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ADA News®

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 5, 2004

www.ada.org

VOLUME 35, NO. 1

Studies back amalgam Association testifies before expert panel

BY MARK BERTHOLD

Bethesda, Md.—“The overriding body of scientifically valid and peer-reviewed research supports only one conclusion: that dental amalgam is a safe, affordable and durable material.”

So testified Dr. Frederick Eichmiller, director of the ADA Foundation's Paffenbarger Research Center, Dec. 12 to an independent, third-party expert panel commissioned by the federal Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health. Its task: to analyze the peer-reviewed, scientific literature published since 1996 on potential adverse human health effects caused by dental amalgam.

“In fact,” he added, “over the years, the major U.S. and international scientific and health bodies, including the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Public Health Service, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention and World Health Organization, among others, have all stated that dental amalgam is a safe restorative material.”

FDA reviews conducted in 1993 and 1998 both determined the available evidence does not show that exposure to mercury from amalgam restorations poses a serious health risk in humans. Components in dental restorative materials, including amalgam, may in rare instances result

See AMALGAM, page 16

Photo by Anna Ng Delort



Teamwork: Dr. Donna Grant Mills of the Howard University College of Dentistry examines 7-year-old Kelvin Vega Dec. 10, 2003. At right is Sharon Russell, dental hygienist. Washington D.C.'s Give Kids A Smile oral health screening was a blockbuster. See story, page 14.

Give Kids A Smile to open Nasdaq Feb. 6

BY KAREN FOX

New York—With just a month left to spread the word about Give Kids A Smile 2004, the ADA is kicking it up a notch.

On Feb. 6—the day that dentists will provide free dental care for many thousands of children from low-income families—the ADA and Sullivan-Schein Dental will open the Nasdaq Stock Market, the world's first and largest electronic stock market. At ADA News press time, some



24,740 dentists, dental team members and volunteers had already signed up.

ADA representatives are set to hit the button that kicks off the day's exchange at approximately 9:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time at Nasdaq's Times Square headquarters.

Sullivan-Schein Dental—one of the Give Kids A Smile founding corporate partners and a Nasdaq-listed company—arranged to open the market on Give Kids A Smile National Children's Dental Access Day.

Crest Healthy Smiles 2010 is the exclusive consumer products partner.

DEXIS Digital X-ray Systems and Ivoclar Vivadent Inc. will also participate as professional product sponsors.

See GKAS, page 14

Paffenbarger marks 75 years of innovation

BY JAMES BERRY

The ADA Foundation's Paffenbarger Research Center, in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, has “helped to advance the practice and tools of modern dentistry, leading to dramatic improvements in the health of Americans.”

That observation came in a letter to the ADA from NIST Director Arden L. Bement Jr. Mr. Bement's reason for writing: to congratulate the Association on the 75th anniversary of its collaboration with NIST—a collaboration that, in his words, has yielded “numerous technical achievements and practical contributions” to modern dentistry and benefited “millions of people.”

Added Mr. Bement, “NIST and, in particular, our Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory, value this long-standing cooperative activity with the

See PAFFENBARGER, page 16

BRIEFS

Infection Control: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted Dec. 19, 2003 the first comprehensive update to infection control guidelines for dentistry in a decade.

The guidelines, posted online in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report at “www.cdc.gov/oralhealth” take effect immediately. The agency expects to mail 200,000 copies of the guidelines to dentists and dental health care personnel.

The Journal of the American Dental Association will feature a Special Report on the guidelines in the January edition.

The ADA Roadmap to CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health Care Settings is available at ADA.org. It includes the guidelines themselves in downloadable PDF format, a general overview, major subject areas and links to supplemental information.

Also at ADA.org, CDC online infection control continuing education will commence in mid-January. Check ADA News Today and future issues of the ADA News for more information.

The Association published in the Oct. 6, 2003 issue of the ADA News a summary and infection control Q & A prepared by the ADA Division of Science.

Further questions? E-mail science@ada.org or call the ADA Division of Science toll-free, Ext. 2878. ■

INSIDE



Medicaid reform

ADA convenes meeting to develop ideas. Story, page 10.

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CDP matters: Dr. George Stratigopolous, (foreground) chair of the ADA Council on Dental Practice, and Dr. Michael L. Stuart, co-chair, open a discussion about new and revised practice management seminars during the Nov. 13-15, 2003, meeting at ADA Headquarters in Chicago. ■

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VIEWPOINT

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Editor

MYVIEW

Fluoridation: bubbling to the surface

Throughout the nation, Portland is one of only a few cities of this size to not benefit from water fluoridation. As dentists, we know the benefit fluoride has both on developing and fully developed teeth. How many times have you looked into the mouth of a new patient that is about 25 or more years old, saw absolutely no restorations and then asked, "Where did you grow up?"

And yet, attempts by the dental community to promote water fluoridation have been met with suspicion and any variety of incredible claims.

Ninety-seven million Americans have been drinking fluoridated water for nearly 40 years, and unsubstantiated claims of toxicity continue to be the cornerstone of those that lobby against it. As dentists we have tried to educate the public in a professional, concerned manner—much the same way we educate our own patients—all while the anti-fluoride group peppers the public with incredible photos of crippling skeletal fluorosis and photos of teeth that look worse than a small child with bottle mouth caries.

In the United States there have been only three documented cases of skeletal fluorosis in the past 40 years, and all of those cases were in areas where the water naturally had over 20 parts per million. With over 19 years of looking into mouths both as a dental hygienist and a dentist, I have never seen even one case of moderately severe fluorosis, much less crippling skeletal fluorosis. On the other hand, I have seen hundreds of cases of severe dental decay. Those who screen for dental sealants for Multnomah County can attest to the large number of children with multiple surfaces of severe decay.

Fluoride isn't just for kids either. With seven of the top 10 prescribed medicines in the United States contributing to dry mouth, all those folks we have turned around to control their periodontal disease can now look forward to root caries as their mouths dry out from both medications and reduced salivary flow.

So what do we do? We begin by talking to our patients just like we do every day, and remind our staff members to educate patients during oral hygiene instructions about the benefits of water fluoridation.

We also direct organized dentistry to get behind this issue. As members of Multnomah Dental Society, the Oregon Dental Association and the ADA, we need to make this issue one that our leaders cannot step around any longer.

Find out what is being said on both sides so you can begin to see what we are up against. There are Web sites for everything and fluoride is no different. Take a few moments and see what both sides have to say. Look at the ADA

See MY VIEW, page five

LETTERS POLICY

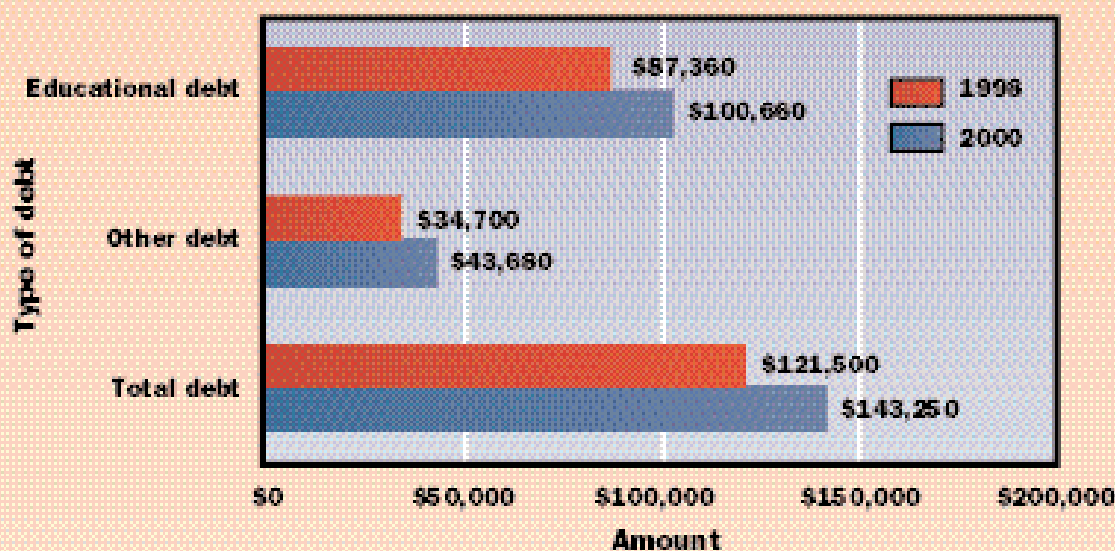
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Snapshots OF AMERICAN DENTISTRY

Dental education

The average total debt of the dental school graduating class of 2000 was up some 3 percent from the average total debt of the class of 1998.

