



Stephen Colbert has renamed Jon Batiste's band, Stay Human, "Stay Homin" during the pandemic. That pretty much describes the fact that we all are still "Staying Homin." Even as many of us work from home, ASTDD and state and territorial oral health programs (S/TOHP) remain productive and connected. Membership continues to rise, and record numbers of directors and staff are participating on calls and committees. Most importantly, despite serving as contract tracers and working to meet the challenges of COVID, directors and staff continue to step-up, address their oral health responsibilities, and meet the needs of their communities with commitment and passion. Thanks to all of you!!! This issue of *Roundup* is a bit longer than usual because members attended or were honored at many virtual conferences that normally would have been held in person, so I've included brief summaries.

State Dental Director Calls and COVID Related Workgroups

Here are just a few examples from September and October.

- On September 3, Antonina Capurro presented on Nevada's state oral health program that is providing virtual oral health services to children enrolled in Medicaid who have not had a dental exam in the past year. They anticipate serving about 150,000 children.
- The September 17 dental directors call focused on efforts to tie oral health to other COVID-19 issues and activities so that oral health messaging doesn't get lost on state health officials or the public.
- The October 1 call focused on the potential infection control changes that are necessary when cases escalate in the community, the projected effects of school closures on BSS data collection and surveillance systems, the potential impact of the recent toxicology report on fluoridation and the dental amalgam report on dental care access and prevention.
- The October 15 call included a presentation by Dr. Lyndon Cooper discussing studies of aerosolization in dentistry.
- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workgroup continued to review Emergency Preparedness Protocols for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs and the ASTDD Emergency Preparedness webpage. They will be asking oral health programs for comments and will create a checklist of items that can be included in the manual.
- The State Dental Director COVID-19 School-Based Programs Workgroup activities are reported under the School Health section.

ASTDD Member Webinar that was Postponed from the NOHC

On October 14, Lynn Walton Hayes, CA Oral Health Program staff, presented *Addressing the Social Determinants of Oral Health: Local Strategies for a National Discussion Webcast*. The purpose of this webcast was: 1) to provide a brief update on California's strategies for addressing the social determinants of oral health, and 2) to present both a local oral health program's and stakeholder organization's activities related to improving oral health equity. The panel highlighted how these local strategies can be adapted for addressing the social determinants of oral health by a variety of organizations and communities. Access the [Recording](#) and [PowerPoint](#).

ASTDD Peer and Member Support Program

We have six dental directors/program managers in the mentoring program, with the newest being Matt Zaborowski (ID), Barbara Carnahan (OH), and Matt Horan (MA). Kimberlie Payne contacted 30 new associate members during the past two months for orientation. Lori Cofano, peer support coordinator; Kimberlie; Christine Farrell, ASTDD President and Michigan dental director; Tommy Johnson, Alabama dental director; and Bob Russell, Iowa dental director and bureau chief, facilitated the highly-rated mentoring sessions, *Keeping the Ship Upright for Smooth Sailing: Using Mentoring to*

Help Steer Your Program, held via Zoom on September 9 and 16 with 28 participants including the facilitators and presenters.

Congratulations to John Dane, DDS, Honored as Missouri Dental Association (MDA) Dentist of the Year



The Dentist of the Year Award recognizes a member dentist who has demonstrated outstanding service to the MDA, to the profession of dentistry and/or to the community in the past year. Dr. Dane was chosen for his outstanding service and leadership as the State of Missouri Dental Director and especially to the dental profession and to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. I asked John to describe his activities in his own words.

“I was very surprised about the award. I was just doing my job as I saw it. During the early part of the Pandemic I worked to get a letter from the Dental Board supporting the DHSS/CDC recommendation to limit practicing to emergency treatment only. In late April it became apparent that dental offices were going back to full practice on May 4. I asked and got support from the MDA and the MPCA to organize a working group to develop reopening guidelines. At that time, Nebraska and Iowa were also in the process of working on such a document; Bob

Russell and Fritz Craft were very helpful for guidance. We also worked with the State Epidemiologist on the plan. We had about 15 people on the workgroup and fashioned the guidance document in a period of five days. We got the approval from the Director of DHSS and the Board of Trustees of the MDA. I was even able to get input from the MDHA and agreement from their Board. I was never able to get a Mandate from the Governor’s office to regulate dental offices. Probably the most useful actions were the one-on-one counseling of different dentists that contacted me directly or were referred to me by the MDA. Conversations ranged from where to get PPEs and what can we do if we can’t get PPEs to later on how to deal with exposures to COVID 19 positive patients, staff and family members. The latter got so frequent that Vicki Wilbers, the MDA Executive Director, published a FAQ on exposures. It is on their website and ours.”

