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## 2003 ASTDD Fluoridation Awards

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**Presented by Lew Lampiris, DDS, MPH, Chair, ASTDD Fluorides Committee**

Since 1989, the American Dental Association (ADA), ASTDD, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have jointly recognized specific individuals, organizations, and agencies for their contributions toward the progress and quality of community water fluoridation. ASTDD, CDC, and ADA actively work to promote fluoridation in communities throughout the United States. These annual Fluoridation Awards serve as a vehicle to recognize the unsung heroes who continue to initiate, maintain, or improve the oral health benefits fluoridation provides for all citizens. At this year's annual meeting, awards were presented in the

following categories:

- 50 year Awards for systems that reached 50 years of continuous water fluoridation during 2002 (34 states, 140 communities).
- State Fluoridation Quality Awards to states that maintain the quality of fluoridation as determined by the ability of fluoridating systems to conduct monitoring and maintain optimal fluoride levels (DE, IN, MA, ND, NV).
- Community Fluoridation Initiative and Reaffirmation Awards to communities or systems that passed water fluoridation initiatives, started as consecutive systems during the past calendar year, or defeated efforts to

discontinue community water fluoridation when fluoridation was already in effect (10 states, 24 communities).

The Fluoridation Merit Award is presented to an individual, group, agency, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution toward the progress of fluoridation. Years can go by without giving out such an award, and yet this year the committee selected four individuals for special recognition: Dr. Herschel Horowitz, Mr. Tom Reeves, Dr. Timothy Collins, and Director Glen Peterson. Here's how these individuals and their efforts were described in this year's awards brochure:

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### Herschel S. Horowitz, DDS, MPH

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Dr. Herschel Horowitz, whose name is synonymous with fluoride research, has been a tireless advocate of community water fluoridation, nationally and internationally. During the 26 years that Dr. Horowitz served as a commissioned officer in the US Public Health Service, the team that he

led set the standards for conducting clinical trials for caries prevention with respect to objectivity, statistical design, ethical conduct, and scientific integrity. He has also studied the prevalence of enamel fluorosis and introduced an improved index for measuring its severity. Held in high regard

by his colleagues and peers, he has served as consultant concerning fluorides and fluoridation for innumerable governments, agencies, universities, and industries. The Fluoridation Merit Award recognizes Dr. Horowitz's efforts and achievements on behalf of fluoridation.

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### Remarks upon receiving the 2003 ASTDD, CDC, ADA Fluoridation Merit Award

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**Herschel S. Horowitz, DDS, MPH**

I am very pleased to have been selected to receive the 2003 ASTDD, CDC, and ADA Fluoridation Merit Award. It is especially satisfying to receive recognition from groups of peers who represent organizations for whom I have great respect. I had

hoped to attend the ASTDD Awards Luncheon so that I could thank you personally, but ill health would not permit that. We have made tremendous strides in providing benefits of community water fluoridation to an increased number of persons here in

the United States and I am proud to be a part of our success.

In addition, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who were so supportive during my illness last year and during the current challenge I am facing. Your letters, cards,

and e-mail messages were and are truly wonderful and have made my spirits soar. Dental public health is a

family of caring individuals of whom I am proud to be a part. Again, thank you for this award and we must continue to work to bring the benefits of

community water fluoridation to more Americans and to those in other countries, as well.

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## Tom Reeves, National Fluoridation Engineer, CDC, Atlanta, GA

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As National Fluoridation Engineer at the CDC for the past 24 years, Mr. Tom Reeves has worked closely with states and federal agencies in developing community water fluoridation programs. Additionally, Mr. Reeves has assisted other countries and international agencies, such as Japan,

South Korea, South Africa, the World Health Organization, and the Pan-American Health Organization, in their fluoridation efforts. He developed and implemented national fluoridation training programs and has served as a national expert in the engineering aspects of fluoridation. In addition to his work at the CDC, Mr.

Reeves has been active in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and currently serves as chair of the AWWA Fluoride Standards Committee. The Fluoridation Merit Award recognizes Mr. Reeves' expertise and untiring efforts in support of community water fluoridation.

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## Timothy Collins, DDS, MPH, and Glen Peterson

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) voted to fluoridate their five treatment plants in early 2003. The MET serves nearly 18 million customers in a six-county area of southern California. Many organizations were critical in assuring this success—including, but not limited to: the California Fluoridation Task Force, the Fluoridation 2010 Work Group, the California Fluoridation Project, and the Dental Health Foundation. Two individuals have been nominated for special recognition for their tireless efforts in this endeavor. They are Dr. Timothy Collins and Mr. Glen Peterson.

Timothy Collins, DDS, MPH, serves as dental director of Los Angeles

County and chair of the California Fluoridation Task Force. Dr. Collins has been at the forefront of fluoridation efforts for more than 10 years. By facilitating the fluoridation of the city of Los Angeles, Dr. Collins laid the groundwork for obtaining the MET vote. His vision, leadership, and strategic planning over the past decade have contributed greatly to this historic action.

Glen Peterson has served with Metropolitan for over a decade, and championed the case for fluoridation with the MET Board. Director Peterson's interest in public health and his belief that Metropolitan could play a central role in this highly researched public health remedy to California's "Ne-

glected Epidemic" served to galvanize the 37-member board toward this action. The clear mandate evidenced by the final vote of 64 percent in favor of fluoridation underscores the breadth of Mr. Peterson's accomplishment.

Due to the shared vision of Dr. Collins and Director Peterson, and the collective efforts of many public health activists and leaders, fluoridated drinking water will now be a reality for the residents of southern California. The 20 to 40 percent reduction in dental caries that will result from this action will become the largest fluoridation project in US history and will bring California very close to the Healthy People 2010 fluoride objective.