Average debt of dental school graduates upon graduation from dental school



Source: American Dental Association, Nursing Center, Survey of Dental Graduates.

LETTERS

Funding education

I wish to comment on Dr. Raphael Escoe's letter regarding the funding of higher education ("Letters," Nov. 17, 2003, ADA News).

Dr. Escoe asserts that there is a "financial test" that students must pass to enter a profession, and that many qualified students are kept from entering the profession because of an inability to pay. His solution: make dental school and all higher education free, paid for by federal funds.

Dr. Escoe says that, "Compared to a war, free higher education would be cheap ..."

Really? Suppose that federal money (that is, your and my tax dollars) pays for the tuition, books, room and board, and supplies for students as Dr. Escoe suggests. Let's assume that only 15 million U.S. citizens would decide to take advantage of the offer each year, and assume a modest \$15,000 per year allowance for the above expenses.

Americans would pay a whopping \$225 billion—every year—for free higher education. Cheaper than a war? Taking a moment to do some basic math shows the tremendous cost of such a proposition.

I disagree with the assertion that having to pay for school keeps qualified students out. I was as poor as the next student when I graduated from college, but I put myself through dental school and residency on loans because I saw great opportunities for the future. Help is available around every corner if a student really wants to continue on to dental school or

ing for all of this?" I was expected to pay for school the same way I got the grades to get admitted in the first place—resourcefulness and hard work.

Grant G. Coleman, D.M.D.
Charlotte, N.C.

Getting the word out

Dr. Ronald Young of Hawaii ("Letters," Nov. 17, 2003, ADA News) was writing regarding the problem of treating children with rampant decay and not on a public, fluoridated water supply. I would hope that the ADA and the federal gov-

ernment would mandate that all public water supplies should be fluoridated ("there oughtta be a law").

If this is not a federal mandate, the ADA should take the leadership role in promoting that it become federal law.

Secondly, I belong to several organizations that are politically active and use e-mail to keep individuals informed of actions necessary to influence politicians. The ADA should institute a similar quick response e-mail list so members can

See LETTERS, page five



MYVIEW

Continued from page four

Web site; they have a very well-written booklet called "Fluoridation Facts." This Q-and-A-formatted booklet addresses virtually every claim attributed to fluoride—from Alzheimer's disease to cancer to various toxicities—and could be placed in your waiting room with other reading materials.

There is a good chance that water fluoridation will be on the Portland ballot through the initiative process in the next year. Medford, Ore., is currently working on a similar initiative. Beaverton recently passed fluoride through *their* initiative process and Tualatin, which has enjoyed fluoridation for the past 28 to 30 years, has had its water fluoridation challenged.

As dentists we make it our business to know about healthy teeth and mouths. Don't let a very vocal minority confuse our patients with outrageous claims that, quite frankly, would scare me, too, if I didn't know better.

Begin by taking five minutes to know what is being said on both sides. Then talk to your patients and communicate to your elected officials that water fluoridation is just the kind of community oral health issue we want them to get behind.

Dr. Trotman-Reese is the president of Oregon's Multnomah Dental Society. Her comments, reprinted here with permission, originally appeared in the November 2003 issue of MDS Hotline.

Editor's note: The ADA has developed a number of items for members involved in fluoridation activities including brochures, electronic presentations and resource packages. Additionally, the ADA Web site contains a Fluoride and Fluoridation section with resources that provide important facts and answers to a myriad of questions at "www.ada.org/goto/fluoride". For more information or to obtain these and resources, please contact Nicole Stoufflet, coordinator, Fluoridation and Preventive Health Activities, Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations, at Ext. 2858 or "stouffletn@ada.org".

LETTERS

Continued from page four

contact elected and appointed officials in a timely fashion.

One such instance comes to my immediate attention as a result of the New England Journal of Medicine report ("Mercury Scrutinized: New England Journal Review Attests to Dental Amalgam Safety," Nov. 17, 2003, ADA News) on the safety of dental amalgam.

A local legislator, Jo Ann Davis (R-Va.), congresswoman from Virginia, supports legislation to ban the use of amalgam in dentistry. Jo Ann Davis needs to be overwhelmed with letters or postcards from concerned dentists to help educate this woman.

Robert B. Allen, D.D.S.
Hampton, Va.

Editor's note: According to the ADA Division of Government Affairs, the Association has a strong grassroots network led by Action Team Leaders in almost every congressional district. We are working with these volunteers to develop a workable e-mail alert system to replace the fax-based process currently used.

Abstracts on health care and domestic violence can now be submitted online

Boston—The Family Violence Prevention Fund is accepting abstracts for its Oct. 22-23 Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence: Health Consequences Over the Lifespan.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is Feb. 26.

Visit the Web site "endabuse.org/health/conference" for a complete description of the conference and to submit an abstract for the conference online.

The goal of the conference is to advance the field of health care's response to domestic violence.

The national conference provides professional education on the latest research and innovative health care prevention and clinical responses to domestic violence for all health care professionals.

Physicians, dentists, nurses, physician assistants, dental hygienists, mental and

behavioral health providers, social workers, researchers, domestic violence advocates, alternative health care providers, public health personnel, health care administrators, health policy makers, students, victims, survivors and others are invited to participate.

Contact Mari Spira at 1-415-252-8900, Ext. 20 or e-mail "mari@endabuse.org" for more information. ■

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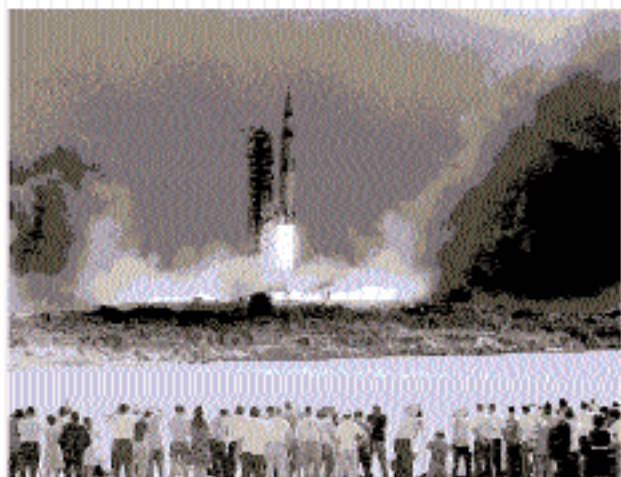
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MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION



Spreading the word: Programs like this one, that helps Cambodian dentists reach children with dental public health projects, will get a boost from the ADA and HVO's Cambodia program.

ICD grant will aid Cambodian dental program

BY STACIE CROZIER

Thanks to a generous grant from the International College of Dentists and the efforts of the ADA's Dentistry Overseas Steering Committee, a division of Health Volunteers Overseas, the Cambodian Dental Association will be able, with the help of ADA volunteer dentists, to continue to rebuild its dental education program more than 30 years after its dental community was devastated by war and genocide.

ADA and HVO's Cambodia program includes a certificate course in dental public health that began in January 2003.

It will soon expand to utilize the services of volunteer general dentists who will serve two-week assignments teaching continuing education courses to Cambodian dentists in conjunction with the Cambodian Dental Association and serving as clinical supervising faculty to pre-doctoral dental students in the clinics of the dental school in Phnom Penh. Volunteer dentists will also have the opportunity to spend a weekend providing dental services to disadvantaged children in the city and out in the provinces.

"Cambodia is a country with a long history of tragedy," said Dr. Martin Hobdell, coordinator for the project. "After the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia was left with no dentists and a dental school in ruin, but they have been rebuilding and are now graduating about 60 dentists a year."

According to the Cambodian Genocide Program at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, about 1.7 million people lost their lives in the Cambodian genocide of 1975-79—21 percent of the country's population.

After the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia had no surviving dentists. Between 1981 and 1984, 34 assistant dentists who survived the Khmer Rouge were trained by Vietnamese professors to become dentists. The dental school opened again in 1987. The FDI World Dental Federation reported that in 2000, there were 296 dentists in Cambodia, about one

to every 38,850 of its 11½ million citizens. Some 250 specially trained dental nurses can also provide basic emergency dental care and conduct preventive care programs.