Congratulations to Katie McBurney, BSHM, RDH, CPHQ, Oral health Consultant for the Iowa Department of Health

In September Katie McBurney, an ASTDD associate member, received the NACDD Rising Star Award for her leadership in the I-Smile Silver program as well as her work with partners to advance opportunities to enhance integrated health. The Rising Star Award is given every year to an individual staff member in a state, tribal or territorial Chronic Disease Unit who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and problem-solving skills. “I am passionate about helping to improve the health of lowans through a patient-centered approach to dental and medical care. I’m lucky to work with a team that believes in collaboration and innovation when considering ways we can achieve better health outcomes by improving oral health.”



Data Committee

The Data Committee held calls in September and October. On the October call, Gina Thornton-Evans from the CDC provided an update on HP 2030. The HP 2030 website is being improved. Oral Conditions is the overarching category (chapter) with sub-labels that address the various oral conditions. There are 11 objectives (NCHS vetted data sources) and one developmental objective (less established measures, crucial to keep for monitoring reasons). There are three additional objectives in the health care access and quality and nutrition and healthy eating domains. Baseline data for HP2030 from sources such as NHANES may be delayed due to COVID-19 as teams ceased data collection in March 2020. NHANES data collection is anticipated to be redesigned in 2023. NIDCR, IHS, and HRSA co-led the HP2030 effort, and they tried to keep as many objectives as possible. During the APHA conference on October 26, 23 Leading Health Indicators were launched, none of which address oral health.

Basic Screening Survey (BSS) and oral health surveillance TA has been interrupted by COVID-19. Even so, Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz continue to help states and territories plan for surveys.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee held meetings in September and October. The committee is requiring and updating communication plans for all the ASTDD communication pathways such as *Roundup*, the *Weekly Digest*, the *Annual Report*, etc. The Social Media Workgroup (SMWG) has designated key individuals to post on Facebook and Twitter and has increased and broadened the scope of content to be posted on social media. ASTDD is launching a LinkedIn account to expand professional communication opportunities for members via social media. The SMWG conducted an assessment of the social media habits of S/TOHP from March 1 through June 30 using six questions that gathered qualitative information. Dental directors from all 50 states and two territories participated. Results revealed that 48 percent of S/TOHP use social media. This is up from the most recent social media query conducted in 2018. S/TOHPs not only indicated they used social media more since the onset of COVID 19, but almost 80 percent said that their increase in usage was due to the pandemic.

Dental Public Health Policy Committee (DPHPC) and Best Practices Committee (BPC)

The DPHPC has posted a new policy statement, [Healthy People 2030 Oral Health Objectives](#). The Committee also reviewed proposed resolutions submitted for the October ADA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting, and recommended testimony on 12; draft testimony was prepared for review by the BOD. Of these, 11 were supportive and one related to teledentistry was not. ASTDD worked with experts in the field to develop testimony. The HOD accepted a revised version of the teledentistry resolution that reflects ASTDD's concerns. Work continues on the new Data Dissemination Best Practice Approach Report (BPAR), the update to the *Oral Health of Children, Adolescents and Adults with Special Health Care Needs BPAR*, an update to the *State Oral Health Plans and Collaborative Planning BPAR*, and the new Policy Statement on Opioids Prescribing and Dentistry. Lori Cofano and Judy Feinstein presented an ASTDD Spotlight Webinar on the [State and Territorial Oral Health Programs and Collaborative Partnerships Best Practice Approach Report](#) on October 29 ([Recording](#)). There were more than 90 participants. Bradley Cummins is working on the Best Practices portion of the ASTDD website to improve functionality and ease of navigation.

School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and Dental Sealant Subject Matter Expert

DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement, LLC (DQP) and ASTDD are beginning an initiative to develop a COVID-19 Resource Webpage for School-Based Programs. Resources will include sample letters, consent forms, infection prevention communication and guidance, etc. This partnership will use information from a variety of surveys, interviews and inquiries collected by the SAOHC COVID-19 Workgroup. ASTDD and DQP will write research reports, develop the webpage, and convene a webinar to disseminate information about the new webpage. Several resources and lessons learned have been collected. Common themes include partnerships, communication and flexibility. Lori Cofano has created a section on the School Oral Health Webpage to post a summary report with materials sent by states under the following subheadings: Alternate Activities for School-Based Programs, Communications/Messaging, Consent Forms, Guidelines for Providing Services, Letters/E-mails/Contacts, and Teledentistry/Legislation/Advocacy.

