
Archives

Steven P. Geiermann, DDS

Obituary

Dr. Keith E. Heller, aged 48 years, died on April 26, 2004, after a long battle with congestive heart failure. Keith received his BS, DDS, MPH, and DrPH degrees from the University of Michigan, as well as a certificate in pediatric dentistry from Mott Children's Health Center in Flint, Michigan. Dr. Heller was a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. He practiced general dentistry in a private practice in Jackson, MI, and for the Monroe County Health Department in Monroe, MI. He practiced as a pediatric dentist in Beaver, PA, and served as a clinical instructor at Mott Children's Health Center.

Subsequent to his doctoral degree in public health, he was a research faculty associate at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Since 2001, Dr. Heller was an assistant professor with the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. He was director for a third year community dentistry course and the college's fourth year extramural programs, served as a clinical preventive dentistry instructor for the first year students, and was involved in gradu-



Dr. Keith E. Heller

ate student teaching and mentoring. He also served as a course director at the Summer Institute at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Heller's principal areas of research included development of a children's dental surveillance system, assessing outcomes of dental care with insurance claims data, impact and

costs of sealants in young child populations, and risk factors for dental fluorosis prevalence and severity. It was in this last category that Dr. Heller's research was most recognized, including his selection as first place recipient of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry's Graduate Student Merit Award while completing his doctoral dissertation. At the time of his death, he was continuing research concerning water fluoride intake by temperature and recommendations for modification to drinking water fluoride guidelines.

Dr. Heller was an active reviewer for several journals, as well as being an ad hoc reviewer for National Institute of Health and Canadian grants. He was a director for the Behavioral Sciences/Health Services Research Group, International Association for Dental Research.

Dr. Heller is survived by his wife, Beth Jones, and their 6-year-old son, Andy.

[Note: Thanks to Dr. Raymond Kuthy, professor and chairperson, Preventive and Community Dentistry, University of Iowa College of Dentistry, for this contribution.]