"One of the objectives of the ICD, and in particular, the USA Section, is to advance the art and science of dentistry for the health and welfare of the public internationally and to encourage and support projects of a humanitarian nature," said Dr. Robert E. Brady, secretary general of the ICD USA Section. "Our fellows responded to this project with donations to help make it possible. We see it as a way to

■ "After the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia was left with no dentists and a dental school in ruin, but they have been rebuilding and are now graduating about 60 dentists a year."

aid the greatest number of people in need of dental public health in a country with so few dentists."

The ICD's \$10,000 grant is the first outside contribution received by the ADA's International Health Fund established in October 2003. (See related story, page seven.)

"The ICD has been fabulous in its support," said Dr. Hobdell. "I've been visiting Cambodia since 1989, and have seen tremendous changes, but there is still a long way to go. This program will help the Cambodian Dental Association continue to make strides to improve its dental public health." ■

UOP to honor Dr. Dugoni

Dental school will be named for its dean in August ceremonies

BY KAREN FOX

San Francisco—As he celebrates his silver anniversary as dean of the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni is poised to receive a greater honor.

The university announced its intention Nov. 14 to name the dental school for Dr. Dugoni—calling him “one of the nation’s most respected educators and leaders in the dental profession.”

“When the university president and board of regents informed me that they wanted to do this, I was overwhelmed with emotion and deeply grateful for the recognition and honor,” said Dr. Dugoni, president of the ADA Foundation and a past ADA president.

It’s just the second time a dental school has been named for a dean. The Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine was named for its first dean, Henry M. Goldman.

Ceremonies bestowing the accolade on Dr. Dugoni are set to take place Aug. 27-28 in San Francisco. They include a leadership symposium, dedication ceremony at the dental school, fundraising dinner at San Francisco City Hall and a gala celebration featuring entertainment by Bill Cosby.

“I look forward to the celebration with all my family and friends,” added Dr. Dugoni. “I just wish my mom and dad could have been there also.”

“Dr. Dugoni is a visionary and sets the standard for excellence at Pacific,” said Donald V. DeRosa, Ph.D., University of the Pacific president. “Throughout his 55-year career, he has been at the forefront of innovations in dental education and organized dentistry, and has educated and inspired more than 6,000 dental students and countless dental professionals.”

The dental school naming comes on the heels of an award presented to Dr. Dugoni by the California Dental Association.

The CDA house of delegates awarded the Dale F. Redig Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Dugoni Nov. 8, 2003.

Named in honor of Dr. Redig, a past CDA executive director who served for 18 years, the



Photo by Lagniappe Studio

Honored: Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni is dean of the dental school that will soon be named in his honor.

Redig award was established in 2001 to honor individuals who have provided an extraordinary contribution to the vision and goals of the CDA.

“Dr. Dugoni has set the standard for all organized dentistry leaders to follow,” said Dr. Debra Finney, CDA president.

“I consider this recognition very special because it bears the name of a great visionary, Dr. Dale F. Redig, who guided the California Dental Association to its current level of excellence and promise,” said Dr. Dugoni. ■

You can promote global oral health with your donation

Individuals and groups who want to help improve oral health worldwide can make a donation to the ADA Foundation’s International Development Fund.

Upon request, the ADA established the International Development Fund in October 2003 to promote global oral health, particularly in areas that are severely underserved. Contributions to this fund will support international projects conducted through the ADA Center for International Development and Affairs.

“Your contributions will demonstrate the commitment of U.S. dentists to the improvement of oral health of all the citizens of the

world,” says Dr. James B. Bramson, ADA executive director. “We hope ADA members and other concerned citizens and groups will support international programs sponsored by the ADA Foundation, the charitable arm of the ADA, that are working to improve oral health in underserved corners of the world.”

For more information contact John Hern at the ADA Center for International Development and Affairs by calling the toll-free number, Ext. 2727, or e-mail “hernj@ada.org”. To make a donation, log on to “www.adafoundation.org” and designate your gift to the International Development Fund. ■

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Law

Texas amalgam case dismissed

BY JAMES BERRY

The Texas Court of Appeals, Austin District, upheld a lower court's dismissal on jurisdictional grounds of an amalgam-related lawsuit against the ADA.

In *Botter et al. vs. the ADA*, the District Court of Travis County ruled that the plaintiff had failed to show that the Texas court had "per-

sonal jurisdiction" over the Chicago-based ADA after Association lawyers were granted a special appearance to argue for dismissal on grounds the court lacked jurisdiction.

The Botters appealed the district court ruling, claiming that the court had erred in granting the ADA a special appearance. A three-judge panel in the appeals court affirmed the lower court's

grant of special appearance, noting that, "given the entire record, the Botters have not pled allegations sufficient to confer personal jurisdiction."

In the case, which dates to 1998, Kirk Lee Botter and his wife, Darla, alleged that their son, Cody, had suffered birth defects as a result of four dental amalgam restorations placed in

the mother's mouth during pregnancy.

The couple claimed that Darla Botter had "breathed mercury gases that emanated from the fillings," causing her son's birth defects, which were not described in the appeals court decision.

The Botters initially filed a civil complaint naming the ADA, other dental associations, the mother's dentist and dental products manufacturers. Although the Association is not a Texas resident, the Botters argued that the Travis County District Court had jurisdiction over the ADA because of the Association's various contacts with the state's 7,000 member dentists.

Before ruling on the matter of jurisdiction, the district court granted the ADA a special appearance. Lawyers representing the Association argued that the court lacked either "specific or general" jurisdiction over the ADA. The court agreed.

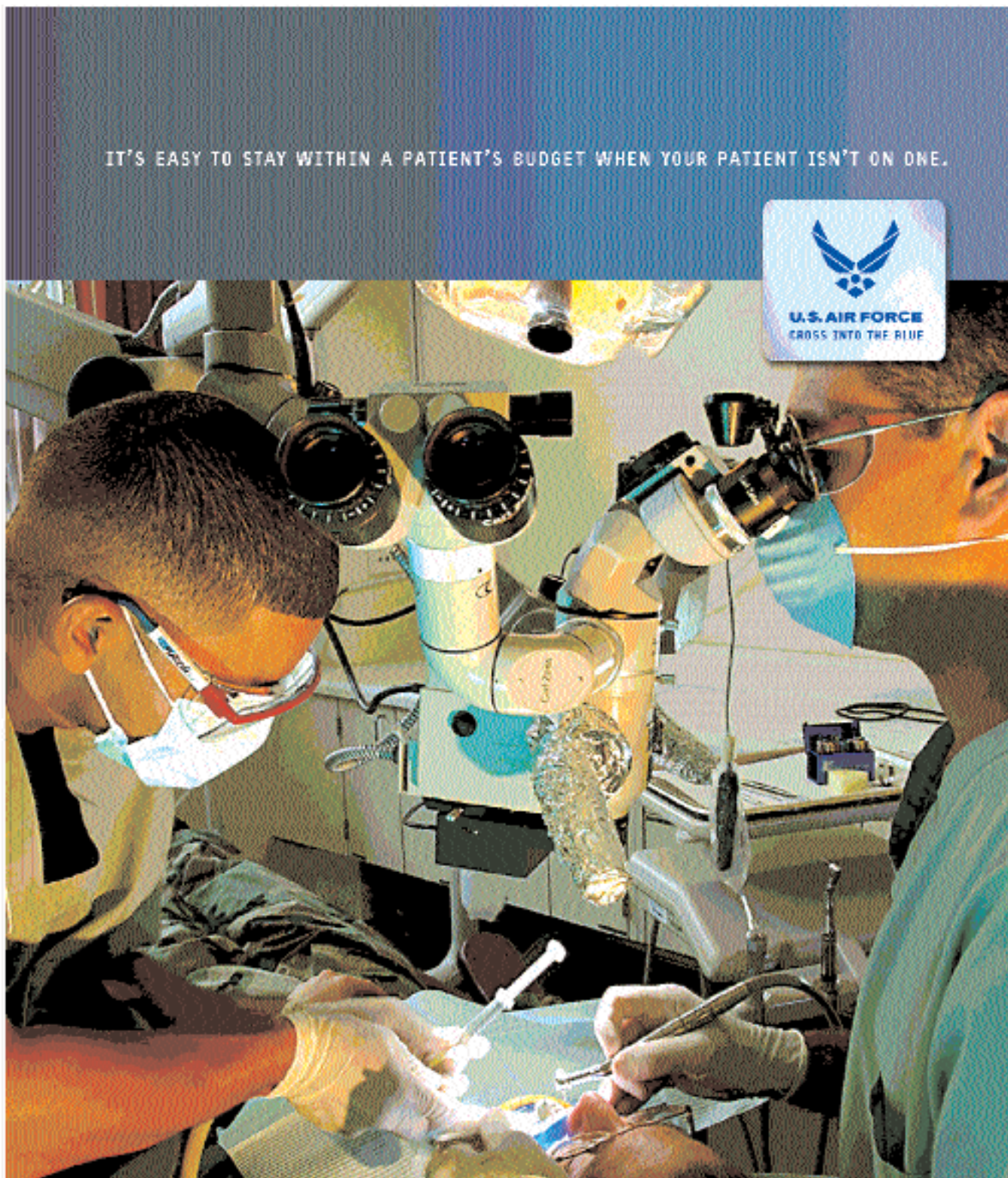
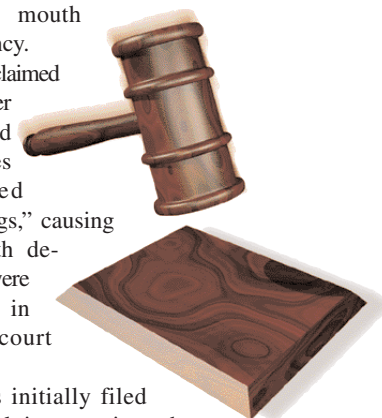
That the court had allowed the ADA's special appearance in the case became the focal point of the Botters' appeal.