The SAOHC met on September 17 and discussed plans to review and update, combine, or archive some existing ASTDD policy statements related to school health. Sandy Tesch conducted a Sealants Community of Practice call on September 11 with CDC-funded state sealant coordinators to discuss status of activities, concerns, and TA needs for their state's sealant programs. There was a robust discussion regarding the use of glass ionomer vs. resin sealant material to reduce aerosols. Sandy continues to post COVID and school-related resources to the CDC-funded dental sealants listserv. She also provided TA to numerous states that had questions related to dental sealants, and relayed questions to CDC staff for which they subsequently posted answers.

ASTDD Fluorides Committee

Fluorides Committee meetings were held on September 2 and October 7. The September Fluorides Committee meeting focused on discussion of anti-fluoridation activity nationally and concerns about the impact of the pending National Toxicology Program's report on fluoride and neurotoxicity and the lawsuit against the EPA. Members of the committee assisted with drafting a letter for ASTDD to submit to the National Academies with comments on the current version of

the report. At the October meeting, the Committee agreed to develop talking points for states to respond to questions they may receive about that report, and to consider a single policy paper to replace several older fluorides related documents. Judy Feinstein planned and facilitated the CWF Community of Practice session on September 24, with 15 of the 20 funded states participating, several with multiple representatives.

Healthy Aging Committee (HAC)

Members of the HAC attended a Gerontological Society of America (GSA) webinar on October 20 on *The Intersection of Aging and COVID-19*. Key messages included:

1. COVID19 presents an opportunity to reimagine the role of nursing homes and health care for older adults, including an opportunity to better incorporate oral health.
2. Almost 20% of older adults in the US are affected by untreated decay, and the US is still without an oral health benefit under the Medicare system. The cost of adding basic and preventive dental treatment coverage to Medicare was estimated at \$29 per beneficiary per year.
3. Chronic oral health problems in older adults are likely to worsen during COVID-19 due to caregivers' focus on preventing COVID-19, so that oral hygiene routines for nursing home residents may be further neglected, resulting in acute needs.
4. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for a workforce that can meet the healthcare needs of the older adult population and the need to incorporate teledentistry.

View [The archived webinar](#) (link to YouTube); the slides are available on the GSA website [here](#).

Evaluation Activities

JoAnna Hillman and Mary Davis continue to provide general assistance and TA to CDC-funded evaluators through their listserv and emails, and are planning webinars for ASTDD consultants and for oral health programs. They also are reviewing CDC-funded states' evaluation reports and providing feedback/TA. Many ASTDD committees have reached out to JoAnna and Mary for assistance in designing assessments or evaluations for specific projects. We would like to welcome a new member of the evaluation team, Janelle Gowgiel, who is doing an internship with JoAnna at Emory University. Janelle is reviewing the ASTDD Evaluation and Quality Improvement Webpage as well as suggesting revisions to some ASTDD documents that are posted.

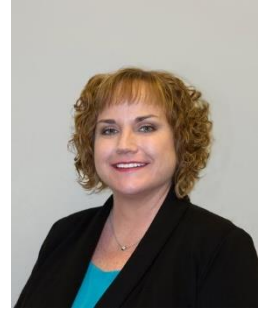
National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW) and the new National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

The National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness cooperative agreement ended September 29, 2020, and the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) submitted our five-year oral health final report to the American Academy of Pediatrics, consortium lead. You can read it on [this link](#). As that funding has ended, we are pleased to announce that Education Development Center (EDC) in partnership with Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD) has been awarded a five-year cooperative agreement for the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety from the Office of Head Start. The slight change in focus was described in the previous *Roundup* issue. OHRC will continue to serve as lead for oral health activities working in partnership with ASTDD. During the next five years, the oral health project will expand the highly successful dental hygienist liaison (DHL) project, and the regional DHL coordinators will work more closely with the Head Start regional T/TA specialists.

