

Archives

Joseph M. Doherty, DDS, MPH

Elected

Pamela Zarkowski, MPH, JD, was elected president-elect of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) at its annual meeting in April 2000. Dr. Zarkowski will become president after the closing session of the House of Delegates on March 7, 2001, in Chicago. Dr. Zarkowski is currently professor and associate dean of Academic Administration at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. Prior to her present position she was chairperson of the Departments of Professional, Behavioral, and Community Studies and Dental Hygiene at the same university. She received her bachelor of science degree and master of public health degrees from the University of Michigan. She received her juris doctor degree from Wayne State University. She is currently a member of the Michigan Bar. In 1991 she was chosen to serve as one of the participants in the PEW National Dental Education Fellowship Program, and in 1996 she was selected as one of the first two dental educator participants in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program at Allegheny University. Dr. Zarkowski maintains an active teaching schedule and has conducted con-

tinuing education programs throughout the country. She has written and published numerous monographs, articles, and book chapters on legal and ethical issues in dentistry and dental hygiene. She has been a member of AAPHD since 1976.

Appointments

Neil Gardner, DDS, MPH, began his service as public health dentist in the Pennsylvania Department of Health on May 23, 2000. In this position Dr. Gardner is responsible for increasing the oral health level of Pennsylvanians through community-based public health activities. The program also places a strong emphasis on providing access to dental services to state residents who are currently without those services. Prior to this position, Dr. Gardner was a public health administrator for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Division of Maternal and Child Health, and for the Division of Quality Review in the Bureau of Managed Care. Dr. Gardner also served eastern Lancaster County for 11 years at the Welsh Mountain Medical-Dental Center in New Holland, PA. Dr. Gardner attended Bates College in Lewiston, ME, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in honors chemistry. Dr. Gardner received his DDS degree from the University of Maryland Dental School and his MPH from Loma Linda University School of Public Health. Upon graduation from dental school, Dr. Gardner served as a commissioned officer with the US Public Health Service from 1975 to 1995. During these 20 years of service, he was the dental director of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD; Indian Health Service Indian Hospital in Belcourt, ND.

Raymond Lala, DDS, began his service as state dental coordinator with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in June 2000. Dr. Lala is the first person to hold this position since the late 1980s. His appointment came about as result of a partnership with the Health Resources

and Services Administration to strengthen the state's oral health infrastructure to better meet the oral health needs of South Carolina's residents. Dr. Lala will be responsible for conducting an oral health needs assessment for the state, building a strong public/private partnership to improve oral health, and developing an oral health improvement plan. Prior to assuming this position, Dr. Lala was director of medical and dental services for two Indian tribal health facilities on the Nez Perce reservation in Lapwai, Idaho. Dr. Lala is a graduate of the University of New Orleans and the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry. He has been a member of AAPHD since 1997.

James Curtis Cecil, DMD, MPH, was appointed as the administrator of the State Oral Health Program with the Kentucky State Health Department in October 2000. Prior to this appointment, he had a distinguished career with the United States Dental Corps and served on the dental faculty at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Cecil received his dental degree from the University of Kentucky in 1970 and his MPH degree from the University of Michigan in 1976. He has been a member of AAPHD since 1976.

William Stenberg, DDS, Commander, US Public Health Service, was appointed Oklahoma City Area specialty consultant in periodontics with the Indian Health Service (IHS) in October of 1999. In this position, he will teach in the general practice residency program in Tahlequah, OK, in addition to providing periodontal support to the IHS clinics and hospitals in the Oklahoma area. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Stenberg served for 12 years as a clinical assistant professor of periodontology at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco and maintained a private periodontal practice in Turlock, CA. Dr. Stenberg received his DDS degree in 1982 from the University of the Pacific, and then served for three years



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in the US Navy Dental Corps. He completed his periodontal residency training at Loma Linda University in 1987. Prior to entering the USPHS, Dr. Stenberg served in various assignments as an officer in the Dental Corps of the US Air Force Reserve. Dr. Stenberg recently received the Certificate of Recognition for Volunteer Service in a Foreign Country from the American Dental Association. He has been a member of AAPHD since 1999.

Capt. Lireka Joseph, MPH, DrPH, was appointed chief professional officer for the Science Category. Capt. Joseph is assigned to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where she directs the Office of Health and Industry Programs within the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. She has responsibility for administering the Mammography Quality Standards Act (1922), which certifies and inspects 10,000 mammography facilities in the United States through a collaborative program with the states. During her Public Health Service career Capt. Joseph contributed to two Surgeon General's Reports: Report of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on the Health Consequences of Using Smokeless Tobacco, and Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. During her 21-year career with the Public Health Service, Capt. Joseph has received numerous awards, including a Meritorious Service Medal and two Outstanding Service Medals. Prior to joining the corps, she taught and administered programs in dental epidemiology for den-

tal and dental hygiene students.

