

## *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* 2004 Best Paper Award

**Presented by B. Alex White, DDS, DrPH**

The purpose of this award is to recognize the best refereed paper published in the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* during the volume year 2004. Earlier this year, Editorial Board members reviewed the abstracts of all peer-reviewed manuscripts published in 2004.

Nine papers were nominated by two or more reviewers and these manuscripts were judged based on these criteria: Professional merit (40%) which included creativity and originality, scientific and professional quality, and scholarship; contribution (40%) which included societal or scientific significance, usefulness of the paper to practicing dental public health professionals, and relevance of the topic or problem to the interests of

dental public health; and presentation quality (20%) which included readability, use of clear, concise, comprehensible, and jargon-free language; and adherence to "Instructions for Contributors" found in the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*.

This year we recognize a paper that appeared in the Spring 2004 issue entitled "The Effects of the Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Food Program on Dentally Related Medicaid Expenditures," authored by Drs. Jessica Lee, R. Gary Rozier, Edward Norton, Jonathan Kotch, and William Vann from the Schools of Public Health and Dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They compared dentally related Medicaid expenditures for

children in North Carolina who were enrolled in WIC to those not enrolled for each year of life up to age five. They found that children who participated in WIC at ages one and two years had significantly less dentally related Medicaid expenditures than those who did not participate, and concluded that the WIC program has the potential for decreasing dentally related costs to the Medicaid program, while increasing use of dental services.

Dr. Lee, on behalf of the Association of Public Health Dentistry and the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, I am pleased to present the Best Paper Award to you and your colleagues. Congratulations!

## Remarks on Receiving 2004 Best Paper Award

**Jessica Y. Lee, DDS, MPH, PhD**

My colleagues and I would like to express our deepest, heartfelt appreciation to the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and to the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* for selecting our paper "The Effects of the Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Food Program on Dentally Related Medicaid Expenditures" for the Best Paper Award. The JPHD is a prestigious flagship journal for public health dentistry that publishes many high quality, significant and scientific works, so this is truly and honor.

I would like to recognize the contribution of my colleagues: Dr. Gary Rozier, Bill Vann, Edward Norton and Jonathan Kotch. Their dedication to the oral health of children and support has been valuable in making this investigation successful.

Access to dental care for young children enrolled in Medicaid has presented a major public policy challenge as evident by reports from the Office of Technology Assessment, the



Left to right: B. Alex White, Jessica Lee, and Gary Rozier

General Accounting Office and the Office of the Surgeon General. We are finding that one program cannot address this issue alone. In our paper we examined an entirely unexplored area, role of a partnership between Medicaid with other federal program,

WIC, and its effects on Medicaid utilization and expenditures. We must all understand that the "system" of access to care works and role of public health programs in accessing dental care. There is still a lot of work to be done. Thank you.

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