There are some slight changes in ASTDD consultants for the NCHBHS as we move forward, with Kathy Hunt and Gina Sharps acting as co-leads for the DHL project. I would like to especially thank Michelle Landrum for her many years of service to ASTDD as a Head Start consultant and congratulate her on stepping into the Dental Hygiene Program Director position at Austin Community College during a very difficult and stressful pandemic environment. For students and faculty. We will miss her leadership in the DHL program but she assures us she will "resurface" periodically! The OH Team and regional DHL coordinators created a Tribute video to honor her service. Please read her personal remarks.

Michelle Landrum, RDH, MEd

"I was thrilled to learn in September that the Dental Hygienist Liaison Project will be funded for an additional five years through the NCHBHS. This is a testament to the work and dedication of the DHLs over the past eight years. So, it is with a heavy heart that I have had to make the difficult decision to step down from my role as the DHL project lead. In 2019, I was appointed the department chair of a dental hygiene program, and I no longer have the time to fulfill the commitments of the DHL project lead position. I am, however, very excited to announce that Kathy Hunt will be assuming the position as DHL project lead. Kathy has a wealth of knowledge in Head Start at the local, state, regional and national levels. Gina Sharps will continue to serve as the DHL project co-lead. I would like to personally thank Gina for all the help and support she has provided over the past several years. It has been a profound pleasure to work with ASTDD members and dental hygienists across the country who share in my passion of serving the Head Start community. It has truly been the highlight of my professional career. I do plan on assisting NCHBHS with special projects in the future, so this is not good bye."



Kathy Hunt, RDH ECPII



A Registered Dental Hygienist for 40 years, Kathy Hunt began her work in public health in 2004 when she designed the first system in Kansas providing preventive dental care in public schools, Head Starts, and health departments. She was also instrumental in developing, implementing, and directing a dental clinic within a small safety net clinic located in her community. Since 2007, Kathy has provided oral health leadership for the Kansas Head Start Association and serves as the Dental Program Director for Oral Health Kansas, the state's oral health coalition. She has authored several oral health resource materials for pregnant women, young children, elders, and people with special needs. She regularly collaborates with state organizations and agencies to use systems change to make progress on improving the oral health of all Kansans. Kathy has been the Kansas DHL since the fall of 2012, and the Regional DHL for Regions 2 and 7 for the past five years.

Gina Sharps, MPH, RDH, CTTS

Gina Sharps is an oral health educator at Marshall University School of Medicine and the coordinator for the West Virginia Oral Health Coalition. She brings 27 years of clinical and public health experience to the field. Gina is a past-president of the West Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association and currently holds the position of legislative chair. She has served on HRSA's Medical Dental Advisory Committee and currently serves on the ASTDD Fluorides Committee. In addition, Gina received her certification as a tobacco treatment specialist from the Mayo Clinic in 2017. Gina has been the West Virginia DHL since 2012, and the Regional DHL for Region 3 for the past five years. She has personal ties to Head Start as both her niece and nephew are Head Start completers and she's witnessed first-hand the value and outcomes of the Head Start program.



Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)

This fall, the OHRC staff and ASTDD (Kathy Geurink, Harry Goodman, Reg Louie, Chris Wood) sent an invitation to states that selected the Title V MCH national performance measure on oral health (NPM 13) in FY 2020, inviting them to information to help other states address NPM in FY 2021 and beyond. The feedback form asks states to share their 1) lessons learned and successes in promoting preventive dental visits for pregnant women, children, and adolescents, and 2) plans for FY 2021 outlined in their Title V MCH Block Grant application. States that did not select NPM 13 in their application are being asked whether oral health was embedded in another NPM, whether a state performance measure on oral health was developed, or whether NPM 13 is being considered for a future year. Results will be available soon. The following link shows which states selected the subcategories of NPM13; select "NPM 13 Preventive Dental Visit" in the dropdown box. <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/PrioritiesAndMeasures/NPMDistribution>.

Meetings (links aren't available if they were a member only or pre-registration event)



2020 Virtual Health Communication, Marketing & Media Forum: From 2020 Hindsight to 20/20 Foresight. October 6-8, 2020. Person Reporting: Bev Isman

This annual meeting is jointly sponsored by the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) and CDC to advance evidence-based strategies in the field of health communication, marketing and media. Presentations included the following two-hour sessions over three days:

- Addressing Health Equity and Social Justice Issues During a Pandemic: What is the Role of the Health C/M/M Professional?
- Achieving Understanding and Acceptance of COVID-9 Vaccination: How Do Recent Survey Research and Findings Help Inform Communication Strategies and Messaging?
- How Misinformation Regarding the Coronavirus Begins, Spreads and Can Be Effectively Addressed.

