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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Francis G. Serio Honored with ADA 2015 Humanitarian Award

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 2, 2015 — In recognition of his more than three decades of service, Dr. Frances G. Serio has been named the 2015 ADA Humanitarian Award recipient. He will be honored during ADA 2015 — America's Dental Meeting, Nov. 5-10 in Washington, D.C.

In 1982, Dr. Francis G. "Frank" Serio took a leap of faith, making a one-man mission trip to provide dental care in a remote region of the Dominican Republic. Today, that first small step has grown into a dental charity that has provided care to thousands of residents in poor rural areas of that country and beyond. The Dominican Dental Mission Project (DDMP) is just one example of how Dr. Serio has touched and improved the lives of countless people through volunteerism and education.

"When I took that first trip in 1982 by myself, I didn't know what I was doing," said Dr. Serio, the founder and co-director of the DDMP. "I didn't speak Spanish. I didn't know anything about the country or about development. I went totally on faith and by the grace of God. The Catholic Medical Mission Board (a nonprofit international health organization) assigned me to work at a specific site in San Jose de Ocoa because the nuns there were bilingual and the compound would be able to facilitate groups of volunteers in the future."

Throughout the past 33 summers, the project has provided more than \$15 million worth of needed dental care and dental and medical supplies to some 60,000 rural poor in the Dominican Republic and the local hospital.

Dr. Serio also lectures on the continuing education circuit on periodontics and global volunteerism. He has authored some 90 articles, abstracts, textbook chapters, books and other publications. He was a founding member and former chair for the ADA's Dentistry Overseas Steering Committee, and serves on the International College of Dentists Humanitarian Liaison Subcommittee. He also presents programs on volunteer activities for dental professionals and their families at major dental meetings nationwide for the ICD and was a coordinator and speaker at the ADA's first several volunteer symposia, now held biannually at the annual meeting.

Dr. Serio is also a contributing author of the ADA's International Dental Volunteer Guide, now available as an e-book at internationalvolunteer.ada.org

Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to follow the ADA on Twitter @AmerDentalAssn

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About the American Dental Association

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 158,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly *The Journal of the American Dental Association* (JADA) is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit ada.org. For more information on oral health, including prevention, care and treatment of dental disease, visit the ADA's consumer website MouthHealthy.org.