
Concluding Comments

Alice M. Horowitz, PhD

Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us to honor Hersh. This session is at once very difficult for me, yet also very satisfying. It is difficult because I miss my soul mate terribly and still cannot believe that he is no longer with us. It is very satisfying to know that others hold Hersh in such high esteem and that his life and his work are highly valued. Thank you, each of you, for being here; I am overwhelmed, as I know Hersh would be.

I thank Dr. Tabak, the director of the NIDCR for supporting this memorial session. And thank you, Dushanka, for planning and organizing this session; clearly, it was a labor of love. I especially thank the speakers for their elegant and timely presentations. You have provided the essentials of his life's work. I am certain that those of you who knew Hersh socially or as a family member have learned a great deal about his science and his legacy. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention three very special women from the Office of the Director, NIDCR, who made it all happen: Ellie Murcia, Rosalind Bauer, and Lynn Warwick Susulske.

I also thank each of you for the love, concern, and support you have given Hersh and me over the past year and a half. When Hersh was hospitalized in Chicago last year, I quickly learned that we were and are very, very rich with truly wonderful friends, col-

leagues, and relatives. Your concern and support truly made our spirits soar and propelled both of us to work harder to make him well. No two people have ever been offered so much from so many wonderful people. We gratefully accepted prayers from many countries and diverse religions. We had friends from other countries who came for the sole purpose of seeing Hersh and to urge him to get well. Your efforts were truly uplifting for both of us.

And, I thank you for contributing to the Herschel S. Horowitz Memorial Scholarship fund, which will be used to support dentists who want to earn a master's in public health to pursue a career in dental public health and research. As many of you know, we are in short supply of dentists with an MPH in research, academia, and in state and local positions. I hope this effort will help decrease the shortage and concomitantly build on Hersh's legacy.

For as long as I have known Hersh, he always worked hard and played hard. He truly enjoyed his work in dental public health and as we have witnessed today, it showed. He was also interested in and knowledgeable about so many other things in life. He was, as I have publicly stated before, a man for all seasons. He loved all kinds of music, ballet, works of art, saving sea turtles, trekking, white-water raft-

ing, and a myriad of important concerns including what was best for the public's oral health. He was a mentor extraordinaire for many of us. In addition, he always stood up for what he believed in, even if it might be opposed by the powers that be.

I must share with you a recent experience. Among the many messages of sympathy I received, one was from a stranger—a grandmother who lives in the Washington, DC, area. In addition to her condolences she related that she had many fillings in her teeth, her children had a few fillings, but her grandchildren had none. She learned from Hersh's obituary that he had contributed extensively to dental caries prevention and she was writing to acknowledge that and to thank him after the fact. I share this information with you because many of us here today work in the dental public health arena. Those of us who work in public health recognize that what we do is often underappreciated and frequently our efforts appear to garner little notice. It is important for us to know and believe that what we do does impact on decreasing oral health disparities and improving the quality of life of so many. Hersh spent most of his adult years doing just that. He left us much too early, but he left us with a rich and wonderful legacy. That legacy is one we must continue to believe in and build upon. Thank you.