

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1998 AAPHD ANNUAL MEETING

## Building Bridges for a Healthier New Millennium

**October 21-23, 1998**  
**Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel**  
**San Francisco, CA**

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry's 61st annual meeting presented the opportunity to reflect on how we can use the successes of this century to address the opportunities of the next. The October 21-23, 1998, meeting in the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel in San Francisco, CA, attracted 220 registrants. "Building Bridges for a Healthier New Millennium" included three symposia, a keynote address, 15 roundtable luncheon discussions, over 60 contributed papers, and updates on six significant current events in dental public health. In the Welcoming Reception, cosponsored by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, we celebrated their 75th anniversary and our mutual members, the public health dental hygienists. The annual military session, fun run, ice cream break, and dental public health residency directors' meeting continued with a new opportunity for current and recent residents to get together to discuss issues of common concern. The weather was perfect for the entire week, and especially for the walk into Chinatown for the banquet that Dr. Reg Louie and his mother arranged in honor of our president, Dr. Alex White. AAPHD continued a successful collaboration as the sponsoring agency for the American Board of Dental Public Health. The ABDPH hosted its annual board certification examination and diplomate dinner and business meeting.

Dr. White opened the meeting by introducing the AAPHD Officers and Executive Council Members, recognizing the past presidents of the association, and welcoming members and honored guests from other organizations. Chief Dental Officer Dr. William Maas presented comments in his new position as the Director of the Division of Oral Health at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. In his address, President White reviewed the myriad current activities that will af-

fect the dental public health community. He projected a vision of the themes that will guide us into the next millennium and discussed the importance of using our public health values of population-based health, a focus on prevention, an adequate science base, equity, and ethics as our guide. He predicted that we will be defined by our competencies, that we will increasingly need science to guide us, and that our effectiveness will be enhanced through developing new partnerships and increasing our collaborative efforts.

The awards luncheons, organized this year by Robert J. (Skip) Collins and Howard Field, are always a highlight of the annual meeting, allowing us to acknowledge the contributions of a few of the many people who further the efforts of dental public health in a special way. At the AAPHD Awards Luncheon, the Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, US Senate, was named as the recipient of the Public Service Award; Drs. Naham C. Cons and John K. Peterson were jointly awarded the Distinguished Service Award; Marsha Cunningham received the Special Merit Award; Dr. John-bai Kim received the first Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry-International; and Dr. Jane Weintraub received the President's Award. The Student Merit Awards Luncheon honored our student merit awardees: Gary "Chad" Martin; Jodi A. McGrady; Jill Jones; Matthew M. Parker; the team of Delores Ahrens, Terra Cunningham, Heide Henry, Amy McGarvin, and Melissa Tucker; and J. Robert Hendricks II. The Student Merit Awards are sponsored annually by the Procter & Gamble Company.

The Health Resources and Services Administration continued its tradition of cosponsoring a symposium. Dr. Francisco Ramos-Gomez organized a stimulating session on how to better

integrate oral health prevention into practice. The panel presented innovative examples of collaborations among various factions that linked the oral health message with total health so that a greater number of people carry the oral health message. Drs. Robert Isman and Francisco Ramos-Gomez developed an informative symposium held jointly with the Hispanic Dental Association on current issues in financing dental care. Panelists discussed an assortment of approaches related to increasing access to dental care for various populations. Dr. Linda Niessen developed the ABDPH symposium on the potential implications for access to dental care of current trends in the restructuring of dental practice management. Speakers discussed thought-provoking advantages and disadvantages from the perspective of dentists and patients and the effects that these can have on access to care. For the third year, Dr. Betty DeBerry-Sumner offered a workshop on preparing a dental health profession shortage area designation.

Dr. Lawrence Green traveled from Canada for the second consecutive year to present the keynote address. He talked about lessons learned about public health in the last century and suggested ways that they can help us in the new millennium. He developed the rationale behind the importance of forming partnerships and collaborations, and presented maxims for forming successful partnerships. He discussed differences in perception of how lay people and health professionals may view health and why we must be aware of these differences.