Awards

Robert A. Sappington, DMD, MPH, received an award from the National Network on Oral Health Access at their last annual meeting in grateful appreciation for his continuing efforts to assist their members in providing oral health services to the patients they serve in their community health centers. Dr. Sappington has served in the dual role of regional clinical coordinator/regional dental clinical coordinator since joining the Health Resources and Services Administration Dallas Regional Office in 1990. He also serves as the regional program consultant for three community health centers and the New Mexico Primary Care Association and Primary Care Office. Dr. Sappington assists the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Branch with NHSC recruitment and retention issues and he has participated in the NHSC scholarship interview process the last few years. In addition, Dr. Sappington serves as the New Mexico Team Leader, the MCH Title V Program Consultant for Oklahoma, the JCAHO Accreditation Consultant, and the Regional Career Development/Career Resources point of contact.

Dr. Sappington received a DMD degree from the Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine in 1976, and began his Public Health Service career in 1978 as a NHSC volunteer dentist in McCormick, SC. He later provided dental services for low-income populations in Plant City, FL, and served as regional dental consultant for Region VIII in Denver. Dr. Sappington received his MPH degree from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health in 1988, and then completed a two-year, part-time, dental public health residency with the North Carolina Division of Dental Health, while concurrently serving as assistant state dental director of the South Carolina Office of Public Health Dentistry. He accepted his present position in Dallas in 1990, and has been a member of AAPHD since 1986.

Robert E. Isman, DDS, MPH, received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) at their annual meeting in 2000. This is

the association's highest award and granted to those who have provided outstanding service to the association and to dental public health. Dr. Isman is presently a dental program consultant in the California Department of Health Services' Office of Medi-Cal Dental Services, which administers that state's dental Medicaid program. He previously served for 10 years as chief of the department's Dental Health Section. Dr. Isman has held teaching positions at several universities, including the University of California at Davis, the University of California at San Francisco, and the University of Oregon.

Dr. Isman is past president of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, past chair of the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association, a past Primary Care Policy Fellow, and the first dentist in the United States to receive a Pew Fellowship in Health Policy Research. He is a founding member of the Dental Health Foundation and is presently project director of its Children's Dental Health Initiative. He and his wife, Beverly, are coauthors of the recently released monograph "Access to Dental Care in the United States—1997 and Beyond," an extensive literature review and analysis of access to dental care.

Dr. Isman received his DDS degree in 1969 from the University of California at San Francisco School of Dentistry, his MPH degree in 1972 from the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, and has completed academic requirements for the DrPH degree in public health administration at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. He has been a member of AAPHD since the early 1970s.

Michael W. Easley, DDS, MPH, FACD, was awarded the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors' (ASTDD) President's Special Recognition Award at its annual meeting in 2000 for his continuing work regarding community water fluoridation and his activities as director of the National Center for Fluoridation Policy and Research. Dr. Easley received his DDS degree from Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1974 and his MPH degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1979. He recently completed



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his dental public health residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and previously completed a one-year fellowship with the National Public Health Leadership Institute.

Dr. Easley holds joint appointments at the University at Buffalo as an associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology of the School of Dental Medicine, the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and the Graduate School. He also has been appointed as a faculty affiliate in the university's Environment and Society Institute. Dr. Easley currently serves as president and chief executive officer of International Health Management and Research Associates, an international public health consulting group.

Dr. Easley is a past president of AAPHD and has been a member since 1979. He has served on the Editorial Board of the *JPHD*, was chair of the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association, served two terms as president of the American Oral Health Institute, served two terms on the board of directors of ASTDD, served a term as a trustee-advisor for Oral Health America, and is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. He serves on the Board of Scientific and Policy Advisors of the American Council on Science and Health, where he also is an Editorial Fellow, and is a member of the advisory board of Quackwatch, Inc. He has been a member of the American Dental Association's National Fluoridation Advisory Committee and was one of the ADA's National Media Spokespersons.

Announcement

Future of Dentistry Report. Dental public health is well represented on the six panels appointed by the ADA to produce a "Future of Dentistry Report," scheduled to be presented to its House of Delegates in 2001. Five of the six panels have AAPHD members: Dr. Linda Niessen is on the Clinical Dental Practice and Management Panel, Dr. John Stamm on the Dental Education Panel, Dr. Jane Weintraub on the Dental and Craniofacial Research Panel, Dr. Stephen Eklund on Financing of and Access to Dental Services Panel, and Dr. Brian Burt on the International Dentistry Panel.