"We affirm the district court's order granting special appearance to the American Dental Association," the appeals court concluded.

Peter M. Sfikas, the ADA's chief legal counsel, said the appeals court "was correct in determining that the Association did not conduct business in Texas" for purposes of the Botter suit.

He noted that the Texas Dental Association remains a defendant in the case and said the ADA would assist the state association to secure a dismissal.

The Botter case is one of more than 30 amalgam-related complaints involving the ADA that have either been dismissed or withdrawn in courts across the country. ■



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ADA report on allied dental education out

The 2002/03 Survey of Allied Dental Education report is now available from the ADA Survey Center.

This report summarizes general demographic data, class capacities, enrollment levels, graduate statistics and tuition costs. The data is collected from 265 dental hygiene programs, 259 dental assisting programs and 24 dental laboratory technology programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

The cost of the report is \$50 for ADA members, \$75 for non-member dentists and \$150 for commercial firms, plus shipping and handling.

To order, call the ADA Survey Center toll-free, Ext. 2568, or call 1-312-440-2568. ■

Government

ADA symposium eyes dental Medicaid

BY CRAIG PALMER

Bal Harbour, Fla.—More than 40 ADA-convened professional and government representatives offered “some very different out-of-the-box forward thinking” Dec. 2-3, 2003, on reforming the federal-state Medicaid program while countering cuts in the public dental budget.

“It is my hope that as a dental community we

can take these discussions further and work together to develop policies and proposals that will help improve the operation of the dental Medicaid program and, ultimately, improve access to oral health care for those most in need,” ADA President-elect Richard Haught told the symposium audience.

The American Dental Association convened

representatives of professional dental and hygiene organizations, federal and state agencies, state legislatures, public health and other Medicaid stakeholders to develop ideas for an Association “white paper” on dental Medicaid reform. Participants from 29 states and the District of Columbia took part in the two-day brainstorming workshop.



Dental Medicaid issues: Roundtable participants (Department of Health and Environmental Control Committee and Dushanka Kleinman, chief dental officer for Medicaid reform.

“As you well know, the access-to-care issues are compounded by state and federal budget deficits, and the dental profession and other stakeholders must respond,” said Dr. Haught, a Tulsa, Okla., general dentist who as president-elect becomes ADA president in October at annual session in Orlando, Fla.

“State legislatures are looking to each of us for answers,” he said. “This meeting will help us to configure a plan for national reform. As president-elect of the ADA, I also want to work to identify models for state-based reform.”

Dr. James B. Bramson, in opening the symposium, cited recent budget cuts and restrictions in several programs serving low-income patients including dental residency training, State Children’s Health Insurance Programs and Medicaid. He called for “views and opinions” and discussions “not without controversy” toward improving Medicaid financing and

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APHA to take online abstract submissions next month

Washington—The American Public Health Association launched a new online abstract submission program Dec. 19, 2003.

The APHA is looking for abstracts in all areas of public health for its 132nd annual meeting and exposition Nov. 6-10. The theme of the meeting is Public Health and Environment.

Authors need not be members of APHA to submit and abstract, but authors of accepted abstracts must become members and register for the annual meeting.

Submission dates range between Feb. 2-Feb. 6, depending on the topic area. All abstracts must be submitted online. Log on to “www.apha.org” for more information and for links to an easy-to-use online form and step-by-step instructions. ■

id reform



(from left), Drs. Raymond Lala of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Gregory Stoute of the ADA Strategic Planning Committee, and Gregory Stoute, U.S. Public Health Service, discuss options

delivery of dental services to low-income patients. "Every idea is open to consideration."

Dr. Bramson, ADA executive director, invited participants to join with the Association in considering how the broader dental community might work together on developing proposals for dental Medicaid reform. "The ADA goal is to learn from all of you and, by early next year, draft a 'white paper' that will outline ideas expressed during this meeting. That paper will be distributed to you and others who are interested and provide a foundation for the development of Medicaid reform policies."

Participants were asked to consider questions related to program administration, patient eligibility and financing and the impact of recent budget cuts on the Medicaid dental delivery system, and to weigh such alternatives to business as usual as scrapping the Medicaid dental program or finding ways to improve it for dentists and patients. "This symposium focused not on problems but on solutions," said an ADA staff participant.

State budget problems have led to dental-specific cuts in the Medicaid program. Fiscal year 2003 cutbacks in eight states eliminated or restricted access to dental care or imposed other dental-specific restrictions, according to a 50-state survey by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. A Bush administration Medicaid reform proposal could affect dental benefits and reimbursement as well.

Symposium speakers offering perspectives on the Bush administration proposal and Medicaid reform included Dr. Conan Davis, recent ADA congressional fellow and chief dental officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Dr. Don Schneider, dental health policy consultant and former government dental official; Joan Alker, senior researcher, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute; and David Michalik, Delaware Division of Social Services.

The Medicaid symposium planning committee included Dr. Robert Barsley, ADA Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations; Richard Dierks, Minnesota Dental Association executive director; Dr. Raymond Lala, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Martha Phillips, Georgia Dental Association executive director; Dee Raisl, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and Dr. Don Schneider, a former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services dental officer. ■

JADA Online CE launches this month

By Joe Hoyle

Your options for fulfilling continuing education requirements will expand this month with the introduction of the new JADA Online CE module developed by The Journal of the American Dental Association in partnership with the University of Colorado School of Dentistry.

The launch of the JADA Online CE module is planned to coincide with the posting of the January issue of JADA on ADA.org, which will be available by mid-month. The CE module provides for complete online testing, submission, grading and payment for the Journal's

popular continuing education program, offering up to two CE credits each month.

To use the JADA Online CE module, begin by visiting ADA.org at "www.ada.org/prof/resources/pubs/jada/ce.asp". From there you can select CE testing for either ADA members or non-members. ADA members will need to register for members-only content on ADA.org, if they have not done so previously, to receive the discounted member participation rate of \$15 per submission. The fee for non-members is \$20.

Use the online test forms to select answers to the CE questions for the four articles design-

nated as CE vehicles from each issue of JADA. Hyperlinks on the test forms provide access to the full text of each article.

After reviewing your answers, click the "Submit" button to forward your test to the University of Colorado's JADA CE Web site. From there, you will be able to pay the participation fee with a credit card via secure server technology and instantly receive a grade for your test. The University of Colorado School of Dentistry is an ADA CERP and Academy of General Dentistry-recognized continuing education provider and has been partnering with JADA to provide CE since 1995. ■

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Orlando, Fla.—Does the winter chill have you longing for some warm sunshine and fun?

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ing education courses; introduce the new ADA Marketplace featuring over 700 exhibitors; and host special events at Orlando theme parks, the ADA/Sonicare Distinguished Speaker Series, ADA-sponsored tours and much more.