"Hot Picks" provided the latest updates on critical events impacting the dental public health community. Dr. Teresa Dolan provided an update on the Dental Public Health Standards and Competencies. She also gave an overview of the first Dental Public

Residency Directors' Workshop, sponsored by HRSA. Dr. William Maas discussed the upcoming release of the CDC Fluoridation Report. Dr. Howard Pollick provided the latest information on California's efforts to increase the percentage of its population that receives the benefits of community water fluoridation. He invited meeting attendees to participate in a door-to-door campaign for what resulted in a successful initiative to fluoridate a local community. Dr. Caswell Evans described progress on the first Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and encouraged thought toward innovative suggestions on how its release can result in the most positive impact on the oral health of Americans. Dr. Stuart Lockwood presented questions to use in analyzing and critiquing the latest draft of the Year 2010 Oral Health Objectives and encouraged feedback on its development. Dr. James Sutherland introduced the new HRSA Oral Health Initiative, a broad-based and long-range agencywide initiative to address a great unmet need and disparity in access and oral health status among vulnerable populations. HRSA will focus resources to enhance declining dental public health infrastructure and leadership at national, state, and local levels.

The popular roundtable luncheon discussion format, sponsored for the

second year by Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, provided lively discussion on a variety of topics. Topics included the Child Health Insurance Program, collaborating with professional training institutions, the use of diagnostic codes, domestic violence, dental hygiene certification in dental public health, HIV and women, how to do a community assessment with no money, implementing an oral cancer screening and spit tobacco counseling program with sports teams, managed care issues, maximizing resources through collaboration, AAPHD membership issues, oral health assessment for the 1- to 4-year-old, oral manifestations and oral hygiene maintenance issues for oral cancer patients, relationships between oral health and general health, and the Ryan White Program for HIV/AIDS. Special thanks to our roundtable hosts: JoAnn Wellman-Benson, Denise Fedele, James Leake, Barbara Gerbert, Cathy Hollister, Caroline Shiboski, Kathy Phipps, Margaret Walsh, Alex White, Dolores Malvitz, Candace Jones, Don Altman, Maria McKenzie, George Taylor, and Timothy Martinez.

Thanks and praise to the many other people whose collaborative efforts contributed to a successful program. The National Office, in the experienced hands of Helen and Joe Doherty followed this year by the enthusiastic newcomers Jim Toothaker and Jill Mason beginning in

June, was heavily involved throughout. Dushanka Kleinman, as president-elect, provided valuable guidance in the program development and all of the details that go with planning a meeting. Scott Tomar helped solicit sponsors and exhibitors. Howard Field again smoothly organized and presented the Student Merit Award Program and Poster Session. Francisco Ramos-Gomez and Sandy Reed of the Hispanic Dental Association helped with the challenging task of identifying suitable hotel space in the heart of San Francisco. Alice Horowitz recruited the keynote speaker. Others contributed by reviewing abstracts, managing continuing education, advising the program chair, and arranging for the awards presentations, including Kathryn Atchison, Victor Badner, Joe Doherty, Teresa Dolan, Denise Fedele, Dawn Grandia, Candace Jones, John King, Hermine McLeran, Pat Main, Shaunda Manes, Bill Maurer, Ana Karina Mascarenhas, David Moss, Scott Tomar and Jane Weintraub. Thanks to all of the Executive Council members who provided ideas and feedback as the meeting developed, plus all of the moderators, comoderators, presenters, roundtable hosts and those who submitted and presented abstracts for an outstanding job!

—Rebecca S. King, Vice-president and Program Chair

## FUTURE AAPHD ANNUAL MEETING DATES

October 6–8, 1999 .....	Honolulu, HI
May 1–2, 2000 .....	Chicago, IL
2001 .....	Date not selected, but spring
2002—	Date & site not selected, but spring, East Coast location