

## Remarks on Receiving the 1998 Special Merit Award

**Marsha A. Cunningham, RDH, MS**

I am honored to receive this award! In 1984, when AAPHD President Tom Fields asked me to be editor of the newsletter, I told him that I would have to talk with my department chair at Iowa. Jim Beck was my department chair at the time and when I asked him about it, he said "Sure, you will meet a lot of interesting people."

I have had the opportunity to work with 14 AAPHD presidents, five secretary-treasurers, 14 different Executive Councils, and the hundreds of AAPHD members who are nice enough to send me little tidbits for the newsletter. All of them were very interesting people.

The newsletter involves the work of many people. A big thank you goes to our department secretary, Pat Zousel,

in Preventive and Community Dentistry at the University of Iowa. She is the person who, for the past 14 years, has patiently rearranged margins for me to make everything fit.

Three newsletter associate editors have also made significant contributions. Mike Chisick was associate editor in 1990-94. Rob Selwitz served as associate editor from 1990-98 and John King has been associate editor from 1994-98. I would like to ask Rob and John to come forward to receive a certificate of appreciation from AAPHD. Bruce Brehm will be the new newsletter associate editor.

For 13 of the past 14 years, Joe and Helen Doherty have done all the hard work to get the newsletter to the printer and then stick 850 labels on

them and get them to the post office. Back in the "old days" (in the late 1980s) when we were using Word Perfect 2.0, Joe had to literally cut and paste all the headlines in. That sounds really strange in 1998, now that we have cut and paste buttons on our computer screens. In the past year, the newsletter has made its way into the World Wide Web, thanks to Bob Weyant. This past August, Jim Toothaker and Jill Mason had their maiden voyage with the newsletter and the entire process was handled electronically. In 1984, I never imagined that I would still be doing this 14 years later. Jim Beck was right, being the newsletter editor is a great way to meet a lot of interesting people. Thank you.

## 1998 International Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry: Johng-bai Kim, DDS, PhD

**Presented by Robert J. (Skip) Collins, DDS, MPH**

The AAPHD has had a long-standing interest in international health as reflected by activities of its committee on international relations, annual symposia on oral health matters outside the United States, and the rapid growth in membership from those with non-United States residence. Our members from other countries participate in annual sessions, publish in the *JPHD* and vote, yet they are not likely candidates for traditional AAPHD awards.

The purpose of this new award is to recognize international members who have contributed substantially to the improvement of oral health in countries other than the United States through research, community-based programs, or academia. The award is made possible by the generous support of the Colgate-Palmolive Co. I

also would like to give a special thanks to Alice Horowitz, whose promotion of this award and pursuit of sponsorship made it possible.

It is now my pleasure to recognize Dr. Johng-bai Kim as the 1998 recipient of AAAHD's International Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry. Dr. Kim is professor and chair of the Department of Preventive and Public Health Dentistry, College of Dentistry, Seoul National University. He has contributed to the improvement of the oral health of Koreans and, concomitantly, has distinguished himself in a variety of capacities, including lecturing, consulting, publishing, conducting research, and making and implementing policy. He *practices* dental public health.

Professor Kim has had a vision—to

improve the oral health of all Koreans. He has worked to ensure that all 11 dental schools in Korea have a viable department of preventive and public health dentistry and he has trained a cadre of dedicated public health dentists who now have positions in each of the dental schools throughout Korea. In addition, he has worked to upgrade the preventive dentistry curricula in dental schools and in dental hygiene programs, as well.

Under his direction, faculty members in his department have worked to implement community water fluoridation. He has sent faculty to work with the CDC in Atlanta and to take courses on community water fluoridation implementation and surveillance. He brought a very knowledgeable water engineer from the CDC to Korea to consult on implementing commu-

nity water fluoridation. He and his staff have increased the number of communities in Korea that are optimally fluoridating their water supplies from one in 1981 to 22 in 1998. Further, negotiations are in progress to fluoridate Seoul, a city of more than 12 million people. In communities where community water fluoridation is not feasible, he has introduced school-based fluoride mouthrinsing. Currently, over a million children rinse weekly in rural areas.

Through his political strategies, in collaboration with the Korean Dental Association and other agencies, an office of dental public health in Korea's Ministry of Health was established in 1997 for the first time. This new department will provide the opportunity to further increase options for improved oral health for all Koreans.



*Johng-bai Kim*

Fittingly, Professor Kim's fortune cookie that he received last night at the President's Banquet read: "Executive ability is prominent in your make up."

Dr. Kim received his DDS in 1962 from Seoul National University, and his PhD in preventive dentistry, also from Seoul National University. He is a member and officer of many prestigious Korean dental associations, he has published 11 textbooks related to oral health, and he is the author of 119 scientific articles spanning epidemiology, dental personnel supply, expanded functions, dental treatment needs, fluoridation, and many others.

Dr. Kim has demonstrated seminal leadership for public health dentistry in Korea. On behalf of AAPHD, it is my pleasure to present him with the association's 1998 International Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry.

## Remarks on Receiving the 1998 International Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry

### Johng-bai Kim, DDS, PhD

It is a great pleasure for me to receive this first International Special Merit Award today. I accept this award on behalf of all my disciples, because all of them have cooperatively done their utmost to help me promote the dental health of the Korean people. At the same time, I would like to express my special thanks to Dr. Alice Horowitz and Dr. Herschel Horowitz in the United States of America, Dr. Wong Hee-dong in the Republic of Singapore, Dr. Osamu Sakai in Japan,

Dr. Prathip Phantumvanit in Thailand, and Dr. Zhang Boxue in the People's Republic of China for their continuing support and help.

I have believed throughout my life that dentistry is an applied science that should be developed and applied for the people. Consequently, I have studied and taught dentistry under the premise that it should be developed and applied for the people. In particular, all my disciples and I have strived to overcome dental caries and peri-

odontal diseases in Korea. With my disciples, I will devote the rest of my life to dental research and dental education, not only for promoting the people's dental health, but also for prolonging people's tooth life in Korea and other countries.

I hope many of you will continue to support and help us in the future. I express my special gratitude to Dr. Alex White, president, and the other members of AAPHD.

## 1998 Distinguished Service Award: Naham C. Cons, DDS, MPH

### Presented by Robert J. (Skip) Collins, DDS, MPH

The Distinguished Service Award is AAPHD's highest award and is presented to an individual for excellent and distinguished service to public health dentistry. The previous recipi-

ents form a veritable dental public health "Hall of Fame."

The first awardee is Dr. Naham C. Cons, who is here today with Dr. Joanna Jenny, his spouse and profes-

sional collaborator; his son, Dr. Jonathan Cons, a dentist from Keeser Falls, ME; his daughter, Alexandra, a psychologist from Berkeley, CA; and Joanna's brother, Ted, and his wife,