Watch the Jan. 19 issue of ADA News for exciting news and information about annual session 2004. ■

Session sights: Downtown Orlando is filled with restaurants and nightlife.



Photo courtesy of Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.



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Dentist earns healthy workplace award

BY ARLENE FURLONG

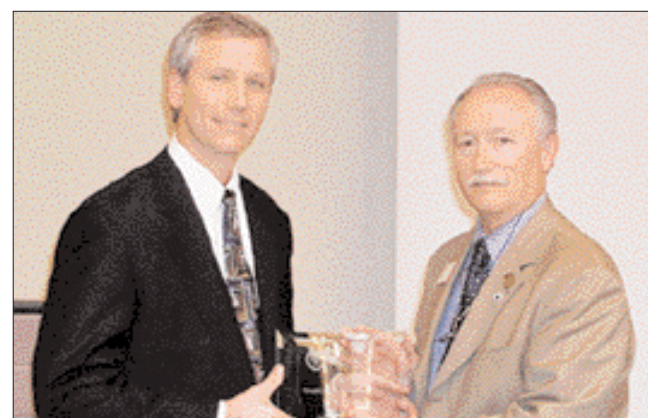
Dr. Don Deems, in October 2003, was the first dentist nationally to receive the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award.

"I didn't even know such an award existed," said the Little Rock, Ark., dentist who was nominated for the Arkansas Psychological Association award by a patient. "Like any dentist trying to run a business, I made mistakes over the years with hiring and firing. It was mainly through personal growth that I learned how to have a healthy workplace."

His Web site advises visitors to embrace life-long happiness both personally and professionally. Feel-good photos of seaside flowers swaying in a breeze and outstretched arms reaching to the sky illustrate his point.

"Each person on the team has to feel like a partner in the practice; each person has to feel that he or she is valued as an employee and as a person," says Dr. Deems.

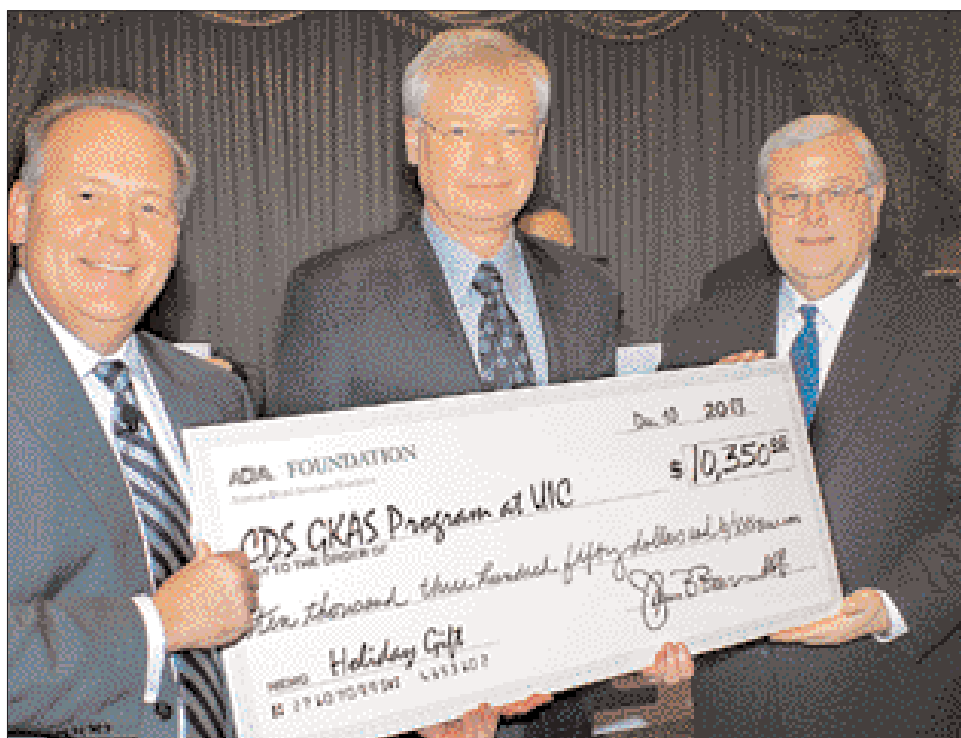
Dr. Robert Doyle of the APA says Dr. Deems



Award winning: Dr. Don Deems, (left), is presented the 2003 Arkansas Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award by the APA's Robert Doyle, Ph.D.

is most deserving of the award, offered through the American Psychological Association in some 30 states nationwide.

"Dr. Deems understands that small-business owners need to put their energies in their employees," said Dr. Doyle. "Employees are their most important asset. It's about more than being a nice guy. It's about offering employees opportunities for personal development and showing genuine concern for their welfare." ■



Something to smile about: ADA Executive Director James B. Bramson (at left), awards a donation to Dr. Bruce Graham (center), dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, and Randy Grove, executive director of the Chicago Dental Society, at the ADA employee holiday celebration Dec. 12, 2003. ADA staff raised \$10,350 in its annual Smiles for Kids charity raffle to benefit the Give Kids A Smile program at UIC. College and dental society officials plan to use the gift to double the size of their GKAS clinic in 2004.

GKAS begins

District of Columbia Dental Society pre-screens 200 kids



Say ahhh: From left, Maribeth Lobo, dental assistant, lends a helping hand to Dr. Margaret Culotta-Norton, chair of DCDS Give Kids A Smile committee. Of the 200 children seen, a full 80 percent require follow-up care.

BY KAREN FOX

Washington—Dental volunteers who organized a Dec. 10 oral health screening at a D.C.-area elementary school got more than they bargained for.

As part of Washington, D.C.'s Give Kids A Smile promotion, the District of Columbia Dental Society dispatched 40 volunteer dentists and their staff members to pre-screen children at the Bruce-Monroe Elementary School.

Each classroom, grades 1 through 6, filed through the school's cafeteria for oral health screenings and instruction that lasted a total of

two hours. Of the 200 children seen, a full 80 percent require follow-up care.

"With this age group, I would have thought about 60 percent would require more treatment," said Dr. Margaret Culotta-Norton, chair of the DCDS Give Kids A Smile committee. "I was even more surprised at the extent of the caries that I saw. There were multiple caries, and many of those caries had more than one surface involved."

The DCDS focused on one school with a low socioeconomic student population and a suspected high degree of dental needs. Bruce-

Monroe is also located in close proximity to the Howard University College of Dentistry, where those children needing treatment will receive care during Give Kids A Smile events on Feb. 6.

"We're trying to reach the kids who are from working poor families," said Dr. Sally Cram, president of the DC Dental Society. "The message we're sending to policymakers is that there are people who fall through the cracks, and that everyone has to come together if we're going to solve the problem of dental access. We can't do it alone."

Dr. Culotta-Norton agreed, adding: "We're not even going to make a dent in what we saw yesterday."

"These children will get treated but we're not going to fix all of this disease in one day," she said. "They're not going to be completely free of caries, so how are we going to deal with this problem?"

Working with the staff and administrators at Bruce-Monroe helped DCDS volunteers streamline the event. Dental volunteers hoped to screen 350 children Dec. 10, but not all children returned parental consent forms.

Even so, having 200 children signed up to participate was a coup compared to last year. DCDS attributes the remarkable increase in participation to good planning. DCDS worked with the Bruce-Monroe parent-teacher association and got the parents on board well in advance.

Consent forms continue to trickle in, Dr. Culotta-Norton told the ADA News Dec. 11. "As they come in, one or two of [the DCDS members and their staff] will go back to the school to screen additional kids in next month," she said.

A key component of the prescreening involved educating the children.

"As the public health people say, you don't cure dental disease by filling holes," said Dr. Bernard McDermott, ADA 4th District trustee and one of the DCDS volunteers who staffed the prescreening.

Dr. McDermott worked with dental hygienists who showed instructional videotapes to the schoolchildren; discussed the importance of prevention with an emphasis on fluoride, brushing and diet; and answered the kids' questions.

"They wanted to know how long they should brush, could you brush too hard, why you should wear a mouthguard," he said. "Unfortunately, they also have a high degree of dental needs." ■

State and local dental societies plan for Feb. 6

From coast to coast and beyond, as of ADA News press time some 24,740 dental professionals and volunteers have signed up to deliver free dental care to children on Give Kids A Smile day (Feb. 6).

