

President's Special Recognition Awards

Presented by Dushanka V. Kleinman, DDS, MScD

Each one of you, by virtue of your personal efforts, as well as your presence at these meetings and contributions to the journal and association's activities, deserves recognition—and I thank you all for your work. This year I want to recognize several very special people who have consistently donated their time and enthusiasm to ensure the critical infrastructure and visibility of the organization during my years as an officer: Drs. Fedele, Louie, Greer, and Kaste.

Drs. Fedele, Louie, and Greer have been willing, supportive, and ardent directors of the annual meeting local arrangements during the past three years. During the same time, Dr. Kaste has become a mainstay at the American Association for Dental Research annual meeting exhibits, providing visibility for the association and a means to gain new members. In addition to their contributions, each of these individuals is a unique role model and as such represents the future directions of public health dentistry.

Dr. Denise Fedele is chief, Professional Development and Research, Dental Care, for the Veterans Administration Maryland Health Care System, where she also directs the Dental Care Clinical Center Performance/Improvement Program and is the co-associate director of the Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center. In addition, Denise has appointments at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery Dental School, University of Maryland; the Department of Medicine, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine; and the New Jersey

Center for Aging. What a role model for multidisciplinary activities! I cannot begin to enumerate the many ways Denise helped support the development and operations of the Washington, DC, meeting—although I know that many of you witnessed her swift and decisive decision making and management techniques during the meeting. Denise also has overseen and coordinated the successful round table sessions for several years. Denise, your support and friendship—physical and emotional—was necessary and greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Dr. Reginald Louie is the chief of the Family Health Unit, Health Resources and Services Administration, Region IX, and also is the regional program consultant for Maternal and Child Health and regional dental consultant. Reg has maintained an active role in the American Public Health Association (serving on the Governing Council three separate times and chairing the Oral Health Section) and still has graciously served as our San Francisco host more than one time for the AAPHD annual meetings and workshops. His commitment to AAPHD while maintaining active ties in APHA is phenomenal. Reg exemplifies the cross-organizational networking that is critical for all of us to partake in! More than one time he has opened up his heart and family stomping grounds in San Francisco's Chinatown. Reg's passion for maternal and child health and for addressing the needs of the Pacific Rim countries is well known. Reg—thank you, as always, for your never-ending support of AAPHD.

Dr. Mark Greer is an incredible per-

son. Currently, he serves as the acting chief executive officer of the Hawaii Dental Association, president of the Hawaii Dental Education Center, and chief of the Dental Health Division for the State of Hawaii Department of Health. How is that for integrating public-private partnerships! Mark graciously led the local arrangements when we were here 10 years ago under Dr. Niessen's presidency and again enthusiastically offered his services this year. He and his dedicated staff graced us with an incredible quality of meeting life venue. Through their efforts we have seen the beauty of the people from this state. Thank you Mark and to all your staff and family for making us feel that Hawaii is our home away from home!

Dr. Linda Kaste is an associate professor at the Medical University of South Carolina, where she has appointments in the Division of Dental Public Health and Oral Epidemiology, College of Dental Medicine, and in the Department of Biometry and Epidemiology, College of Medicine. She also instructs in the Center for Health Care Research and the College of Graduate Studies. Linda is another role model for transinstitution collaborations! For the past three years Linda has been managing the AAPHD booth at the AADR meeting—a booth that has attracted many curious minds and members. Her commitment and dedication to AAPHD brings us unique visibility and credibility, for which we all are grateful! Linda, please accept our gratitude and appreciation for all that you do and continue to do for AAPHD.