Remarks on Receiving the 2003 AAPHD President's Award

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Thank you very much, Dr. Maas. I feel very honored and grateful to be this year's recipient of the President's Award. The relationship between the board and AAPHD has always been a very close one, even in the time before 1975, when AAPHD shared sponsorship responsibilities with the Dental Section of the American Public Health Association. The end of dual sponsorship led to a lasting era of cooperation and mutual support that in turn has benefited both organizations. In 1986 and again in 2002, AAPHD was instrumental in taking the lead to assure that the specialty of dental public health was awarded continued recognition by the American Dental Association. And at a time when consecutive years of budgetary shortcomings created a fiscal problem, AAPHD provided a supplement to our income. As a result, the board no longer needs such support and is in good shape financially. AAPHD also nominates board members-elect and has provided the board with competent diplomates to serve as board directors. On the other hand, the board has supported the annual meeting of the National Oral Health Conference by organizing a Dental Public Health Symposium featuring distinguished guest speakers. And, of course, many diplomates have served in leadership positions in AAPHD. I am proud to have been a member of both organizations and look forward to a bright future for both.