

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2000 ANNUAL MEETING

Coming Together for a New Millennium: National Oral Health Conference

**May 1–3, 2000
Hyatt Regency Oak Brook
Oak Brook, Illinois**

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry's (AAPHD's) 63rd annual meeting was the first joint annual meeting with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), and ASTDD's 52nd annual meeting. At the Town Hall Meeting in October 1998, the AAPHD membership waived the annual meeting time as stated in the bylaws for three years in order to pilot this joint meeting. The May 1–3 meeting at the Hyatt Regency Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois, set a record attendance with 384 registrations. There was a diverse assortment of attendees: dentists, hygienists, health educators, program managers, nurses, practitioners with the MPH degree, and others who wanted to learn more about dental public health.

On May 1, ASTDD President Kathleen Mangskau, RDH, MPA, presided over the National Oral Health Conference, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, opening session and introduced special guests. Elmer Green, DDS, MPH, ASTDD program chair, and Lewis Lampiris, DDS, MPH, local arrangements chair, brought greetings. On May 2, AAPHD President Dushanka Kleinman introduced the AAPHD officers and Executive Council members, recognizing the past presidents of the association, welcomed members and honored guests from other organizations, and set the stage for the next phase of the meeting. President-elect Rebecca King made brief comments on the year to come.

This year's program included nine symposia, two keynote addresses, 27 roundtable luncheon discussions, 44 contributed papers, and updates on five current events in dental public health. Topics included surveillance systems to measure oral health status, the ADA Future of Dentistry Report, Medicaid initiatives to improve access to dental care, the HRSA/HCFA Oral

Health Initiative, fluoridation issues, and the relationship between oral and systemic health. There was a particular emphasis on the upcoming release of the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and the recent release of the Healthy People 2010 Oral Health Objectives to stimulate discussion and thinking on how to best use their visibility to increase support for oral health. The American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH) symposium addressed strategies and pitfalls related to improving access to care. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) continued its tradition of cosponsoring a symposium, and the ADA sponsored a speaker. Minutes from the Town Hall Meeting appear on pp 52–3 of this issue of the *JPHD*.

To make the transition to joining the two organizations' annual meetings, AAPHD officers and Executive Committee members served for an 18-month period and for two "annual" meetings. One of the approved guidelines for piloting the joint meeting format was that each organization maintain its identity. To address this requirement, each had an opening session and keynote speaker: ASTDD's keynote included the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) President Lisa Potter, RDH, and Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH, who talked about shared missions and organizational relationships. For the AAPHD keynote, ADA's Peter Paulson, DMD, spoke to the group on "Making Oral Health Happen." ASTDD had an awards banquet and AAPHD had an awards luncheon. Past-president Alex White did an outstanding job of presenting awards for AAPHD.

All the wonderful educational opportunities were enhanced by the delightful social occasions, geared to-

ward helping us to relax and providing a pleasant background to mingle with colleagues. ADHA sponsored the ASTDD opening breakfast in honor of Kathy Mangskau, the first registered dental hygienist to serve as ASTDD president, and recognized her with a commemorative plaque. Ken Goff from Aseptico, Inc., and Gerry Beverly from Stone Pharmaceuticals, a division of Medical Products Laboratories, Inc., hosted fabulous receptions—a tradition that ASTDD brought to our joint meeting from their former annual meeting format. The AAPHD President's Reception preceded a marvelous family style dinner at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant.

A multitude of activities preceded and followed the body of the program. Dr. James Bader conducted the pre-meeting continuing education course "Writing for Publication" for the second time. The ABDPH examined five candidates for diplomate status and Dr. Stan Lotzkar provided an informative and entertaining overview of the 50-year history of the board during the diplomate dinner/business meeting. The AAPHD Executive Council met twice, ASTDD hosted its annual business meetings and Executive Committee meetings, Medicaid dental managers met with HRSA and HCFA staff as a group and separately, and the American Association of Community Dental Programs held a preconference symposium. Residency directors met, residents met, the military section held a session, CDC and HRSA grantees met, and the officers of AAPHD met with the officers of ADHA.

The awards ceremonies are always a highlight of the annual meeting, allowing us to acknowledge the contributions of a few of the many people who further the efforts of dental public health in a special way. At the AAPHD Awards Luncheon, R. Gary Rozier,

DDS, MPH, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award; Rhys B. Jones, DDS, MS, received the Special Merit Award; C. Scott Litch, JD, and Judy Sherman were named as joint recipients of the Public Service Award; and John J. Clarkson, BDS, MA, PhD, received the Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry—International. Esther Colchamiro received special recognition from the president. ASTDD awarded their Distinguished Service Award to Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH; the Outstanding Achievement Award to Robert Isman, DDS, MPH; and the President's Special Recognition Award to Michael Easley, DDS, MPH. They also presented Community Water Fluoridation Awards for achieving 50-year status, meeting the Healthy People 2000 objective, State Fluoridation Quality and Community Initiatives.

It takes many people and a lot of work to develop such a magnificent program. Special thanks to Kathy Mangskau (ASTDD president), Elmer Green (ASTDD program co-chair), Lew Lampiris (local arrangements

chair), Jim Toothaker and Jill Mason (AAPHD National Office), Diane Brunson (ASTDD president-elect), Kathy Heiden and Scott Presson (CDC), Dushanka Kleinman (AAPHD president), Alex White (AAPHD past-president), John Rossetti (HRSA), Don Schneider (HCFA), Bruce Brehm, presenters, moderators, comoderators, roundtable hosts, and all of the others who worked so hard to make this first transition meeting such a success. Without the financial support of our sponsors, we would not be able to hold the quality of meeting that we have: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health; Health Resources Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau; the American Dental Association; Aseptico, Inc; and Stone Pharmaceuticals, a division of Medical Products Laboratories, Inc. We appreciate the exhibitors who had booths at our meeting: Aseptico, Inc.; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health; Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures; DNTLworks Equipment Corporation; GC America, Inc.; National Maternal and Child Oral

Health Resource Center; OMNII Products; Software of Excellence International, Ltd.; Sultan Dental Products; and Stone Pharmaceuticals. Thanks to Alex White for surveying the membership about this meeting. Kim McFarland (AAPHD program co-chair) and Kneka Hayward (ASTDD program co-chair) are already hard at work on next year's program in Portland, Oregon, using the feedback about this meeting, and may call on you to help. Mark your calendars now for April 30–May 2, 2001.

John Rossetti, chief dental officer, MCH Bureau, HRSA, has predicted for several years that "the stars are aligning" for increased visibility and support of dental public health. He has now determined that "the stars are aligned." Now is the time for us to make the most of the Surgeon General's Report and select Healthy People 2010 Oral Health Objectives to see how we can best act to increase our much-needed infrastructure to improve the oral health of our citizens.

*Rebecca King, DDS, MPH
President-elect and Program Chair*