About 65 Abstracts submitted for the in-person conference are featured in an “On Demand” viewing format. Recorded Forum sessions are also available for a year if you register <https://www.nphic.org/nhcmm20-sessions>. One item of note is there is a Community COVID Coalition that is a partnership of NGA, ASTHO and the CDC Foundation (covidcoalition.org). The Coalition supports outreach and education for state communication efforts for the COVID-19 response, including efforts to educate diverse communities about effective public health interventions for slowing the spread of COVID-19.



Oral Health Progress and Equity Network National Virtual Meeting. October 20-23, 2020. Persons Reporting: Christine Wood, Kimberlie Payne, John Welby

The purpose of the 2020 OPEN national meeting was to understand and explore opportunities that will impact the US oral health system, begin to identify the next set of goals and targets for OPEN, and to reinforce the urgency to address structural racism. Through interactive evaluation, attendees were asked to identify a set of national oral health improvement strategies most aligned with OPEN's values and most likely to move the oral health system toward producing improved and more equitable outcomes nationwide. They included:

- Bring care to where people are
- Advance shifting policy environment to support public health
- Amplify consumers voicing demand for change
- Engage medical/dental institutions to integrate and shift thinking to population health
- Move from intervention to prevention.

Other than this, the majority of the meeting focused on reporting on OPEN'S internal processes and accomplishments. OPEN is currently focusing on what makes it unique and what funders may want to support.

American Medical Writers Association 2020 Medical Writing and Communication Virtual Conference. October 20-22, 2020. Person Reporting: Bev Isman.



The goal of the conference was to promote excellence in medical communication and to provide educational resources in support of that goal. Three plenary sessions, posters and a selection of one-hour professional development sessions were offered. I attended the plenaries and the following sessions:

- Low-Cost and Low-Effort Ways to Create Infographics and Visually Appealing Slides
- Addressing Legislative Efforts to Limit the Livelihood of Freelance Medical Communicators (this directly affects consultants in CA and some other states)
- Collaborative Writing: Ensure Success with an Effective Strategy
- Beyond the Needs Assessment: Creative Perspectives on Continuing Medical Education Content Development
- Strategies for Effective Risk Communication

- Updates to the AMA Manual of Style, 11th Edition.

Most of the one-hour sessions other than the plenaries were pre-recorded, and the presenters were available in real-time to answer questions or make clarifying comments in the chat box. This was a great format and prompted a lot more communication by participants. I belong to this organization and share handouts and other writing/communication resources with ASTDD consultants.



National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) Virtual Meeting. October 25-28, 2020. Person Reporting: Matthew Horan

In addition, to the conference's usual courses focused on community health center dental program operational best practices, the main focus areas included:

- Telehealth: The Use of Telehealth/Teledentistry Beyond Only Emergency Patient Access
- Alternative Payment Methodology (APM): the Transfer of Oral Health Care Systems to More Value-Based Care Models
- Preventive Care: multiple topics including minimally invasive caries management, glass ionomer use, sealants, interim therapeutic restorations, increasing HPV vaccination rates, WIC and education
- Wellness: Provider and Dental Team Wellness
- Structural Racism
- Social Determinants of Health
- Workforce Innovation: RDHs Practicing in a Hospital-Based Setting.

One of my favorite courses was *I'm Still Here: A Conversation with Austin Channing Brown*. She is the author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Austin spoke about ways in which our systems are built for whiteness and defined an ally as someone being simultaneously teachable and committed while acting as an accomplice to the important change work. I liked her highlighting the concept of being in this together and a reminder to the group that risks are required to shake things up in the system.



IADR Behavioral and Social Oral Health Sciences Virtual Summit. October 29-30, 2020. Person Reporting: Bev Isman

The Summit seeks to promote oral health globally by advancing the robust application of behavioral and social sciences. Goals of the Summit include building consensus among health scientists and clinicians about essential focus areas, identifying critical next steps for the field, and fostering transdisciplinary collaboration. The summit was held at no cost to IADR section members. A reading list was shared prior to the summit. The major session topics included:

- Behavioral and Social Theories, Models, Conceptual Frameworks, and Mechanisms Related to Oral Health
- Methodological Issues in Behavioral and Social Oral Health Research and Practice
- Intervention Science: Developing and Testing Behavioral and Social Science Approaches to Promote Oral Health
- Dissemination and Implementation for Oral and Craniofacial Health.

