
2003 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award: Lawrence F. Hill, DDS, MPH

Nominated by E. Joseph Alderman, DDS, MPH

Dr. Hill received his dental degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry, and his master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota. He served as a dental officer in the active and reserve in the US Navy. He was in private practice, and a dental director, Chelsea Health Center, Massachusetts.

Dr. Hill has been executive director of the Greater Cincinnati Oral Health Council since 1988. He has been the Cincinnati, Ohio, dental director since 1978. He created a model school-based dental disease prevention program. Nationally his work in collaboration with Nancy Carter, "Seal America: the

Prevention Intervention," is the standard for establishing a school-based dental sealant program. Recently, he has helped with establishing and promoting the "Safety Net Clinic" Web site. Dr. Hill has continued to offer advice to his state dental director through out his career.

Dr. Hill has worked as a partner with local, state, and national public health professionals to ensure collaboration and services to the community. He has served as president of the Association of Community Dental Programs since its inception. He has been an active participant with planning and coordinating local health care-related activities as part of the ASTDD and the National Oral Health Confer-

ence meetings for more than 20 years. Dr. Hill received the USPHS Chief Dental Officer's Exemplary Service Award in 1991.

Having observed and worked with him in many ways, Larry Hill is truly an excellent example of what one dental public health person can do. He has made many contributions to public health, dental public health, federal, state, and local dental programs and dentistry. There have been many excellent recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, and it is my pleasure to introduce my friend and the recipient of the 2003 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award: Lawrence F. Hill, DDS, MPH.

Remarks on Receiving the 2003 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award

Lawrence F. Hill, DDS, MPH

Wow! This is a wonderful surprise and a great honor. It's been a very fortunate year for us in Cincinnati with respect to oral health. Our programs have gained quite a bit of local recognition and more and more we're being invited to community tables where health care and access is being discussed. But that's not just happening in Cincinnati, it's happening all over the country, community by community and state by state. Just when we thought we'd all be retiring, having made little difference in changing the way opinion leaders and policy makers view oral health, we've popped up on their radar screens. We've heard people say, "The stars are aligning," as if this is all serendipitous. I would challenge that and say this is a pure case of "plandipity," something that

looks like it happened by chance but, in fact, has happened because of people working and sweating to bring those stars into alignment—planning for the "dipity."

So, I accept this award today on behalf of staff members of all of the community-based dental programs across the country, the folks who for years were the invisible majority of dental public health pulling the stars into place. People like Cindy Payne in Ashland County, Ohio, a nurse who, along with her advisory committee, recognized the tremendous oral health needs in her community. With little more than kite string and chewing gum, she made a dental clinic for low-income residents happen, despite overwhelming odds. There's the person who goes out and raises a little

money to develop a sealant program or the lone warrior who rallies his or her community on behalf of fluoridating a water supply. And we must not forget the exceptional physicians, like Amos Deinard in Minnesota, who's taken it upon himself to develop a project to train physicians in his community about their role in oral health.

This is an especially significant award for me personally for at least two reasons. First, just a week ago, I mentioned to Mark Siegal that I was feeling tired, burned out, and overwhelmed. The overwhelming part comes with the newfound interest in oral health. With the new interest has come new expectation that we can suddenly fix everything without new resources, just because others are now "interested." This award guilt me

into quitting my complaining and just going and doing my job. But the second reason is that I know that over the years I have been a constant "local" irritant to a variety of members of this very organization that honors me today. That, in and of itself, reinforces something else that is so special to us all. It reinforces that we are truly a dental public health family and that although we may at times have different perspectives, we respect and care about each other, not only professionally, but on a personal level as well.

In that vein, I want to congratulate you on your recognition of Hersch Horowitz, who, as Alice explained, couldn't make it here today. I was in awe of Hersch and Alice at my first dental public health meeting 25 years ago and I'm still in awe of them today. Only today I consider them friends and family, as do you, and so I speak for us all in wishing Hersch well. To receive an award on the same day you recognize this giant in dental public health is more humbling than you can imagine.

Finally, I want to thank a small number of people whom I hold responsible for supporting the efforts to recognize the important work done by local programs and to make them visible entities with a strong voice in the future of oral health. The locals, old and new, who have stuck by this effort include Bob Peterek from Austin, Bob Jones from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Bob Dumbaugh from Palm Beach County, and honorary local Bob Isman, who went from El Paso to Portland, Oregon, to California (is there something about being a "Bob"?). More recently Maureen Oostdik Hurd from Madison, Wisconsin, has been there, Gordon Empey and Sue Sanzi-Schaedel from Portland, and many, many others.

I also don't want to forget some of our former and current state dental directors like Joe Alderman (Georgia), Joe Dougherty (Virginia), Dean Perkins (Missouri), Diane Brunson (Colorado), Kathy Mangskau (North Dakota), and Beth Hines (Washington). A special thanks to Mark Siegal, my father figure, who has finally come



Drs. E. Joseph Alderman, Lawrence F. Hill, and Lynn Douglas Mouden

to recognize the respective roles of local versus state programs by describing Ohio as a suburb of Cincinnati. I am grateful for Mark's patience with my tirades and continued support for my programs. And thanks to Mike Easley who, as Ohio's dental director in the early 1980s, encouraged me to come to my first ASTDD meeting.

On the federal level, we would be nowhere if it hadn't been for John Rossetti's continued support and risk taking on our behalf at HRSA, which didn't always win him a lot of favor; Don Schneider in all of his various roles; Bob Mecklenburg and Dan Whiteside; the regional dental folks; Bill Maas (whom we're still working on); and the support we're getting now from Mark Nehring at HRSA and Dushanka Kleinman in her role as chief dental officer and assistant sur-

geon general. I also want to thank Katrina Holt at the MCH Oral Health Clearinghouse for her support to all of us who call her for help, and a very special thanks to Bev Isman who, on behalf of ASTDD, is including local program representatives at an unprecedented level.

And finally, let's be honest, I have merely been the temporary holder of the local dental program torch, which is really owned by my mentor and friend, Myron Allukian. He reminded me of this when I was recently chairing a meeting of local dental directors. Myron seized control of the meeting and began passing out directives. Frustrated, I asked, "Myron, what do you do?" to which he paused—and then answered, "I'm the guy who tells you what you've got to do!"

Thank you all very, very much.