News from the President
Nancy Rublee

The American Association for Community Dental Programs (AACDP) annual symposium was held on April 16–17, 2016, preceding the National Oral Health Conference, in the beautiful city of Cincinnati, OH. AACDP offered up-to-date information about what is happening at the local, state, regional, and national levels that affects community oral health programs.

AACDP felt the impact of a sluggish economy and budget deficits with below-normal attendance at the symposium. Those working at the local level have experienced dramatic funding cuts that have hit support for attending out-of-state conferences particularly hard. We know that maintaining oral health programs and services for underserved populations is where limited funding is best used. However, when I’m able to connect with others committed to serving community programs and gather knowledge from extraordinary speakers, I come home inspired, engaged, and better able to respond to the oral health needs of the most vulnerable populations.

Pictured: Symposium attendees
This year, AACDP paid tribute to two outstanding individuals who have made remarkable contributions to local, state, and national public oral health throughout their careers. As president of AACDP it gives me great pleasure to recognize the unsung heroes whose dedication and devotion to oral health might not otherwise be acknowledged. The Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Buddhi Shrestha, D.D.S., Ph.D. Dr. Shrestha’s quiet demeanor belies this powerhouse of a dentist, educator, and leader who has dedicated his life to promoting oral health.

Maureen Oostdik, B.A., R.D.H., received the John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award, which perfectly befits her character and life’s work in oral health. Ms. Oostdik retired from public service on January 27, 2013, after 16 years as the oral health specialist for the City of Madison, Public Health—Madison and Dane County, WI. Her passion for promoting the understanding that oral health care is a critical component of overall health care never ends. Her efforts to include oral health in the design of all community programs has reverberated time and time again. For example, as she worked on Wisconsin State Health Plan Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, she continually reminded others to include oral health in the plan because it impacts overall health.

Before closing, I’d like to highlight some significant recent and long-standing events. In 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration finalized a ruling to extend regulatory authority to cover all tobacco products, including vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes (e-cigs), e-pipes, and all other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). The Commission on Dental Accreditation adopted a process for the accreditation of dental therapy education programs. And the undeniable science continues to support the safety, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of community water fluoridation (CWF), which has dramatically improved the oral health of millions of Americans.

Please mark April 22–23, 2017, on your calendar for the next AACDP annual symposium to be held in Albuquerque, NM. It will be another exciting, forward-thinking event.
AACDP Symposium 2016

Following is an overview of the AACDP symposium that was held on April 16–17, 2016, in Cincinnati, OH. Many of the speakers’ slides are available on AACDP’s Meetings webpage.

April 16, 2016

Nuts and Bolts: American Fluoridation Society Inaugural Interactive Fluoridation Workshop

During this interactive workshop, Kurt Ferre, Charles Haynie, Johnny Johnson Jr., and Steven Slott (American Fluoridation Society) provided information about CWF. They discussed the benefits of CWF and reviewed the costs of tooth decay and its effects on children’s quality of life. They also focused on efforts from anti-fluoridation proponents to block CWF and to instill mistrust of fluoridated water in the public, myths and truths about dental fluorosis, and recent scientific research showing that CWF is safe and cost-effective and that it works to prevent tooth decay. They also addressed how to mobilize communities in support of CWF, how to build relationships to support CWF, and how to address opposition to CWF.

April 17, 2016

Welcome and President’s Message

Nancy Rublee (AACDP president) and Larry Hill (AACDP executive director) welcomed attendees to the AACDP symposium. They discussed AACDP’s key role in promoting oral health at the local level and the importance of remaining abreast of obstacles to establishing and maintaining programs and services to support good oral health, as well as opportunities for overcoming these obstacles. They emphasized that there is much to be done and that professionals’ assistance with the effort is always greatly appreciated.

Useful Fluoridation Resources

- American Fluoridation Society
- Campaign for Dental Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Community Water Fluoridation
- Community Water Fluoridation
- Fluoridation Facts
- State and local health departments
- Tap into Healthy Teeth
Cincinnati Dental Programs: Evolving Oral Health Access Programs in Greater Cincinnati

Nancy Carter and Marilyn Crumpton (Cincinnati Health Department) and Sonya Dreves (CincySmiles) provided information about school-based health services in Cincinnati, OH. They discussed the rationale for and importance of school-based health services; planning programs and obtaining support and acceptance from parents, staff, and the community; determining need; involving school nurses; and conducting oral health screenings.

