

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,

Iren.

Naham Cons' career in dental public health spans five decades and includes significant contributions in organizational and administrative leadership as well as clinical research and academia. He received his BS from Brooklyn College in 1935, his DDS from NYU, and his MPH from Columbia School of Public Health in 1958.

He has had a varied career, starting with the private practice of dentistry in New York City from 1940-55. He left New York and joined the USAF Dental Corps, and from 1955-57 was dental surgeon on two air force bases in England. After obtaining his MPH, he coordinated dental services for the Greater Cincinnati area from 1958-62. He then returned to New York as assistant director of dental health for the New York State Health Department from 1962-66, and in 1966 became director of dental health, New York State, a position he held through 1978. In 1979, he left New York again to become professor of community and preventive dentistry at the University of Iowa, a position he held until 1984. He retains his "Iowa connection" today, even though he lives in California, as professor emeritus, University of Iowa.

His professional organization involvement at the national level includes: the ABDPH 1969-75, president 1975; the ASTDD, president 1972-74; APHA, member since 1958, and section council member, chair of the Committee on Dental Care, and chair of the Committee on Public Medicine Care for Children (MCH Section); AAPHD member since 1958, and member of the Executive Council and Editorial Board of the *JPHD* for many years.

On the international level, he has been very active with FDI and the WHO. He has been a member of FDI from 1956 to the present, during which time he served as: vice chairman, Commission of Public Health Dental



Skip Collins and Naham Cons

Services (1978-80); leader, FDI Working Group #2 on Dento-Facial Anomalies (1976-80); leader, FDI Working Group #3 on Education of Public Health Dentists (1977-80); elected member of Commission on Oral Health, Research and Epidemiology (1980-82); and leader, Joint WHO/FDI Working Groups on Social Acceptability of Occlusal Conditions (1979-82). In my own involvement in international meetings, I have continued to see Naham and Joanna at FDI meetings.

Dr. Cons has published 45 journal articles on fluorides, dental services under Medicaid and Head Start, health planning, need for dentists, quality of dental care, group practice, dental sealants, education of public health dentists, and malocclusion indices.

Naham considers his two major contributions to dental public health to be his involvement in the Medicaid program and measurement of occlusal traits. He was involved in the planning, development, implementation, and management of the dental aspects of Medicaid for the state of New York as soon as Medicaid legislation was passed by Congress. This program provided comprehensive dental care for about 6 million Medicaid eligible

people in New York. Those of us studying for the dental public health boards in the 1970s and 1980s recall Dr. Cons' articles in the literature detailing the strategies he and his colleagues used to manage this new and important program to create access to dental care for the underserved.

He considers the development, in collaboration with Dr. Joanna Jenny, of the Dental Aesthetic Index (DAI) as his second major contribution. The DAI was the first orthodontic index to combine the psychosocial and clinical measurements of occlusal conditions into a single score. It was used by the WHO in its International Collaborative Study of Oral Health II (ICS-II) to measure unmet need for orthodontic care. Naham and Joanna have been very persistent and thorough in testing this index in various populations around the world to see if the correlation between public perception of dental esthetics and critical conditions was a consistent one.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Cons to arrange a test of the DAI in the Native American population in the early 1980s. I continue to believe it has great potential to assist in the process of determining who should receive orthodontic care in a program with limited resources for such services. As Dr. Larry Green told us earlier today, linking subjective and objective indicators of health will be a key to health promotion in the future. The work of Naham and Joanna is an excellent example of using both the public and professional "lens" to view a problem. Naham and Joanna remain active internationally with the DAI. Their latest collaborators were from the Canary Islands, Nigeria, and Iraq.

Naham, for your many contributions during a 40-year career in dental public health, it is my pleasure to present you with the Distinguished Service Award of the AAPHD.

Remarks on Receiving the Distinguished Service Award

Naham C. Cons, DDS, MPH

I am greatly honored to join the group of public health dentists who have received the Distinguished Service

Award. You know that I did not start my dental career in public health, but spent my first 15 years in private

practice in New York City. When I was called up for active military duty in 1955, I gave up my practice and went