The following is just a glimpse into what some state and local dental societies, dental schools, the federal dental services and public health agencies have planned, and the number of children they expect to treat:

- The San Diego County Dental Society, up to 20,000 children;
- Delaware State Dental Society, 400 to 500 children;
- Andrews Air Force Base (Maryland), up to 800 children;
- New Jersey Dental Association, 300 to 1,000 children;
- Egyptian Dental Association (Cairo, Egypt), up to 500 children;
- Paul D. West Middle School (East Point, Ga.), 1,300 to 1,400 children;
- Hawaii Dental Association, 200 to 500 children;
- Upper Snake River Dental Society (covering a 16-county area of Idaho), 2,500 to 5,000 children;
- Student National Dental Association, University of Tennessee College of Dentistry (Memphis), up to 500 children;
- Fort Worth District Dental Society (Texas), up to 500 children;
- Holland/Zeland Dental Society (Michigan), from 1,750 to 2,000 children.

Dr. Robert C. Ankerman, the Holland/Zeland Dental Society's secretary-treasurer, said Give Kids A Smile fits nicely with the society's 20-year tradition of performing "flashlight" examinations on area first-graders.

"We have a few long-term volunteers and as new dentists come in, we always talk about National Children's Dental Health Month at meetings and enlist some of the newer members," said Dr. Ankerman.

Having corporate support from the dental industry has been a boon to the program, he added. "As far as I know, this is the first time the ADA has come through with something big like that, and we are really pleased that so many supplies were donated," said Dr. Ankerman. ■

CDA Foundation partnership earns \$7 million oral health education grant

BY JOE HOYLE

Sacramento, Calif.—A joint venture of the California Dental Association Foundation and the Dental Health Foundation received preliminary notification Nov. 12 of the award of a \$7 million contract to develop and administer the oral health education and training component of a California initiative targeting dental decay in children age 5 and younger.

The four-year project, part of the California Children and Families Commission's \$10 million First 5 California Oral Health Initiative, encompasses education and training for dental and medical care providers and a consumer oral health education program for parents and other

caregivers, both focusing on the prevention of early childhood caries and the promotion of early childhood oral health, according to the CCFC's project proposal.

The contract is believed to be the single largest oral health education grant ever awarded in California according to the CDA Foundation, which will partner with the Dental Health Foundation, a California oral health advocacy group, on the project.

The professional education component will provide education and training for both dental and primary care professionals in the oral health care of children age 5 and younger, emphasizing the latest scientific information on the pre-

vention of dental disease, while the consumer component will raise awareness of the importance of early oral health care for young children and prevention of dental decay, according to the CCFC.

"This is a very significant accomplishment for our foundation and for CDA," said Peter DuBois, CDA executive director and CDA Foundation vice chairman, on receiving the CCFC's "Notice of Intent" to award the contract.

"It will enable us to make a very significant contribution to oral health education," he added. "And it will substantially strengthen our leadership position in oral health in California and with our public health community." ■

GKAS

Continued from page one

Feb. 6, the second annual Give Kids A Smile, kicks off the February observance of National Children's Dental Health Month. Last year's inaugural event saw more than 1 million children receiving free dental care and products valued at \$100 million.

The Nasdaq Stock Market provides key national exposure to Give Kids A Smile. The Nasdaq is home to companies that are leaders in all area of business—including technology, retail, communications, financial services, media and biotechnology industries. More companies are listed on Nasdaq than all other major U.S. stock markets.

Initially, Sullivan-Schein Dental promised 153 supply packages for 2004's Give Kids A Smile. But during the selection process, the company anted up almost 50 more packages to deserving programs—including many constituent and component dental societies. ■

ADA Reports

Dental societies awarded

BY JOE HOYLE

The Massachusetts Dental Society and Metropolitan Denver Dental Society were among 12 associations honored with Awards of Excellence for contributions to society in the American Society of Association Executives' 2004 Associations Advance America Awards program.

Award of Excellence winners are automatically entered into consideration for the ASAE's Summit Award, the group's highest honor. This year, the ADA's Give Kids A Smile access-to-care campaign received the prestigious Summit Award.

Selected by a panel of association peers from among more than 120 candidate activities, the two dental programs and 10 other recipients were recognized for "innovative programs in education, skills training, standard setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship and community service."

The Massachusetts Dental Society's Grin and

Wear It program educates parents and children on the importance of mouthguard use during contact sports.

The Metropolitan Denver Dental Society's Domestic Violence Dental Care program offers cost-free dental care to disadvantaged survivors of domestic violence in Denver in an effort to

restore oral health and assist in recovery.

"These award-winning programs embody the tremendous commitment to community exhibited by thousands of voluntary organizations every day," said Kristina Cook, executive director of the National Affordable Housing Management Association and 2004 chair of

ASAE's Associations Advance America Committee.

"Not only do the AAA Awards provide recognition to some very deserving organizations, they also help tell the story of what associations do to members of Congress and other key decision-makers, the media and the general public," she added. ■

Revered dental leader honored

San Francisco—The University of California-San Francisco School of Dentistry unveiled a portrait of one of its most distinguished leaders Nov. 4, 2003.

Dr. John C. Greene, dean from 1981-94, made the school's research base what it is today. His portrait now hangs in the entrance to the school's dental clinics.

"John Greene made an indelible impact not only as dean of the UCSF School of Dentistry, but also by his innumerable contributions through the U.S. Public Health Service and Oral Health America," said Dr. Charles Bertolami, UCSF's current dean. "He presided over the school during a period which saw a tremendous

Classic: The portrait of Dr. John Greene, by artist Craig Nelson, adorns the entrance to the UCSF School of Dentistry's clinics.

enhancement of our reputation, and is largely responsible for our position as a premier dental educational and research institution."

It was at the USPHS where Dr. Greene began his career, serving for three decades and rising to the rank of Chief Dental Officer. Dr. Greene was also the first non-physician to serve as Deputy Surgeon General.

Dr. Greene is now professor emeritus and dean emeritus of the UCSF dental school. ■

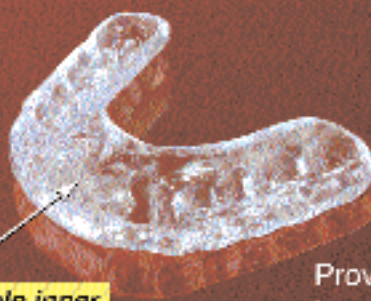
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Paffenbarger

Continued from page one
ADA, and we are proud of our shared success.”

Addressed to ADA Executive Director James B. Bramson, the letter was signed also by Leslie Smith, Ph.D., director of NIST’s Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory.

Dr. Bramson responded to the message with his own note of appreciation.

“The Association, too, is very proud of the Paffenbarger Research Center’s long history of accomplishments, few of which would have been possible without the support and assistance of NIST.”

In 1928, when NIST was the National Bureau of Standards, the ADA formed a unique research agreement with the federal government, “and the list of innovations emanating from that alliance has been impressive, to say the least,”

noted William A. Marjenhoff, Ph.D., in a report on the Paffenbarger Research Center that appeared in the Journal of the American College of Dentists in 1992.

The “research accomplishments” resulting from this partnership qualify as “one of dentistry’s best-kept secrets,” observed Dr. Marjenhoff, then a PRC staff member.

Even a partial list of the discoveries and innovations springing from this collaboration reads like a primer on modern dentistry:

- the high-speed handpiece;
- panoramic radiography;
- composite filling materials;
- pit-and-fissure sealants;
- orthodontic bracket bonding materials;
- adhesives for bonding to dentin and enamel;
- calcium phosphate bone cements;
- glass-ceramic inserts;
- radiation shielding materials.

And much, much more.

Housed at NIST headquarters in Gaithersburg, Md., the PRC assigns its innovations to the ADA Foundation, which, in turn, licenses them for production and marketing to dental manufacturers worldwide. Income from these license agreements helps support ADAF research and educational programs.

“A lot of the materials and other products

dentists use today originated in our labs and were licensed to manufacturers,” said Dr. Frederick C. Eichmiller, a dentist and PRC director since 1994, when he succeeded Dr. Rafael Bowen, a near-legendary figure in dental research.

Among other innovations, Dr. Bowen is credited with developing dental composites, bonding to dentin, pit-and-fissure sealants and orthodontic bracket bonding resins.

