

## Archives

### Steven P. Geiermann, DDS

#### Appointments

**Captain Kathy L. Hayes, DMD, MHS**, has been appointed planning officer in the Office of Science Policy and Analysis, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). She brings 18 years of clinical care, public health, program management and planning experience to the position. Before joining NIDCR, Dr. Hayes worked as a senior program management officer in the Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration. She holds a BS in biology, DMD from the University of Kentucky, and a MHS in public health from The Johns Hopkins University. In addition, she completed a two-year advanced general practice residency at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and a dental public health residency at NIDCR. Dr. Hayes is a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and the American Association of Hospital Dentists.

**Caswell Evans, DDS, MPH**, has assumed dual roles at the University of Illinois at Chicago: Associate Dean for Prevention and Public Health Sciences at the College of Dentistry and Oral Health Research Center Director at the School of Public Health. From 1997 to 2004, Dr. Evans was affiliated with the NIDCR, where he directed the National Oral Health Initiative. He provided significant leadership for the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and the National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health. Dr. Evans is a past president of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

#### Retirement

**Dolores Malvitz, MPH, DrPH**, retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in July 2004, after spending nearly 34 years in support of oral health, equally divided between CDC and academia. For the past 12 years, she led the Surveillance,



*Dolores Malvitz, MPH, DrPH*

Investigations, and Research Team within CDC's Division of Oral Health (DOH).

Born and raised in southeastern Michigan, Dr. Malvitz received her dental hygiene training (a certificate, in 1961), and her graduate education in public health (MPH, 1972 and DrPH, 1974) at The University of Michigan (UM). After earning a BA from Western Michigan University (in English and Speech, 1968), she served as Clinical Instructor in Dental Hygiene at UM for two years before returning to graduate school. Upon completion of her doctoral degree, Dr. Malvitz was appointed Assistant Professor in UM's dental public health program. Two years later, she was appointed Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where she received tenure; was promoted to Professor, and was appointed to the Graduate School faculty. During her academic career, she served on multiple college, campus, and university committees as well as the editorial board of the *Journal of Dental Education* for two terms. She consulted with

the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, the Indian Health Service, and the National Institutes of Health, as well as being selected as a Fellow in Academic Administration by the American Council on Education.

In 1987, Dr. Malvitz joined CDC in time for the review of the 1990 health objectives for the nation, which evolved into *Healthy People 2000*. In 1992, after a year in the office of the Associate Director for Science of CDC, she was chosen as Chief of the Surveillance, Investigations, and Research Branch, a position she held until her retirement, except for serving as Acting Director of the Division of Oral Health from 1997 to 1998. Her leadership was instrumental in the establishment of state-based surveillance of oral diseases, conditions, and behaviors; in focusing CDC-DOH research efforts on critical gaps in public health knowledge; and in using existing CDC systems to mentor the next generation of professionals in the use of science as the basis for making sound public health decisions. She has written numerous articles in peer-reviewed literature ranging from dental hygiene education to economic analysis of public health interventions. In 1997, Dr. Malvitz was a pivotal influence in the establishment of the first CDC-DOH cooperative agreement with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, a partnership that continues to build program capacity and enhance the framework for addressing oral health problems within the United States.

Dolores' passion for public health is surpassed only by her love for literature, music and the arts. In retirement, she expects to "play more and work less," to travel more to interesting places she's never been, to continue learning new things, and to invest in volunteer efforts that have some hope of "making a difference."



Charles W. Gish, DDS, MScD

### Awards

**Charles W. Gish, DDS, MScD**, is the 2004 recipient of the John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award in Dental Public Health, awarded by the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA). During his career, Dr. Gish distinguished himself in public health practice, academia, and clinical dental research.

Born June 26, 1923 in Camden, Indiana, Dr. Gish attended Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame before receiving his DDS degree with Honors (1949) and MScD (1960) from Indiana University. From 1952-54, he served as Regional Dental Consultant for Region IX of the U.S. Public Health Service.

In 1954, Dr. Gish joined the faculty at the University of Indiana School of Dentistry, co-chaired the Department of Community Dentistry from 1969-1986, and served as full professor from 1977-1987. From 1962-1985, he served as Indiana's State Dental Director where he was a determined and effective advocate for community water fluoridation. By the mid-1980s, 93 percent of all Indiana residents on public water supplies enjoyed the benefits of fluoridation.

A long-standing member and active participant of APHA's (then) den-

tal health section, Dr. Gish was president of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors from 1969 to 1971 and received its Outstanding Achievement Award in 1986. He served as president of the American Association of Public Health Dentists during 1969-1970 and received its Distinguished Service Award in 1976. Dr. Gish was a remarkable clinical researcher, notably being a principal investigator in studies involving the efficacy and acceptance of the first fluoride dentifrice. He was instrumental in the research and development of a preventive prophylaxis paste used by dental practitioners for years. In collaboration with Dr. Joseph Muller, he developed this product into a self-applied fluoride regimen, generally referred to as "brush ins," in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Dr. Gish also worked with Dr. John Greene when the Healthy People initiative began in the late 1970s.

**Linda Niessen, DMD, MPH**, is the recipient of the 2004 Pierre Fauchard Academy Gold Medal Award, presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the progress and standing of the dental profession. Dr. Niessen serves as Vice President of Clinical Education at Dentsply International, where she is responsible for developing, directing, and coordinating corporate clinical education and opinion leader programs.

Dr. Niessen holds an appointment as Clinical Professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences at Baylor College of Dentistry and is a faculty member of the Texas A&M Health Services Center in Dallas, Texas. She provides patient care at the VA North Texas Health Care System in Dallas and has authored more than 60 articles and a textbook on geriatric dentistry entitled, *Geriatric Dentistry: Aging and Oral Health*. Dr. Niessen serves as the health reporter for *Dental Health Check*, a weekly news feature providing oral health information for consumers on WFAA-TV, the Dallas ABC affiliate. She is past president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the American

Board of Dental Public Health and currently serves as chair of the AAPHD Foundation Board.