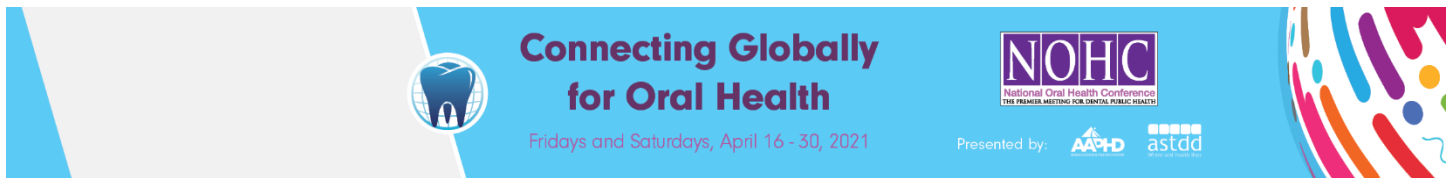




ASTDD Roundup: Special Issue
2021 Virtual National Oral Health Conference

By Bev Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS



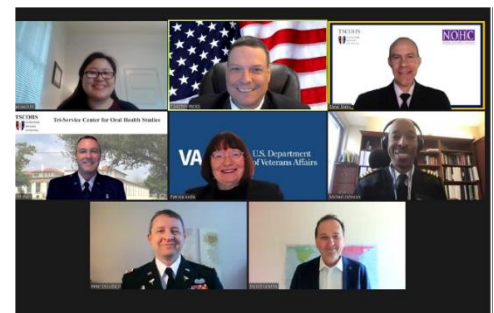
For the second year, ASTDD and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) held the NOHC virtually because of the pandemic. Approximately 560 people registered for the conference that was live streamed; [registration and on-demand recordings](#) for many but not all the sessions are available to view through October. Attendees could earn up to 21.75 continuing education credit hours. The Planning Committee chose a social responsibility initiative this year joining Team Feed to help end hunger in America. NOHC attendees donated \$5,100 so far to this worthy cause and [you can still donate](#). Every \$1 donated helps provide at least 10 meals.

Sponsors supporting the NOHC this year included:

- Universal Supporter: CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
- Worldwide Supporter: Aseptico, Inc
- Regional Supporters: American Dental Association, Beautiful Bright Smile, California Dental Association, Elevate Oral Care, OPEN, Inc (Oral Health Progress and Equity Network), Teledentistry.com
- Community Supporters: Mouthwatch, Henry Schein Special Markets/Dentrix Enterprise;
- Non-Profit Supporters: American Fluoridation Society, CDC Division of Oral Health, Delta Dental Foundation of MI, IN, OH and NC, National Partnership for Dental Therapy, OSAP (Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention), ASTDD, AAPHD, Delta Dental Institute.

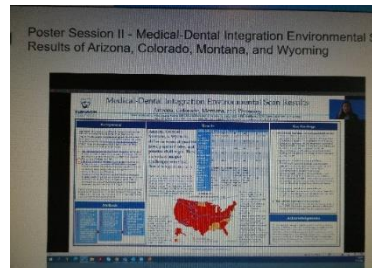
There were 12 primary sessions, mostly panels, [four roundtable sessions covering a total of 20 roundtables](#), [four poster sessions covering 61 posters](#), two exhibit sessions featuring live chats or emails and downloadable handouts for the 17 [exhibitors](#), two professional networking sessions featuring 14 organizations or companies, and a keynote closing speaker, Allison Massari, addressing *Transforming Lives: The Heart and Soul of Healthcare*.

On April 22, a four-hour Federal Dental Session brought together the US Public Health Service, Army, Navy, Air Force and VA Health Administration dental programs to discuss issues of common interest such as the upcoming Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and a world view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each presenter also provided an update on challenges and opportunities during the pandemic. The session was attended by more than 100 people including many working outside the Federal Services. In a moment of levity, Dr Tim Ricks' cat Jack joined the meeting appearing to sit on his head and shoulder, (not pictured here) causing a flurry of screenshots being sent to Dr. Ricks and a welcome laugh from all of us.



The following sessions showcased projects where ASTDD is directly involved, many of them in collaboration with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC):

- Community Water Fluoridation During COVID-19 roundtable, facilitated by Tooka Zokaie
- Resources for Quality Indicator Implementation in State Oral Health Programs roundtable, facilitated by Sara Kolo
- Head Start and the Dental Hygienist Liaison Project: Something to Smile About roundtable facilitated by Gina Sharps, posted on the [ASTDD website](#)
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Best Practices for Improving Oral Health for Pregnant Women seminar, Harry Goodman, Jay Kumar, and Hugh Silk, speakers
- Five Replicable Strategies to Effectively Integrate Oral Health Care into Prenatal Care roundtable, facilitated by Jenifer Fahey
- How to Conduct an Environmental Scan Focused on Medical-Dental Integration in Your State roundtable, facilitated by Lauren Barone
- Data-Driven Strategy for Prioritizing Policy Change to Support Sustainable Oral Health Integration poster, Rachel King, speaker
- Medical-Dental Integration Environmental Scan Results of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming poster, Kera Beskin, speaker
- Evaluating Pre-Implementation Factors Related to Medical-Dental Integration poster, Cherith Flowerday, speaker
- Networks for Oral Health Integration Aim to Increase Access to and Utilization of Oral Health Care seminar, Patty Braun, Supriya Doshi, and Lindsay Sailor, speakers
- Health in All Policies: School Dental Screening Law Implementation seminar, Brendan Darsie, Mona Von Kanagan, Bob Russell speakers
- Impact of COVID-19 on School-based Oral Health Programs poster, Tamanna Tiwari, speaker



In addition, other projects were presented or primarily authored by state /territorial health department or oral health coalition staff:

- Oregon's Partnership to Develop COVID-19 Infection Control Guidance for School Dental Services roundtable, Karen Phillips, OR Health Authority
- Oral Healthcare Professionals Response to Human Trafficking, Exploitation, and Vulnerability roundtable, Angela Filzen, MS State Dept of Health
- Results and Insights from the 2017 Oregon Smile & Healthy Growth Survey poster, Kelly Hansen, OR Health Authority
- Utah Adolescent Oral Health Campaign Education Intervention 2016-2020 roundtable, Lauren Neufeld, UT Dept of Health
- Oral Health for People with Disabilities—Learning about Healthy Smiles in a Virtual World roundtable, Kathy Hunt, Oral Health Kansas
- Increasing Access to Optimally Fluoridated Water for the Prevention of Tooth Decay in West Virginia poster, Lily Dinh, WV Department of Health and Human Resources

- Acculturation and Dental Visits in Californian Hispanic and Asian Immigrants poster, Zengjing Liu, CA Department of Public Health
- Disparities in Dental Insurance Enrollment Rates among Michigan's HIV Population poster, Prudence Kunyangna, MI Department of Health and Human Services
- The Identification of Factors Associated with Successful School-Based Sealant Programs, Antonina Capurro, NV DHHS

Many more abstracts listed state/territorial oral health programs or coalitions as partners and authors, highlighting the diversity and breadth of oral health projects and their commitment to collaborations.

Save the Date for the 2022 NOHC in-person event April 9-14, 2022 in Fort Worth, TX!