The Feds and You: What Is Going on at the Federal and State Level to Support Local Efforts

Renée Joskow (Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA]), Pamella Vodicka (Maternal and Child Health Bureau [MCHB]), and Katherine Weno (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]) provided information about what their respective agencies are doing to support oral health. Renée Joskow discussed HRSA’s mission and goals and talked about two HRSA program areas with investments in oral health: (1) improving access to quality health and services and (2) integrating oral health into primary care. Pamella Vodicka focused on MCHB’s Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Initiative to reduce the prevalence of oral disease in pregnant women and infants through improved access to high-quality oral health care. Katherine Weno offered information about what CDC is doing to promote evidence-based interventions to prevent oral disease; CDC’s Division of Oral Health strategic priorities; and what’s new at CDC in CWF, school-based dental sealant programs, and chronic disease/oral health integration.

The Dental Therapist National Movement: Impact on Dental Hygiene, Impact of CODA, Emerging State Legislation

Frank Catalanotto (University of Florida College of Dentistry), David Jordan (Community Catalyst), and Mary Williard (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium) discussed various aspects of the dental therapist movement and its impact on oral health. They shared information on the educational requirements and qualifications.

Mark Doherty (Safety Net Solutions, DentaQuest Institute), Lynn Bethel Short (consultant), and Janet Yellowitz (Geriatric Dental Programs, University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery) discussed various issues related to oral health for older adults. Mark Doherty provided information for dental therapists, how dental therapists in Alaska and Minnesota are helping to meet the need for oral health care, and legislation related to dental therapists in process in other states. The presenters also discussed the Commission on Dental Accreditation’s decision to accredit dental therapy programs and how this decision may affect the future of oral health care in the United States.

Roundtables: “Lunch with the Bunch”

Roundtables: “Lunch with the Bunch” focused on a wide variety of topics, including Alaska’s dental health aide therapist program, a national update on dental therapy legislation, fluoridation communication and organizing, oral health for older adults, oral health programs in Cincinnati, the Title V Block Grant and its potential to improve oral health, and an update on community dental health coordinators.
about efforts on the part of the Administration for Community Living to identify, promote, and vet low-cost, community-based oral health programs for older adults. He also described a forthcoming resource, *Community Guide to Adult Dental Program Implementation*. Lynn Bethel Short talked about the results of an oral health survey administered to long-term care nursing facility directors and oral health screenings of older adults in Massachusetts and offered recommendations for improving oral health among older adults. Janet Yellowitz provided information about how to ensure that older adults have the best possible oral health, challenges of working with this population, barriers to obtaining oral health care, and oral health concerns that older adults often face.

**Hot Topics: Late-Breaking News**

Donna Behrens (School-Based Health Alliance) and Beth Lowe (National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center) discussed integrating oral health into schools and into school-based health centers (SBHCs). Donna Behrens talked about how 10 large school districts have incorporated oral health into their systems and the goals of the School-Based Health Alliance in working with these school districts. Challenges that school-based oral health programs face were also discussed. Beth Lowe discussed ideas to consider when integrating comprehensive oral health services into primary care in existing school-based health centers, including key elements of successful integration. She also described a new resource, *Integrating Sustainable Oral Health Services into Primary Care in School-Based Health Centers: A Framework* (see New and Noteworthy Resources for more information).

Scott Tomar (Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science, University of Florida College of Dentistry) provided information about silver diamine fluoride, including what it is, how it works, and evidence for its effectiveness in preventing tooth decay. He also explained how it is used, what types of uses are appropriate, and how often it needs to be applied.

Pictured: Scott Tomar, speaker
AACDP Awards

Myron Allukian Jr., AACDP awards committee chair, presented Buddhi Shrestha with the Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dental Programs and Maureen Oostdik with the John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award during the National Oral Health Conference on April 17, 2016, in Cincinnati, OH.

Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions in Community Dental Programs

During his long and illustrious career, Buddhi Shrestha has devoted himself to serving the community and specifically to improving the oral health of New York state residents—particularly that of children who are underserved. Dr. Shrestha was the founding chair of the Rochester Regional Oral Health Coalition in 1999, and he has played a key role in advocating for the passage of state laws for the licensure of dentists trained outside the United States and for allowing the use of school space for health services, including oral health and mental health services. Through his many leadership positions, he expanded oral health access and prevention programs in urban and rural communities in upstate New York through mobile, school-based, and community-health-center oral health programs. Throughout his career, Dr. Shrestha has consistently been a community-oriented practitioner, educator, researcher, administrator, and social change agent. His efforts have contributed to improved oral health both within the state of New York and beyond.

John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award

Throughout her 17-year career in public health, Maureen Oostdik has been a passionate oral health advocate and a leader in promoting oral health. Ms. Oostdik created community partnerships to advocate for oral health and provide services for underserved populations. For example, she was instrumental in expanding Madison, Wisconsin’s Children’s Dental Health Program to include culturally appropriate and language-appropriate oral health education, prevention, and treatment services. Working within the legislative process, Ms. Oostdik tirelessly supported the passage of a rule that would allow dental hygienists in Wisconsin to provide their full scope of preventive oral health services in three public health settings without the authorization or oversight of a dentist and for allowing them to bill Medicaid for preventive oral health services. Thanks to her

Please consider sharing the work that you do in your local community with our members. Do you have an accomplishment, innovative program, or client story to tell us about? AACDP is “all about you” and wants to celebrate your experiences and learn from them. Submit your article, vignette, or photos to info@aacdp.com.
testimony and the testimony of others, the legislature passed the rule in 2006. Ms. Oostdik is a role model for creativity, dedication, and hard work for her colleagues and her community.

