

Archives

Maria Teresa Canto, DDS, MPH

Appointments

Conan Davis, DDS, MPH, has been appointed chief dental officer of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and will be the agency's primary focal point for oral and dental health issues. His prior position was state dental director at the Alabama Department of Public Health. During his 12 years as state dental director, Dr. Davis was appointed deputy director for Family Health Services, to the Governor's Commission on Welfare Reform, and to the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. In addition, he served as the state WIC director, the state dental consultant to the Alabama Medicaid Agency, and as an adjunct faculty member in the Maternal and Child Health Department of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. Recently, Dr. Davis served as the American Dental Association's congressional fellow and worked with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee through the office of Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-AR). Dr. Davis earned his DDS and MPH from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He is a member of the AAPHD, the American Dental Association, and the Alabama Dental Association. In addition, Dr. Davis is a member of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, where he has served as the newsletter editor and as an Executive Committee member.

Robert H. Selwitz, DDS, MPH, was appointed chief of the Health Policy, Analysis, and Development Branch, Division of Population and Health Promotion Sciences, at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). Dr. Selwitz is a captain with the US Public Health Service (USPHS) and the director of the NIDCR Dental Public Health Residency Program. His prior position was research scientist and senior dental epidemiologist at NIDCR. He earned his dental degree at the

University of Detroit Mercy and an MPH at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Dr. Selwitz has numerous publications in the area of fluorides, dental sealants, and dental caries. He is a member of the Fluoride Steering Committee, the AAPHD, the American Dental Association, the International and American Associations for Dental Research, the American Public Health Association, and the USPHS Commissioned Officers Association. Dr. Selwitz is a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

D. Alex White, DDS, DrPH, has accepted the positions of director of oral health research at Dental Service of Massachusetts in Boston, and director of Oral Care Research at Tom's of Maine in Kennebunk. Previously, he was senior investigator and assistant program director of Economic, Social, and Health Services Research at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research. Dr. White earned his dental degree from the University of North Carolina and his public health degree from Harvard School of Public Health. He is past president of AAPHD, a fellow in the American College of Dentists, and a director of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

Fellowships

Kathryn A. Atchison, DDS, MPH, has been selected by the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as a recipient of a 2003 DHHS Primary Health Care Policy Fellowship. She was nominated by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. Dr. Atchison is a professor of public health and community dentistry and associate dean for Research and Knowledge Management at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Dentistry. Prior to moving to UCLA, she was an adjunct assistant professor at the Washington University School of

Dental Medicine. She earned her DDS at Marquette University and an MPH at Boston University School of Public Health. Dr. Atchison plans to integrate her research findings and the knowledge gained from this fellowship to work with policy makers, dental educators, and practitioners to increase access to dental primary care services.

Obituary

Dr. W. Philip Phair, 81, died at his Iowa City home on March 27, 2003. Dr. Phair was born April 19, 1921, in Limestone, ME, and received his DDS degree in 1945 from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. He was in the US Navy Reserves from 1942 to 1954, with active duty as Lt. (jg) from 1945 to 1947. In 1948 he received a master's of public health degree from the University of Michigan. For two years, he was director of dental health for the Washington State Health Department. Dr. Phair was a founder and first president of the Washington unit of the American Society of Dentistry for Children and taught part-time at the University of Washington. From 1950 to 1954, he was assistant secretary and then secretary of the Council on Dental Health, American Dental Association in Chicago, where he played an important role in the acceptance of fluoride in drinking water. Dr. Phair had a full-time private practice in general dentistry in Glenview, Illinois, from 1955 to 1968. In 1968, Dr. Phair became professor and head of the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry at the University of Iowa, where he established a nationally recognized department. He retired in 1983 as professor emeritus. Dr. Phair was an active member of a number of professional organizations, including the Odontographic Society, Chicago; the American and Iowa Dental Associations; Omicron Kappa Upsilon; and he was a fellow in both the American and International

Colleges of Dentists. He received the Distinguished Educator Award for outstanding contributions to dental education in 1983. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elaine Brinton Phair; two sons, Craig and Paul, and their wives; three grandchildren; and three sisters.

Other

Deok-Young Park, DDS, MSD, PhD, an assistant professor at Kangnung National University in Korea, will spend one year as a special volunteer at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). He

received his DDS, MSD, and PhD from the College of Dentistry, Seoul National University, and completed a preventive and public health dentistry residency at the same university. His research areas include oral health literacy for young adults and oral health-related quality of life for elders.