

HERSCHEL S. HOROWITZ MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM:
RECENT ADVANCES IN THE FLUORIDE LEGACY
National Oral Health Conference, Los Angeles, CA, May 5, 2004

Opening Remarks

Myron Allukian Jr., DDS, MPH

Good morning, friends and colleagues, and welcome to the Herschel S. Horowitz Memorial Symposium on Recent Advances in the Fluoride Legacy. It is a great honor for me to be the moderator for this symposium for Dr. Herschel S. Horowitz, who was an outstanding public health dentist and internationally recognized dental epidemiologist. Hersh did many of the original studies on school fluoridation, topical fluorides, fluoride toothpaste, and sealants, which has resulted in better oral health for millions of Americans and people around the world. Not only was he a great scientist, but he was very articulate in communicating the science to others. He was a man ahead of his time. Hersh was an independent, reliable source of

information whom we could always count on. He was never afraid to stand up and speak in the public's best interest on the benefits of fluoride and almost any other subject. He was a tireless worker who was extremely productive in his studies, publications, and presentations around the world. It's because of Hersh that we recommend a "pea-sized" amount of fluoride toothpaste on the toothbrush. He also was never afraid to present the science and the data behind the benefits of fluoridation in dealing with anti-fluoridationists. Hersh was a renaissance man who was multitalented. He was also an ardent art collector, piano player, and singer.

Dr. Horowitz was chief of Community Programs and Clinical Trials for

the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). He was a consultant for the American Dental Association, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Association, and the Food and Drug Administration. I am confident that he would have looked forward to and enjoyed being a participant in today's discussion. When you think of Dr. Horowitz, you actually think of two Dr. Horowitzes, Alice and Hersh. Alice was Hersh's angel and conscience, keeping him on his toes professionally, being his strongest critic and advocate, and trying to get him to take better care of himself. For me, they were the "Dynamic Duo of Dental Public Health" who have improved the oral health of millions.