To sign up to become a member of AACDP at no cost and to subscribe to the Community Oral Health Programs (COHP) discussion list, go to AACDP’s web page at http://www.aacdp.com.

AACDP Symposium 2017—Save the Date!

The next AACDP symposium will be held on April 22–23, 2017, in Albuquerque, NM.
reimbursement through Medicaid, and state and health care innovation models.

**Doctors and Dentists Are Parents Too and They Support Community Water Fluoridation**  
Campaign for Dental Health, American Academy of Pediatrics

These images are designed to assist pediatricians, dentists, and other supporters of CWF in sharing information with parents. The images focus on the safety and effectiveness of CWF and can be downloaded and posted to a website or social media page.

**Integrating Sustainable Oral Health Services into Primary Care in School-Based Health Centers: A Framework**  
National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

This framework offers ideas for school-based health centers (SBHCs) to consider when integrating sustainable comprehensive oral health services into primary care to improve the quality of oral health care of school-age children and adolescents. The framework presents a description of six levels of integration to help SBHCs evaluate their current level of integration and 10 key elements to more fully integrate sustainable comprehensive oral health services into primary care in SBHCs.

**Community Health Workers: Roles and Responsibilities in Health Care Delivery System Reform**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

This report reviews health services research findings on community health workers (CHWs) and considers key challenges for CHWs to improve health care delivery, including oral health care delivery. Topics include major roles for CHWs in the health care system, a national profile of CHWs, evidence on the clinical impact of CHWs, the policy impact potential for CHW interventions, opportunities for
fact sheet discusses the prevalence of ECC among various populations and why some populations are at higher risk than others, how ECC is treated and the impact of treatment on children and families, and effective strategies for preventing ECC.

Medicaid’s Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment in Schools and the Free Care Rule
National Health Law Program
This newsletter describes the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program and opportunities for school districts to significantly expand the range of health care services, including oral health services, available to students from families with low incomes. Topics include the importance of having sufficient numbers and types of health professionals participating in Medicaid programs in their area, how providing Medicaid services in schools can help to address children’s and adolescents’ unmet health care needs, and federal guidance on Medicaid reimbursement for services that are provided at no charge (previously known as the Free Care Rule).

Mid-Level Dental Providers: Expanding Care to Every Community
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
This report focuses on opportunities to increase access to oral health care by expanding the workforce to include mid-level oral health professionals (dental therapists). Topics include descriptions of

Parents Making Waves: A Parent Toolkit for Promoting Drinking Water in Schools
University of California, San Francisco and California Food Policy Advocates and Enigami Ventures
This toolkit is designed for parents to advocate for safe and appealing drinking water in schools. Contents include a tip sheet, a sample school wellness policy and letter to a school administrator, tools for conducting a drinking water inventory and observing students drinking water, and an action plan checklist. Topics include how to fund a school water program and ensuring that school water is safe, understanding tap water sources, and promoting water intake in schools.
**Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This document summarizes basic infection-prevention recommendations for all oral health care settings. Contents include information about the fundamental elements needed to prevent transmission of infectious agents and the importance of routine risk assessment. Topics include administrative measures, infection-prevention education and training, personnel safety, program evaluation, standard precautions, and water quality.

**Taking a Bite Out of School Absences: Children’s Oral Health Report 2016**

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board

This report presents survey results on the prevalence and severity of tooth decay in children attending kindergarten in public schools in Arizona. Contents include information about tooth decay and the impact of poor oral health on children, families, and society, with an emphasis on the relationship between oral health and academic achievement. The survey results are presented by domain, including the prevalence of decay experience, untreated decay, pain and infection, annual visits, and insurance coverage. Comparisons to previous statewide surveys and national benchmarks are included.

**Taking a Bite Out of Oral Health Inequities: Promoting Equitable Oral Health Policies for Communities of Color**

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

This brief highlights oral health disparities within communities of color in California. Topics include oral health disparities, the impact of oral health inequities (oral health and children, oral health and employment, and oral health and chronic conditions), and causes of oral health inequities (lack of access to affordable care, absence of a culturally and linguistically competent work force, and social and environmental inequities). It also provides policy recommendations (improve access to and quality of oral health care, ensure that there is a culturally competent work force, and engage in efforts to improve underlying socioeconomic inequities).
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**The Bellwether: Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation’s Oral Health—A Newsletter of the American Association for Community Dental Programs**

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