There were reactor panels for each major topic and short presentations under each; 37 scientists from five continents and six countries presented. There were also numerous poster presentations. More than 600 attendees from 53 countries participated. All sessions used the Q & A box with much participation. They also used polling questions to assess people's priorities for certain approaches. A major outcome of the Summit will be a planned consensus statement highlighting the role of behavioral and social sciences in oral health. In addition, meeting proceedings will be published as a special issue of the *Journal of Dental Research*.



American Public Health Association Virtual Annual Meeting, October 23-28. Kathy Lituri and Chris Farrell reporting.

The APHA Oral Health Section held a virtual happy hour on October 23 and a two-hour pre-conference workshop on *Taking the Fear out of Dental Visits: Oral Health, COVID-19 and HIV* on the 24th. The workshop included seven presenters addressing HIV and oral health overviews; safe dental visit procedures for emergency, urgent, and routine care; successful teledentistry practices, best

practices for dental team members in providing care during these challenging times; patient and providers sharing their safety concerns and steps each can take to mitigate these risks. On October 25, the Oral Health Section and the American Dental Association co-hosted a one-hour *Toast to Community Water Fluoridation – Celebrating 75 Years!* Chris Farrell attended the celebration and, on behalf of ASTDD, she prepared a video message that supported community water fluoridation and reiterated the ASTDD policy on fluoridation. “It was a great tribute from many organizations and individuals about the achievement.” Participants were sent glasses and asked to send a picture drinking fluoridated water, and at the end there was a montage of all the photos. Shown here is the photo of Sandy Sutton, Fluoridation coordinator, and Chris Farrell, MI Oral Health Program Director, with their glass.



The Business meeting and Awards Ceremony were also held on the 25th. Recipients of the **Anthony Westwater Jong Memorial Population Oral Health Pre-Professional Student Awards** went to two ASTDD Associate Members:

- **Tooka Zokaie MPH, CPH**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Master of Applied Science in Population Health Management Program, for her project, Oral health forum: Oral health and population health management in Chicago, IL
- **Salma Elwazeer, BDS, MDS, MPH**, UT Health San Antonio’s DPH residency program, for her project, Impact of social determinants of health on human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination among Texas teenagers .

Recipients of the **Caswell A. Evans Population Oral Health Post-Professional Student Awards** were:

- **Nora I. Alamer BDS, MPH, FRCD(C)**, Harvard University School of Dental Medicine, for her project, Dental care utilization trends among disabled US adults; 2010-2018.
- **Hesham A. Alhazmi BDS, MS**, Harvard University School of Dental Medicine, for his project, Beyond the mouth: Integration of social determinants of health within AEGD and GPR curricula.

Scott Presson presented the **John W Knutson Distinguished Service Award** to **Dr. Bill Maas**, ASTDD Associate Member, on behalf of the Oral Health Section. Dr. Maas currently is a dental public health consultant to many organizations. This award has been presented each year since 1982 to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to improve oral health in the United States. Its recipients have demonstrated sustained and exemplary accomplishments in the field of dental public health. See the awards information at <https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/oral-health/news-and-events>. Seven oral sessions were presented on Oct 26-28 and and four poster sessions were available on demand.



American Academy of Cariology Fall 2020 Online Conference. Caries Management for Vulnerable Individuals: Focus on the Disabled and the Elderly. October 10, 2020. Sam Zwetchkenbaum reporting.



The goals of this AAC online conference were to present the unique set of needs of people with impairments and how these needs can be addressed to advance practices for managing caries, applying evidence-based research, and collaborative efforts, especially in educating families, caregivers and others. Presentations focused on:

- How the complexity of health, behavior and social needs affects caries risk and management in vulnerable individuals
- The challenges to accessing quality health care, such as lack of support, lack of coordination across providers, and misaligned payment structures
- Evidence-based caries management strategies for vulnerable individuals
- Future research into effective interventions to control dental caries in these populations.

Main speakers were Drs. Mark Wolff, Elisa Ghezzi, Michael Monopoli, Sarah Knox and Domenic Zero, with others participating in reactor panels. Next year’s meeting is planned for Boston in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Sending our best wishes to stay safe and healthy during the holiday season. Look for the next issue of Roundup in January 2021. Send any questions or comments to Bev Isman at bev.isman@comcast.net