

ASTDD President's Welcome and Address

Lewis N. Lampiris, DDS, MPH

On behalf of the Members and the Executive Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the National Oral Health Conference, the 6th Annual Joint meeting of the AAPHD and ASTDD. The theme of this year's conference: the Confluence of Education, Research and Practice is a reflection of our location at the point where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers come together and form the Ohio River, which then begins its long journey down to Cairo, Illinois and its eventual meeting with the Mighty Mississippi.

Mark Twain, who traveled along these great American rivers and wrote about his experiences also had a few words to say about dentists as speakers –According to Mr. Twain, "Most cursed of all are the dentists who make too many parenthetical remarks," and then goes on to say, "parenthesis in literature and dentistry are in bad taste." So, to honor both Mr. Twain and you, I shall keep my parentheses to a minimum.

I wish to thank all those responsible for planning this meeting – and many thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors, all of whom are listed in your program books. Special thanks to both the Centers for Disease Control and the Health Services and Resource Administration for their significant contributions to this effort. Without their commitment and support, a "confluence" such as this would not be possible. Thank you.

It is my privilege to welcome esteemed colleagues and guests who are with us today. As I read your name, please stand and then, after you've all stood, we will give you a hearty dental public health welcome.

- ♦ Dr. Peter Cooney, Canada's Chief Dental Officer



ASTDD President Lewis N. Lampiris

- ♦ Dr. Ramen Bedi, Great Britain's Chief Dental Officer
- ♦ Dr. Skip Collins, President, and Dr. Robert Dumbaugh, Executive Director of the American Board of Dental Public Health
- ♦ Dr. Richard Haight, President of American Dental Association
- ♦ Ms. Helena Gallant Tripp, President of the American Dental Hygienists Association
- ♦ Dr. Frank Catalanatto, Immediate Past President, American Dental Education Association
- ♦ Dr. Ivan Lugo, President, Hispanic Dental Association
- ♦ Dr. Christopher Fox, Executive Director International Association of Dental Research
- ♦ Dr. Aljernon Bolden, President, and Dr. Leslie Grant, President Elect, National Dental Association
- ♦ Dr. Burt Edelstein, Project Director, Children's Dental Health Project
- ♦ Mr. Robert Klaus, President and CEO Oral Health America
- ♦ Dr. Michael Helgeson, President, Special Care Dentistry

- ♦ Dr. Conan Davis, Chief Dental Officer, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- ♦ Dr. William Maas, Director of the Division of Oral Health, Centers for Disease Control
- ♦ Dr. Mark Nehring, Dental Director, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Services and Resource Administration
- ♦ Former Presidents of ASTDD/AAPHD
- ♦ Deans of Dental Education Programs

Thank you all for being here. Please join me in welcoming our guests.

Once again returning to the theme of confluence, in another of his reflections, Mark Twain tells us, "All dentists talk while they work. They have inherited this from their professional ancestors, the barbers. The dentist who talks well—other things being equal—is the one to choose."

His words must have echoed during the many conference calls held by our planning committee. For they have not only chosen dentists who

"talk well" but also dental hygienists, physicians, public health administrators, nurses, academics, researchers, journalists, students, and members of other disciplines — who, although they may not have evolved from barbers, not only "talk well," but are leaders in education, research and practice.

So sit back, relax, listen and learn as we travel together along the greater river formed by our convergence, a diverse group of colleagues who share a common goal, optimal oral health for all. Thank you.

Special Thanks for your support to the NOHC.



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