In addition to revenues from license agreements, the PRC is funded through a yearly grant from the ADA to the ADA Foundation, as well as in-kind contributions from NIST and research grants from the National Institutes of Health, mainly from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Total PRC funding amounted to about \$4 million in 2001.

ADA | FOUNDATION

American Dental Association Foundation

The PRC is named for its first director, Dr. George Colby Paffenbarger, who recognized the need

for the dental profession and the public to understand the value of work ADA and then-NBS researchers were doing.

Having earned his dental degree from Ohio State University in 1924, Dr. Paffenbarger joined the staff at ADA/NBS in 1929. In time, he earned plaudits for his research on dental impression materials and polymer-based denture materials, as well as his studies on the retentive mechanisms of dental cement.

But perhaps his greatest contribution came late in life when he partnered with two colleagues—NBS scientists John A. Tesk and Walter E. Brown—to document the development of modern dental materials research, starting in 1919 with the inception of a dental research program at NBS.

That year, the U.S. Army asked the bureau to develop a bid specification for purchasing dental amalgam. The resulting study led in time to the ADA/NBS (now NIST) collaboration that continues to this day.

“We remain enthusiastic about our partnership, and we are committed to helping the Paffenbarger Research Center add to its already impressive list of vital contributions to clinical dentistry and oral health,” wrote NIST Director Bement in his letter to the ADA.

Replying for the ADA, Dr. Bramson assured



Research pioneer: Dr. George Paffenbarger’s groundbreaking research in the field of dental materials helped establish a 75-year partnership between the ADA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Mr. Bement that the Association looks forward to working with NIST in the “growing fields of biomedical research and biotechnology.”

The ADA, he said, is fortunate to have NIST as a partner, “as we continue our efforts to bring new technologies to dental practice.” ■

Amalgam

Continued from page one
in local side-effects or, in other words, allergic reactions.

As recently as Oct. 30, 2003, a paper in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that exposure to mercury from dental amalgam, as well as from fish consumption and vaccines, is not associated with adverse health effects.



Dr. Eichmiller

“These studies uniformly reaffirm that dental amalgam is a safe material,” Dr. Eichmiller told panel members.

The ADA Council on Scientific Affairs continues to monitor the scientific literature on the safety and effectiveness of products commonly used in dentistry, including amalgam.

Dr. Eichmiller also testified on the effectiveness of amalgam, which he said remains a valuable restorative option for dentists and patients, even with the availability of newer composite resins and other materials. He

Feds tap independent expert panel

Bethesda, Md.—To conduct its third and latest review of literature related to the human health effects of dental amalgam, federal health agencies turned to Life Sciences Research Office, a 40-year-old, non-profit scientific organization in Bethesda, Md., which describes itself as a “widely accepted, authoritative source, independent from special-interest groups and politics” and producing “timely, comprehensive, state-of-the-science review.”

Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, said the LSRO had been engaged to “critically evaluate the scientific, peer-reviewed literature to determine whether there are any questions being raised, any new evidence related to the health effects of den-

tal amalgam in humans.”

Dr. Kleinman addressed the LSRO panel on behalf of the review sponsors: the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health.

“We critically look at the literature about every five years to inform those of us within agencies of the PHS and organizations outside,” she noted.

Just as the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs is constantly looking at safety-related data on all types of dental devices, federal agencies carry on similar reviews to update the literature on regulated dental devices and their safety, explained Dr. Frederick Eichmiller, director of the ADA Foundation’s Paffenbarger Research Center.

cited, among other properties, amalgam’s toleration of moisture during placement—important for fillings in areas difficult to keep dry, such as below the gum line.

Amalgam, he said, is the strongest and most durable direct restorative material for large, load-bearing restorations on posterior teeth. Gold and porcelain may also be suitable, but

they are considerably more expensive. Banning amalgam, he cautioned, would have a dramatic effect on oral health care.

“I want to be clear,” Dr. Eichmiller declared, “the ADA does not support one restorative material over another. Amalgam is one valid choice among several, depending on clinical and other factors. We believe the ultimate deci-

The panel currently at work on amalgam continues that ongoing process. The sponsors of this review, said Dr. Eichmiller, are being extra cautious in protecting the objectivity of the review. To ensure its independence, therefore, they sought experts to weigh testimony who have absolutely no potential conflicts of interest.

This expert panel heard testimony Dec. 12 from Dr. Eichmiller and other researchers on the safety of amalgam. It also heard testimony from patients and researchers who claim amalgam is a health hazard and should be banned.

LSRO’s Review and Analysis of the Literature on the Potential Health Effects of Dental Amalgams will convene again Feb. 17-18 in Bethesda. ■

sion about what filling materials to use is best determined by the patient in consultation with the dentist.

“The ADA and its members are proud of our commitment to scientifically sound dental practice as an integral component of our responsibilities as health professionals and citizens,” he concluded. ■

ACP names first woman leader

Dr. Nancy S. Arbree is new president of prosthodontist group

BY MARK BERTHOLD

Boston—Vivacious and smart, with both feet in the 21st century and a convincing view of prosthodontists in the community of dentistry: that's Dr. Nancy S. Arbree.



Involved: Dr. Arbree says that women in leadership positions serve as role models for other women dentists.

Dr. Arbree is the first woman president of the American College of Prosthodontists.

"I'd like to think we have a kinder, gentler environment in dentistry because of the influence of women—it makes for a better balance; the blend is more reflective of life," says Dr. Arbree, also associate dean of academic affairs and curriculum at Tufts University dental school.

Her own influence is echoing today as role model to the roughly 45 percent of entering, first-year dental students who are women.

"A big reason," she acknowledges, "for myself becoming involved politically, besides serving prosthodontics, was for women dentists to see a woman in a leadership position and say, 'I could do that, I could be president.'"

Dr. Arbree notes with agreement that gender, in many ways, isn't so much an issue as in the past. More women dentists are attaining high positions of administration in dental societies, government agencies and academia.

"When I first came to the ACP board, I was accepted as an equal at the table," she recalls. "I

remember someone told me, 'Don't forget to speak out. What you have to say is just as important as any director who's been here for a decade.' That was very welcoming to hear as a woman."

But Dr. Arbree is also glad to find dentistry very amenable to women. "I've found prosthodontics a wonderful career for a woman," she says. "Because if you choose to have a family, you can still practice three or four days a week—at a high level and improve the quality of so many lives." ■

CDA elects first woman president

BY JOE HOYLE

Sacramento, Calif.—Dr. Debra S. Finney, the California Dental Association's first woman president, was installed into office at the CDA's annual House of Delegates meeting Nov. 9, 2003.



Dr. Finney

"I realize I represent a change in the leadership of CDA," Dr. Finney said of her new office. "It is my goal that members recognize leadership is not an elite group. Our duty is to provide members with the information that enables them to make sound decisions based on scientific research as well as educating their patients about their treatment options."

A graduate of the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, Dr. Finney maintains a private periodontal practice in Folsom, Calif. She has also served as an instructor at the University of Washington School of Dentistry.

"My focus and theme for this year is 'Uniting our Community,'" Dr. Finney added. "I hope to bring together those involved in the delivery of dental care in California."

The CDA House also installed Dr. Russell I. Webb as president-elect and Dr. Dennis W. Hobby as vice president. ■

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'Dentist saves patient's life'

Oral cancer grant CE course debuts to standing room only crowd

BY STACIE CROZIER

After a year of planning and preparation, the ADA's oral cancer prevention continuing education course is on its way to a location near you.

"Dentist Saves Patient's Life: Early Oral Cancer Detection and Tobacco Use Cessation," which debuted at annual session in San Francisco in October 2003, was developed by the ADA and prominent researchers thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute.

The course will be presented a total of 50 times at locations nationwide between now and December 2006. (See story, page 19.)

Oral cancer affects more than 27,000 Americans each year, including more than 18,000 men, and claims the lives of nearly 8,000 people, according to the American Cancer Society.

Nearly half of all patients who develop oral cancer don't survive five years—a statistic that



hasn't improved in the last two decades—so through the grant from NCI, the ADA convened a panel of experts to design a course that focuses on early detection of oral cancer and prevention through tobacco use cessation using techniques and information that dentists can use in every day patient care.

Dr. Sol Silverman, professor of oral medicine at the University of California-San

Francisco School of Dentistry, and Dr. Kathleen Vendrell Rankin, professor and vice chair of the department of public health sciences at Baylor College of Dentistry, presented the premier course to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 at annual session.

