

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1999 AAPHD ANNUAL MEETING

Improving the Public's Health through Partnerships

October 6–8, 1999

**Hale Koa Hotel
Honolulu, HI**

Aloha! Improving the Public's Health Through Partnerships, AAPHD's 62nd annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, was truly a delight. This year's meeting, October 4–8, included two days of premeeting training entitled "Writing for Publication," in addition to the ABDPH and our annual meeting. The Hale Koa Hotel located on Waikiki Beach provided a beautiful setting for fellowship, learning, and partnering to improve public health. Drs. Mark Greer and Karen Hu did a wonderful job of making all local arrangements. The dental health staff at the Hawaii Department of Health made by hand beautiful leis for each participant.

The opening session of the meeting was kicked off by a welcome from the director of health for the state of Hawaii, Dr. Bruce Anderson. He announced that the Hawaii Department of Health would go before the legislature in 2000 with a bill to optimally fluoridate Hawaii's water, and that every effort would be made by him and his staff to bring this most basic disease-prevention benefit to all Hawaiians.

The scientific sessions provided a wealth of data and information relative to fluoride and caries research, oral health access, insurance, and managed care, as well as oral cancer, oral health indices, and evaluation methodologies. The symposia covered a vast array of topics including HRSA/HCFA partnerships relative to data for CHIP and Medicaid, Building Healthier Communities through Service Learning and the New Biologic Revolution in Dentistry. Drs. Hal Slavkin, Linda Niessen, Charles Bertolami, David Mooney, and Gordon

Christenen kept our members thoroughly engaged with a lively discussion centered around biotechnology and the future practice of dentistry—Steve Corbin and David Alexander were there to keep things under control.

Likewise, the Hot Picks portion of the meeting was very enjoyable because the latest information relative to oral and systemic health and trends in dental education was provided by Dr. Steven Offenbacher and Dr. Richard Valachovic, respectively. CDC also provided a Hot Picks update on the CDC Fluoride Report and the new State Synopsis web page outlining the dental public health resources in each state. See <http://www2.cdc.gov/nccdphp/doh/synopses/index.asp>.

A new format to the round table discussions was implemented this year. Each discussion group was asked to suggest three things that AAPHD could do to facilitate the advancement of dental public health activity relative to the topic(s) being discussed. The suggestions were collected and will be included in the *Communiqué* and on the AAPHD web page for further discussion. Many good ideas are generated during the round table discussions and this new format will allow us to document these ideas and begin to move from the discussion phase to the action and implementation phase.

Special thanks go to ADHA for making the ADHA/AAPHD welcoming reception such an outstanding event. The special work done by Candace Jones, Jan Starr, and Stanley Peck truly deserves recognition. Likewise, Dr. Jim Toothaker and Jill Mason did a fabulous job of making the annual

meeting a success.

This year's banquet included a luau and fire knife dance ceremony in addition to the traditional dancers and very humorous Don Ho impersonation. A hula dance competition also was held in which Dr. David Noel from California was able to demonstrate his special skill and obvious talent.

Special thanks go out to the companies and agencies that contributed to the annual meeting. Without their generous support, the quality and substance of our meeting would be vastly different. Thanks to the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Block Drug Corporation, Health Resources and Services Administration, the Colgate-Palmolive Company, DNTLworks, Dentsply International, Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, National Health Service Corps, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Pharmascience, Inc., Plak Smaker, Inc., and Stone Pharmaceuticals.

We look forward to another great meeting in Chicago in 2000 where AAPHD will partner with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) in putting on the 63rd annual meeting April 29 to May 3, 2000. Dr. Rebecca King, the program chair, Dr. Lewis Lampiris, local arrangements chair, and Dr. Jim Toothaker and Jill Mason are already hard at work on next year's meeting.

Work is also underway for the AAPHD/ASTDD meeting in 2001 in Portland, OR. See you there!

—Kimberly McFarland DDS, MHSA
Vice-president and program chair