

officer multiyear retention bonuses for the Indian Health Service, a streamlined process for designating dental health professional shortage areas, and demonstration projects to increase access to pediatric dental services in underserved areas.

Title III seeks to improve oral health promotion and disease prevention programs by:

1. Directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an oral health initiative to reduce the profound disparities in oral health by improving the health status of vulnerable populations, particularly low-income children, to the level of health status that is enjoyed by the majority of Americans.

2. Directing the director of the CDC in collaboration with other organizations and agencies to annually collect data describing the dental, craniofacial, and oral health of residents of at least one state and one Indian tribe from each DHHS region; compile and analyze these data; and annually prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the oral health of certain states and tribes.

3. Directing the Secretary of HHS, acting through the CDC director, to expand existing surveillance activities to include the identification of children at high risk of early childhood caries; assist state, local, and tribal health agencies and departments in collecting, analyzing, and disseminat-

ing data on early childhood caries; and provide for the development of public health nursing programs and public health education programs on early childhood caries prevention.

4. Expanding the language in the Public Health Service Act that deals with school-based dental sealant programs to included school-linked sealant programs and Indian tribes, and redefining the eligibility requirements.

Senator Bingaman was not able to be here today, but AAPHD President-elect Bill Maas and Past President Dushanka Kleinman will schedule a time in Washington, DC, to present the award and express our thanks to Senator Bingaman.

AAPHD 2002 Special Merit Award: Robert J. Weyant, DMD, DrPH

Presented by Rebecca S. King, DDS, MPH

The AAPHD Special Merit Award is presented to an individual for special meritorious service to public health dentistry. The 2002 recipient of the Special Merit Award is Dr. Robert Weyant. In selecting him for this award, AAPHD recognizes Bob's tireless efforts on behalf of the nation's health and AAPHD's goals.

Bob's pathway into dentistry and public health did not take a traditional course. After completing a BS in biology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1976, Bob completed a master's in public health in health physics at Pitt. He was not sure what to do next, and his friends encouraged him to consider dental school. When he began dental school, Bob assumed he would go into private practice afterwards. But while in dental school, he thought that he really liked research, but did not have a lot of exposure to it and was not totally sure what it was. He received his DMD degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1982 and decided to go into the Navy to bide his time before going into private practice. He was stationed in Bethesda, MD, to provide



Rebecca S. King and Robert J. Weyant

clinical dental services, but there he saw people doing research. The Navy granted him a day a week for research and he found that he really liked public health and prevention.

After four years in the Navy, he

started a study club in the Bethesda area, where he met Dr. Linda Niessen. Linda told him about the Dental Public Health Residency Program that she directed with the Department of Veterans Affairs and suggested that he might be interested. He asked the Navy if they would allow him to enter the residency and they said that they would, but that he would have to wait for eight years. Bob was not interested in waiting for eight years, so in 1986, he left the Navy and went into the residency with Linda. When he completed the residency, he decided that, to do the things he wanted to do in the area of research, he needed additional formal training. In 1987, he went to Michigan for the doctoral program in oral epidemiology with Dr. Brian Burt. That same year, Bob became a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. In 1998, Bob participated in the American Association of Dental Schools' Faculty Legislative Fellowship in Washington, DC, and in 2000 he was the AAPHD nominee for the US Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellowship, also in Wash-

ington, DC.

Bob currently serves as the chair of the Department of Dental Public Health, director of the Dental Public Health Residency Program, head of the Division of Pediatric and Developmental Sciences, acting chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and director for the Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia, all at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He also serves as associate professor of epidemiology at the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh. He has published extensively and is very active in research. His research interests include oral health disparities, social epidemiology, the systemic effects of oral disease during aging, and com-

munity outreach programs.

Bob is extremely active outside of the University of Pittsburgh. For the ADA, he is consultant to the Commission on Dental Accreditation and, as such, serves as the Public Health Dentistry Graduate Program site visitor; as consultant to the ADA Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations: Dental Public Health/Occupational Safety Test Construction; and as a member of the Continuing Education Certification Program (CERP) Committee. He is on the advisory board for Bridging the Gap, Community Health Internship Program, and is the epidemiological/statistical editor for the *Journal of Evidence-based Dental Practice*. Despite these and many other activities, he has still made time to be active with his children's sports teams

and in his community.

Bob has served on the AAPHD Executive Council, chaired the Communications Committee, created the AAPHD homepage, and developed and maintained dental public health list-serves, including those for all of dental public health, for the Executive Council, for the dental public health residency directors, and for the dental public health residents. He took the lead on the Third Annual Dental Public Health Residency Directors' Workshop and report, the first Dental Public Health Residents' Workshop, and the recent joint Dental Public Health Directors/Residents Workshop. We recognize him today for his tireless efforts and many contributions to public health dentistry.

Remarks on Receiving the 2002 Special Merit Award

Robert J. Weyant, DMD, DrPH

This appears to be an award for having fun. All the projects that I worked on with AAPHD, including the Web

site, the list-serv, the Executive Council, and the Residency Director's Workshops were not only a great

learning experience, but also a lot of fun. Thanks for the award; it is greatly appreciated.

AAPHD 2002 Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry—International: Patricia Main, DDS, DDPH, MSc

Presented by Rebecca S. King, DDS, MPH

The Special Merit Award in Community Dentistry—International is presented for dental public health contributions by individuals outside of the United States. The 2002 recipient is Dr. Patricia Main.

Pat became interested in dentistry as a high school student when a Dr. Hutchinson, the dean of the Dental School in Edinburgh, Scotland, came

to speak at career day. Pat was unsure what she wanted for a career, only that she wanted to do something in math and science that involved people. Dr. Hutchinson "chatted her up," and encouraged her to consider a career in dentistry. She submitted her application as he was retiring. Dr. Hutchinson left his successor an incoming dental school class that was one-third

women, which at that time in the 1950s was very unusual. Pat felt that he thought he did his successor a bad turn, but it turned out to be quite good. Of the 80 students who began the program, only 33 of those graduated, and half of those were women.

Pat married during dental school, and after graduation remained in Edinburgh, where her husband was on