

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

faculty. She started a school-based dental facility in a small, needy town where the major occupation had been shipbuilding, but there were no more ships being built. She worked in a poly-clinic, with full services for a variety of disciplines—another concept that was quite progressive in 1962—and so was born her interest in public health. She worked for several years, then had two children and stayed home. Her husband took a position at NIH, then they returned to Scotland, built a new house with a beautiful view, and had settled in for about a year when her husband was recruited to come to the University of Toronto, Canada. The head of community dentistry who recruited her husband was quite interested in Pat's background in school-based public health dental clinics and pulled her in. Her dental training was not fully recognized, so she did an internship, taught at the dental school, and repeated the senior year of dental school. She received her DDS in 1975, then in 1980, completed her diploma in dental public health, which allowed her to sit for the Fellowship, Academy of Dentistry International examination, while holding down her full-time position and taking care of her two children. In 1985, she completed a master's in science.

Ontario has a system of health councils that advise the government on how to spend the health budget. They wanted a dentist to advise the council on health programs and she was asked to fill this position. After a year, she became the chair and held this position for five years, during difficult economic times.

Recently, Pat commented that she had been spoiled and lucky. She has had an active life, combining teaching, research, health planning, and work-



*Rebecca S. King and Patricia Main*

ing with populations. The research component allowed her to move evidence-based dentistry forward in Canada. Mark Siegal commented to her that she was the only person he knew who had been able to put evidence-based dentistry into practice and get it to work. As far back as 1993, she was able to combine the resources of the university faculty with her research involvement to get politicians to buy in.

Dr. Main has been active in organized dentistry. She was parachuted into the Ontario Dental Association, which at the time was not particularly accepting of public health practitioners, particularly women dentists. The president of the association named her to finish out a term on the Executive Council, and she was subsequently elected for an additional two-year term. During her tenure, she chaired several committees, and her work resulted in significant policy changes,

including directives that put the impetus on dentists to improve the quality of their work.

Pat was the first female president and, indeed, the first president of an organization similar to AAPHD that combines memberships of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants—the Canadian Association for Public Health Dentistry.

Pat retired in October 2001, but she has not slowed down a bit. She is working on a feasibility study in New Foundland and Labrador on how dental health relates to utilization of services, and guidelines for First Nations (similar to our Indian Health Service) and the impact of the services that they cover, analyzing whether the high utilization codes are appropriate. In addition to her contract work, Pat has visited Paris, England, and Portugal, and is still teaching modules on evidence-based dentistry at the university. She is spending time on genealogy, working with her church and in her garden, spending time with her grandchildren, and can go visit her 91-year-old father in Scotland when she wants.

Pat served as secretary-treasurer on the AAPHD Executive Council, where she was the first non-US citizen to hold office. She was a master at reviewing the minutes and bringing to our attention that we had already voted and made a decision on the topic on the table, and asking us if we really wanted to vote again. Through Pat's thoughtful contributions during her time on the AAPHD Executive Council and her ongoing efforts to increase the effectiveness and visibility of dental public health in Canada and throughout the world, Pat has clearly demonstrated her commitment to oral health.