

American Association of Community Dental Programs: The Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award in Community Dental Programs - 2005 Robert H. Dumbaugh, DDS, MPH

Presented by Myron Allukian, Jr. DDS, MPH

As Chair of the Awards Committee of the American Association of Community Dental Programs (AACDP), I am pleased and honored to present AACDP's Highest Award: the second Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Community Dental Programs. Last year I was moved to be the first recipient of this award, which has been named in my honor. I must admit, it's nice to still be alive when something is named after you. This year's award's recipient is Robert H. Dumbaugh, DDS, MPH:

- ♦ A man of humble beginnings, but very strong family values
- ♦ A straight shooter who's never afraid to tell it as it is
- ♦ A tireless leader, advocate and worker
- ♦ A man of the highest integrity and principles.
- ♦ A person with a great sense of humor and an endearing smile, who is compassionate and dedicated to serve the public's best interest
- ♦ An outstanding role model
- ♦ A true leader, yet very modest and humble

Dr. Dumbaugh is truly worthy of AACDP's Lifetime Achievement Award for his many outstanding accomplishments and achievements in promoting, protecting, and improving oral health on the local level. Many of his accomplishments have also helped us on the state and national level.

Bob is a graduate of West Virginia University School of Dentistry. He received his MPH from the University of California at Berkeley, and completed his dental public health resi-



Left to right: Larry Hill, Bob Dumbaugh, Myron Allukian

dency training in the US Public Health Service. He is Board Certified in Dental Public Health, a Past President of the American Board of Dental Public Health, and currently serves as the Board's Executive Secretary.

Dr. Dumbaugh spent most of his professional career, about 32 years, with the Palm Beach County Health Department in Florida—beginning in 1971. From 1975, until his retirement in 2003, he served as Dental Director. Of his many accomplishments, Bob counts community water fluoridation in Palm Beach County among his greatest. When he began working at the Health Department, only 9,000 residents were living in a fluoridated community. As a result of his efforts, today more than 700,000 county resi-

dents enjoy the health and economic benefits of community water fluoridation on a yearly basis.

Some of his other accomplishments include:

- ♦ A founding member of the American Association of Community Dental Programs
- ♦ Being one of the first programs in the country to obtain the services of a National Health Service Corps dentist in 1972
- ♦ Established one of the first dental programs in Florida for the treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS—beginning in 1988
- ♦ Provided fluoride mouth rinse programs for over 50,000 school children per year

- ♦ Operated a clinical program, which treats more than 12,000 patients a year with more than 40 dental staff members, and 30 dental chairs in five facilities, utilizing multiple payers – including a unique capitation program.

Dr. Dumbaugh also had a dental sealant program, Headstart dental program, and had about 50 students a year rotate through his programs and hear his lectures on dental public health, including preventive medi-

cine residents. Furthermore, Bob was the chief local investigator of the Dr. Acer case when six dental patients died of AIDS. This changed the practice of dentistry and medicine in our country. In the mid 1980's, as a member of the Florida Dental Society, it was Bob who helped us at a critical time in the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates to recertify Dental Public Health as a specialty. While serving in the USPHS Regional Office in Chicago, he wrote the first draft for the establishment of the

Harold Hillenbrand Fellowship, named after the ADA's most forward looking executive director and strongest supporter of dental public health. Bob also served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* under Dr. David Striffler from 1976 to 1985. Additionally, Bob received several awards during the 26 years that he was a member of the Florida Dental Association House of Delegates. What a legacy and role model for dental public health! Congratulations!

Remarks on Receiving the AACDP Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award

Robert H. Dumbaugh, DDS, MPH

It was 1983 and a small group of public health dentists met in Boston to discuss problems and solutions related to the administration of their local dental programs. My memory tells me that the meeting was held in a guest room of a downtown hotel; but Myron tells me it was in a bar....it could have been.

Present at that first meeting – the formative meeting for AACDP – were Drs. Myron Allukian from Boston, Massachusetts, Tom Butts from Jefferson County, Alabama, Larry Hill from Cincinnati, Ohio, Bob Peterek from Austin, Texas, and myself. We soon discovered that our individual concerns were common to all, and we felt a responsibility to organize into a more formal body to provide a forum for the exchange of information that

would assist local dental directors in the development, administration, and evaluation of their programs.

It is the good fortune of the newer local directors to witness that this early effort has been carried on and continues to grow. This is evidenced by the attendance of over 100 AACDP conference participants in Los Angeles last year, and over 70 this year in Pittsburgh. Through their pre-conference lectures and seminars, local administrators learn from more experienced members the nuts and bolts of procuring funds, selecting equipment, defining target populations, determining the ranges of services to be provided, and techniques for evaluating effectiveness of programs. It is to the credit of Dr.

Allukian and Dr. Hill that the effort to sustain AACDP as an important and viable organization has not lost its momentum.

My plea to all of you in attendance – in service, research, education, and administration – is to continue to support AACDP and to provide information and guidance when asked, and to realize that local dental program directors provide the critical services that are direct extensions of the important services that **you** provide.

I am extremely pleased to accept the AACDP Lifetime Achievement Award, and specially humbled to know that this award is named in honor of the *Godfather of Local Dental Programs*, Dr. Myron Allukian, Jr.

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