Dr. Silverman, principal investigator for the grant, and Dr. Rankin, grant collaborator, worked closely with the expert panel in developing the course.

"Based on feedback from course attendees, as well as the enthusiasm of dental organizations throughout the country to include our program into their educational courses," said Dr. Silverman, "we are optimistic in reaching the grant goals."

The course's goals are to increase the number of dentists who provide oral cancer screen-



Grant funding in action: Dr. Sol Silverman addresses the standing-room-only crowd for the first presentation of the oral cancer continuing education course "Dentist Saves Patient's Life" during annual session in San Francisco Oct. 25, 2003. The course will be presented a total of 50 times nationwide from now through 2006.

ings and detect oral cancer in its earliest stages and to increase the number of dentists who practice tobacco cessation.

Dentists who take this five-hour course will learn the cutting edge diagnostic techniques, skills for early clinical recognition of oral cancer and precancerous lesions, risk factors for oral cancer and the latest tobacco use cessation therapies. ■

ACCESSUPDATE

Dentists 'adopt' families in need

Elmhurst, Ill.—Solo dentists looking for a way to participate in the ADA's Give Kids A Smile program Feb. 6 might want to take a cue from Dr. George Rivera, a dentist in Elmhurst, Ill., who is starting his second year in a community "adopt-a-family" program.

The program, launched by the local hospital, was one of 75 community service projects begun in honor of Elmhurst Memorial Center for Health's 75th anniversary, says Dr. Rivera.

Last year Dr. Rivera provided dental care free of charge to a family in need referred to him by the hospital.

"They get the same standard of care as our fee-for-service patients and their status is

totally confidential," he says.

"I feel like we got more out of it than the patients who received care," Dr. Rivera adds. "I'm in my 20th year of practice and I wish I'd done this sooner. Dentistry has been good to me and it's a wonderful way to give back."

This year he will soon adopt a new family. "I hope more dentists can do something like this to help families in their communities who don't have access to care," Dr. Rivera adds.

Nine years ago, a Plano, Texas, family with three children decided to open their home and hearts to eight siblings who wanted to be adopted into the same family.

And for nine years, Plano dentist Dr. Bob Hunsucker has donated dental care to the baker's dozen-sized family.

"The family saw a TV news program profile about eight brothers and sisters who

wanted to be adopted into one family, and they decided to go for it," says Dr. Hunsucker. "I figured a family with 11 children would have a hard time affording dental care, so I called the television station and asked if they had a dentist, and that's how it got started."

Dr. Hunsucker dedicates one Saturday each year to perform cleanings, checkups and needed care for all 13 family members. He and his staff usually invite another dentist and some extra team members to spend the day helping take care of the family's oral health needs.

"We've gone through a lot together," he says. "I've watched them grow up; now one child is in the Navy. I've gotten married and had a child of my own. We've become really close. It's been a great experience."

Wisconsin law insures volunteers

Madison, Wis.—Wisconsin retired dentists and dental hygienists who volunteer to treat low-income patients now have state liability insurance coverage. Gov. Jim Doyle signed a bill into law that extends coverage to dentists who volunteer in treating patients covered by BadgerCare or Medicaid.

State Rep. Steve Wiecek hopes the law will "unleash a whole array of retired dentists and dental hygienists" to help provide access to care.

Volunteer dentists in Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana and Oregon are among those protected from civil liability for ordinary negligence in providing uncompensated care by state law.

—Compiled by Stacie Crozier

Oral cancer CE course set for eight cities from February through April

Following up on the national premiere of the ADA's "Dentist Saves Patient's Life: Early Oral Cancer Detection and Tobacco Use Cessation" course at annual session in San Francisco, the day-long continuing education seminar will be held at eight additional sites through April.

The course, developed by the ADA and prominent researchers with a \$1.2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute, covers early clinical recognition of oral cancer and precancerous lesions, risk factors and the latest tobacco use cessation therapies. Contact the individual course site for more information or to register:

• **Minneapolis**, Friday, Feb. 13, Ms. Peg Hansen, 1-800-685-1418, "www.dentalce.umn.edu";

• **Fort Lauderdale, Fla.**, Saturday, March 13, Ms. Rhonda Gittens, 1-800-356-0026, "dentalce@nova.edu" or "dental.nova.edu/ce/";

• **San Francisco**, Sunday, March 14, Ms. Jane Wright Hayes, 1-415-929-6486, "www.dental.uop.edu";

• **Philadelphia**, Saturday, March 27, Ms. Lynne Lawler, 1-866-736-6233, "lynne.l@pobox.upenn.edu";

• **Louisville, Ky.**, Saturday, April 3, Dr. Norbert Burzynski, 1-502-852-1239, "njbuz01@louisville.edu";

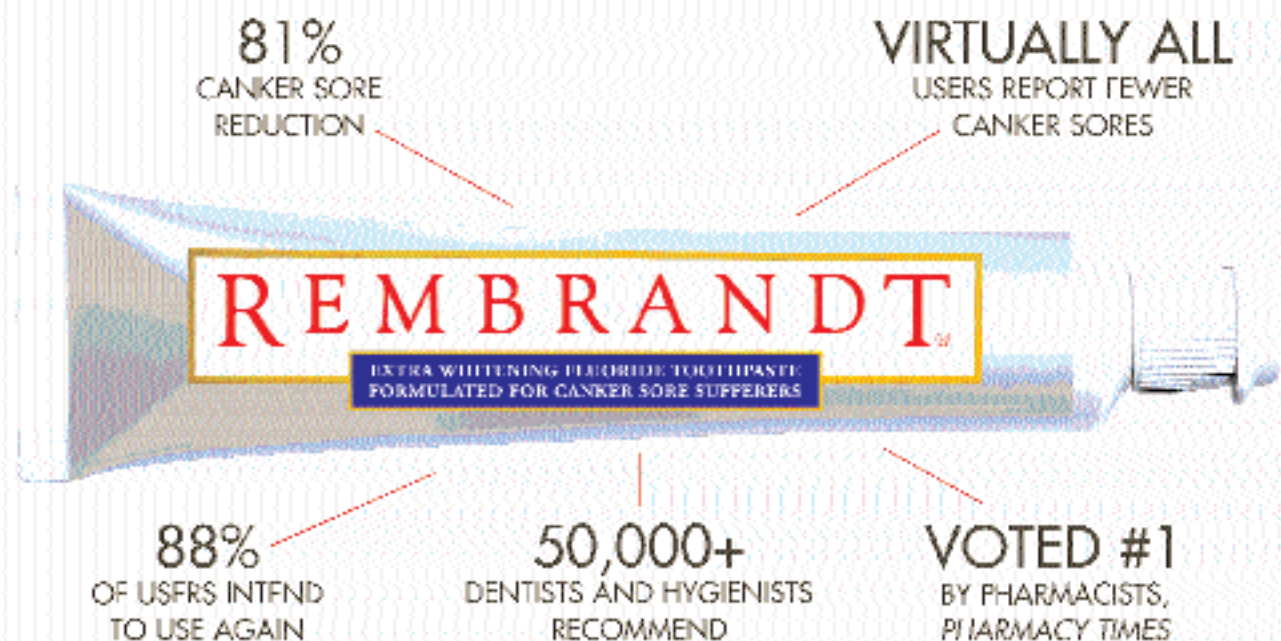
• **Anaheim, Calif.**, Friday, April 16, California Dental Association, 1-866-232-6362, "www.cda.org";

• **Jackson, Miss.**, Friday, April 23, Dr. Frances Gordy, 1-601-984-6071, "fgordy@sod.umsmed.edu";

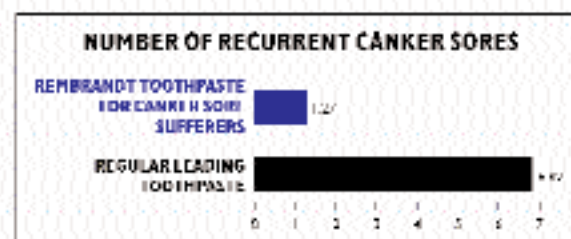
• **Milwaukee**, Thursday, April 29, Ms. Lani Becker, 1-800-364-7646, "lbecker@wda.org".

A total of 41 additional presentations of this course will be held nationwide through December 2006. Watch the ADA News for future course listings or contact Mary Wheatley at the toll free number, Ext. 2839, or e-mail "wheatlym@ada.org". ■

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