

Remarks on Receiving the 2000 Public Service Award

Judy Sherman

I first received notice that I had been chosen for this award in a letter ... which I opened during a staff meeting. I scanned the letter, reading quickly, and didn't take it seriously. I thought it was a message saying something equivalent to "I had won some land in Florida." But as the meeting dragged on, I reread the letter and clearly understood what it was saying. To be honored by the people who directly benefit from the lobbying efforts is better than winning land.

For more than 14 years it has been my pleasure to represent the ADA and the programs that its members and you care about. I am assigned to handle appropriations, which allows me to give great attention to public health dentistry. When you lobby Congress and ask for program increases, you can't do it with a straight face if you don't believe in the benefits that are derived from those programs.

Many of your programs are easy for me to lobby for because I am a true believer. I come from Michigan—home of Grand Rapids, first city to fluoridate. As a child I was part of a University of Michigan experiment where I went to my dentist every week or two and had fluoride treatments. I

haven't had a cavity since I was 12 and completed the study. I'm not the only one in my family who participated in a clinical trial: my brother was in the first Crest control group. So we both got to say, "Look, Ma, no cavities." Our experiences allow me to strongly support increased funding for fluoride programs ... and dental research.

I am also fortunate to have worked for years with many members of the ADA's Council of Governmental Affairs who have made numerous site visits to Indian Health dental facilities. The last trip that we took particularly sticks in my mind because all the council members came away with great respect for the dentists who have dedicated themselves to working with the IHS. In fact, they were so impressed with what they saw that they have changed how they select council members to go on the trip. Starting this year, they will take a freshman, a junior, and a senior member of the council so that in years when they don't make the trip there will always be someone on the council who will have personal knowledge of the IHS dental program.

There are two things more that I would like to say. A few years ago, I was invited to speak at an IHS health

care providers meeting. Before I spoke, I heard a doctor, another speaker, say he would rather have more funding for a broad public health program than have the ability to see one more patient at the end of the day. I thought that was a great concept and it's one I have tried to follow in advocating for the programs you care about. Dentistry especially lends itself to that concept and we have the statistics to prove it. We just don't always have the money to make it happen.

Finally, I am very pleased and honored to receive this award—but I am also embarrassed—because we have never been able to fully fund any public health dental program. Just once I would like to be able to say to a state dental director, or CDC or IHS or NIDCR: we got all the money the ADA lobbied for. IHS, you can hire as many dentists as you need. CDC, you can give every community that applies for fluoridation money a grant. And NIDCR, you can fund every grant. So, until that happens, this award is going in my office and will be a daily reminder of how much more there is to do for your programs. Thank you very much.

2000 Special Merit Award: Rhys B. Jones, DDS, MS

Presented by B. Alex White, DDS, DrPH

Through the Special Merit Award, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry recognizes individuals for special meritorious service to public health dentistry. Many individuals work tirelessly in the interest of the public's oral health, and narrowing the choice to one person can be difficult. I am pleased to present the 2000 Special Merit award to Dr. Rhys Jones.

Rhys is currently director of the

Dental Health Center of East Central Iowa and adjunct professor in the Departments of Preventive and Community Dentistry and Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Iowa. Rhys received his bachelor of science, doctor of dental surgery, and master of science degrees at the University of Iowa. He became a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health in 1986, and has made more than 80 presentations and published more than 40

papers on various dental public health topics.

Rhys has been active in several professional organizations, including the American Public Health Association and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, where he served on the Executive Council. He is past president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. Rhys has served as a consultant on multiple federal, state, and local pro-