its partners for demonstrating its commitment to improving the public's oral health through its support and efforts on behalf of community water fluoridation efforts in California.



Copyright of Journal of Public Health Dentistry is the property of American Association of Public Health Dentistry and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.