Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

2022 Awards

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Fluoridation Special Merit Award
Leon Stanislav, DDS

It is my absolute joy and privilege to congratulate Dr. Leon Stanislav, known to many of us as “Stan,” as the recipient of the ASTDD/ADA/CDC Fluoridation Special Merit Award.

I first met Stan three years ago when I was starting my first official Fluoridation role at the American Dental Association. The welcome I received from Stan, the Chair of the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee, was significant. He was encouraging, welcoming, and had the perfect balance between being supportive and challenging. He guided the team into a future of new resource development and advocacy while celebrating the accomplishments we made as a team. While it may have just been a hunch for me then, it has been confirmed time and time again that Dr. Stanislav is a rare person in dental public health. The public health world is already one that faces unique challenges at every level – and dental public health even more so. Yet, Dr. Stanislav has moved mountains at the grassroot, grass middle, and grass top levels.

A graduate of the University of Iowa dental school, Dr. Stanislav started his career with two years in the US Navy Dental Corps before starting his private practice in Clarksville, in northwestern Tennessee. He is a past president of the Tennessee Dental Association and past president of the Tennessee Academy of General Dentistry (2011-2013).
Most recently, in the small city of Trenton, Tennessee, he helped make connections with local water operators and city council members to redirect a fluoridation cessation attempt into a technology adjustment for long term economical and public health sustainability. His direct communication and problem-solving attitude are the reasons why thousands continue to benefit from community water fluoridation in Trenton.

At the state level, Stan is a dental public health leader and practitioner. He represents his district on the Council of Government Affairs at the American Dental Association and has presented on water fluoridation to his colleagues. What is even more remarkable is that although Dr. Stanislav does not identify as a “public health dentist,” he engages at the community and policy levels to advance public health. He is a shining example that every dentist can be a public health champion.

And at the national level, Dr. Stanislav has been the Chair of the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee for eleven years. He has participated in the 65th, 70th, and 75th anniversary celebrations of community water fluoridation and has spoken at national conferences about how every single community member, especially dental professionals, can support a powerful and equitable population health program such as community water fluoridation.

Across all of the outstanding roles Dr. Stanislav has held, most notable to me has been his strong communication skills. Fostering common ground is a necessary but challenging aspect of public health – and when you mix that with a science and politics, it is even more of a hill to climb. Yet Dr. Stanislav can speak with people from all walks of life and foster that common ground we all need. Most of his history in advocating for and promoting community water fluoridation was unknown to me when I first met him, and I bet even to this day I still don’t know about everything he has done, but it is clear that he is undeniably deserving of the ASTDD/ADA/CDC 2022 Fluoridation Merit Award.

I want to thank Stan for his mentorship, leadership, and indefatigable dedication to this field.

Submitted by Tooka Zokaie, MPH, MAS, CPH
I am pleased to nominate the National Maternal Child Health Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) for the 2022 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award.

The Oral Health Resource Center has been a great partner and supporter of ASTDD since its inception in 1996. The resource center has provided technical assistance to state oral health program directors and staff, focusing on programmatic issues for the maternal and child health (MCH) population. OHRC regularly exhibits at the National Oral Health Conference to meet with ASTDD members, learn about their needs, identify new and emerging issues, and provide them with tailored services. The following are a few of the major highlights and projects that demonstrate how the resource center has supported the ASTDD and its mission.

**Head Start**

From 2005 to 2008, with support from the Office of Head Start (OHS) and Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) interagency agreement on oral health, OHRC served as the principal vehicle for the collection, review, and dissemination of Head Start oral health programmatic information and resources, working in collaboration with key Head Start oral health partners, especially ASTDD. In addition, ASTDD received funding from the interagency agreement to conduct the Head Start Oral Health Project, and OHRC staff serve on ASTDD’s Head Start Oral Health Advisory Committee to provide support for project activities. Following the completion of the OHS and MCHB interagency agreement on oral health, OHS focused its funding on health, behavioral health, and safety issues, which included oral health, for Head Start participants and their families. The current OHS cooperative agreement is the National Center on Health, Behavior Health, and Safety project (2020–2025). Since 2011, OHRC has worked in partnership with ASTDD to provide training and technical assistance to Head Start program
Distinguished Service Award
National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

staff across the country. In 2012, ASTDD and OHRC launched the Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) project and, as part of this activity, recruited volunteer dental hygienists in each state, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, DC, to engage in collaborative efforts with Head Start and oral health partners. The DHL project continues to this day and includes involvement from ADHA. The association assists in the identification and recruitment of state DHLs and promotion of DHL activities.

Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement
Since 2017, OHRC, in partnership with ASTDD and the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA), has had a cooperative agreement for the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII) project from MCHB. COHSII provides technical assistance and training and resource development for the public health community to expand access to integrated preventive oral health care for the MCH population, particularly at safety net sites. The project offers services to state Title V (MCH) programs, state oral health programs, community-based programs, and professionals working in or with state Title V (MCH) programs.

Development and Dissemination of ASTDD Resources
OHRC has played an important role in ASTDD’s work by reviewing, updating, and writing content for existing and new ASTDD resources, including Best Practice Approach reports, policy statements, and ASTDD webpages; identifying photographs; and promoting the availability of ASTDD resources through OHRC-maintained discussion lists and other channels.

ASTDD Committee Membership
OHRC staff have served on ASTDD’s committees from 2002 to the present and, in this capacity, have contributed to program planning, information sharing, and resource development and dissemination.
It is my privilege to nominate the OHRC and its staff for the 2022 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award. I look forward to continuing the partnership and support in future projects.

Nominated by Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA
Michigan Oral Health Program Director
2020-2022 ASTDD President
I am pleased to nominate Julie Watts McKee, DMD for the ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award. Julie has demonstrated her leadership abilities in both the ASTDD and the State of Kentucky Oral Health Program. Julie has managed a four-county district health department for over 12 years. Since 2007, she has held the position of State Dental Director. During her tenure as State Dental Director, she has focused on health care policy and regulation.

During her tenure, she helped establish several different programs across many venues. A Fluoride Varnish program has been established in the district health department. She oversaw local grants for fluoridation equipment to local communities to replace fluoridation equipment or implement fluoridation in communities. In addition, she has overseen local grants for dentist loan repayment programs and has trained general dentists in pediatric techniques.

She has worked closely with partners and funded local oral health coalitions along with facilitating the development of the Kentucky Strategic Plan for Oral Health. She also has been involved in several legislative and policy successes. She helped develop a new license category for Kentucky dental hygienists, the Public Health Dental Hygienist. Due to this licensure change, seven programs were implemented.

Julie has been a member of the ASTDD since 2007. From 2010-2016 she was a member of the ASTDD Board of Directors. She sought to give back to the organization that she personally and professionally benefited from.
Outstanding Achievement Award
Julie McKee, DMD

She participated in ASTDD activities and supported projects and outreach. Being a part of ASTDD allowed her to become more aware of the national activities of dental public health and the role that ASTDD plays.

Julie has been involved in many Kentucky dental organizations. She was an executive board member of both the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition and the Kentucky Dental Association. Since 2010, she has been an ex-officio member of the Kentucky Board of Dentistry. In the fall of 2020, she was awarded the Presidential award of the Kentucky Dental Association. She was also appointed to the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and her tenure as a commissioner runs through 2026.

Julie has worked tirelessly to promote and improve the oral health of Kentucky residents. She has also been excellent in promoting and advancing the role of ASTDD with multiple national organizations. It is my privilege to nominate Julie Watts McKee for the 2022 ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award.

Nominated by Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA
Michigan Oral Health Program Director
2020-2022 ASTDD President
I am honored to nominate John O’Malley as the recipient of the 2022 ASTDD Greg McClure Memorial President’s award. John O’Malley is a population health data scientist. He has been involved in oral health data collection and analysis for a number of years and has worked with the DentaQuest Institute, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association and the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. As the oral health program manager for the Foundation, John created the Illinois state oral health data visualization platform which was the inspiration for the National Oral Health Data Portal. In 2021, John earned his Master of Health Informatics degree from the University of Michigan Schools of Information, Public Health and Medicine. While he was still in school at U of M, he began consulting with ASTDD to develop the National Oral Health Data Portal with 30 plus different datasets. He analyzed complex oral health survey data from PRAMS, BRFSS, HCUP and MEPS. This led to the culmination of the National Data Portal that was unveiled by ASTDD earlier this year. You can find the portal on the ASTDD website. He continues to be a consultant to ASTDD and update the data portal with other datasets. I believe future ideas include linking to state data sets.

John has continued to network with other organizations and agencies regarding oral health data and performing analytics on oral health and medical data. He was a public health intern with the Altarum Institute. He currently is a population health data scientist with Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. He is willing to do research and scope out data that can impact dental public health and overall population health.

I met John in 2019 when he reached out to me to invite me for a cup of coffee (I drink tea). He wanted to understand the landscape of Medicaid data and also the population surveys that were conducted in Michigan. A half-hour appointment turned into a 90-minute discussion on data collection and reports!

I believe that John O’Malley exemplifies the Greg McClure Memorial President’s Award in demonstrating his passion for dental public health and his determination in researching data to tell the public health story.

Nominated by Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA
Michigan Oral Health Program Director
2020-2022 ASTDD President