Obituaries

With the death of **Dr. James H. McLeran**, 69, dean emeritus of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, on Thursday, May 25, 2000, AAPHD lost a dear friend and strong supporter. He is survived by his wife, Hermine, a former president of AAPHD, their three sons, and their families. Dr. McLeran was born April 9, 1931, in Audubon, IA, and graduated from high school in 1949. He received his BA degree from Simpson College and his dental degree from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1957. Following two years in the US Navy, Dr. McLeran entered the Oral Surgery Residency Program, graduating in 1962. He joined the faculty of the University of Iowa Department of Oral Surgery in 1963. He received the first Outstanding Instructor of the Year Award ever given in the College of Dentistry. In 1969 he became professor and chairman of the Department of Oral Surgery at the University of North Carolina.

In 1972 he returned to the University of Iowa as an associate dean and professor of oral surgery. Dr. McLeran played a major role in the planning and construction of the current Dental Science Building, which opened in 1973. He became dean of the college in July 1974. In the years that followed, under his leadership the college moved to a curricular organization in which patient care and the needs of the patient became the central focus. He always encouraged students to see the role of health care in terms of human interactions. "Putting the patient first" became the widely recognized and respected hallmark of Dr. McLeran's administration at Iowa.

In 1978, Dr. McLeran's national leadership led to his election to the presidency of the American Association of Dental Schools. In 1985 he was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Simpson College. In 1992 the Iowa Dental Association presented him with their Distinguished Service Award and he received the Guest of Honor Award in 1995. Dr. McLeran was a Fellow in the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He was a member of the American Dental Association, the American Association of Dental Schools, and the Iowa Dental Association, and a life member of the



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American Association of Public Health Dentistry. He also was a member of the Iowa City Rotary Club. Dr. McLeran retired in January 1997 from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and afterward served as dean emeritus. Memorials may be given to the College of Dentistry in care of the University of Iowa Foundation or to the Congregational United Church of Christ.

Dental public health lost one of its true pioneers with the death of **Dr. Robert Ackerly Downs** on December 10, 2000. Dr. Downs inaugurated Colorado's dental public health program in 1940 and was a leader in the campaign to establish a dental school in Colorado. He was active locally and nationally in the early fluoridation efforts throughout the country. In 1970 Dr. Downs was appointed as coordinator of all environmental health services and retired in 1974 as assistant director of Colorado's Department of Public Health after 34 years of service. Dr. Downs was born in 1908 and graduated from the University of Denver and the University of Michigan. He was a founder of the American Board of Dental Public Health in 1950 and was one of five dentists who signed the articles of incorporation. He filed the incorporation papers in Denver on July 26, 1950, and served as the board's president in 1960-61. He was a very early member of AAPHD and served as its president in 1950. Dr. Downs was also a very early and active member of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. In

1977, the Colorado Section of the American College of Dentists named him Man of the Year for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of public health and his profession. Dr. John Elliot, an AAPHD past president, noted that "he was a great person—a kind and gentle man, but with a great drive to improve the dental health of Colorado's citizens."

Dr. Downs was married to Alice Louise Rhoads for more than 50 years, until her passing in 1990. Dr. Downs is survived by two grandchildren and other relatives. His grandchildren would like to receive any photos, stories, or memories of Bob that people would like to share. They can be sent to Dr. Diane Brunson, RDH, MPH, Director, Oral Health Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4800 Cherry Creek Drive S., Denver, CO 80246-1530.

Roy Reger, DDS, MPH, passed away on May 28, 2000. Roy was dental direc-

tor for the Colorado Department of Health from 1964–92. During his directorship, he worked very hard to initiate fluoridation throughout Colorado. He was a long-time member of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and AAPHD. Roy was president of the Colorado Dental Association and editor of its journal. Roy graduated from Baylor University School of Dentistry. Dr. Reger loved antique automobiles, which he restored and traveled to various shows after his retirement. He donated two of his cars to the Forney Museum of Dentistry. Dr. Reger is survived by five children.

A long-time member of AAPHD and a pioneer in dental public health, **Vernon John Forney, DDS, MPH**, passed away on September 6, 2000, at the age of 86. Dr. Forney was born on August 28, 1914, in Valparaiso, Indiana. He attended dental school at Indiana University and completed his postgradu-

ate training at Johns Hopkins University. He entered the US Public Health Service in 1940 and remained with the corps for 36 years, retiring with the rank of assistant surgeon general in 1971. He served in many different positions with the corps, including the National Institutes of Health, assistant chief dental officer for the Dental Division, deputy chief of the Division of Dental Resources under Dr. Walter Pelton, and supervisor for dental activities in the Office of Indian Affairs. In 1957 he was assigned to the International Cooperation Administration of the Department of State to its mission in Brazil, where he established an oral health program. In 1961 he was appointed regional dental consultant for Region VIII in Denver, and in 1966 he was selected as regional health administrator for Region V in Chicago. Dr. Forney was a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1941, and a son and daughter.