



*Association of State and
Territorial Dental Directors
2024 Awards*

2024 ASTDD Awards Committee

Julia Wacloff, RDH, MSPH

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Bending the Arc of Oral Health Toward Equity

**ASTDD/ADA/CDC
Fluoridation Special Merit Award
Arcora Foundation**

I became aware of the Arcora Foundation through a longtime association with my colleague Emily Firman who was previously with the California-based Dental Health

Foundation. Emily is now in Washington state and has served as Senior Program Officer at the Arcora Foundation (formerly Washington Dental Service Foundation).

The Arcora Foundation and others have succeeded in securing significant funding from the state budget to establish a program to support local water systems and provide outreach on community water fluoridation. Additional funding was secured for the Department of Health to conduct a statewide oral health equity assessment and make recommendations on how to address inequities through community water fluoridation and other measures.

The Arcora Foundation has been a major force in advocating for legislative support for fluoridation in Washington State. In 2023, an early notification law was passed that requires water systems intending to start or discontinue fluoridating to provide information to stakeholders at least 90 days prior to a vote or decision on the matter.

According to the Arcora Foundation website, “Arcora Foundation advances oral health across Washington state. We are the foundation of [Delta Dental of Washington](#), and the state’s largest foundation dedicated to this cause. We lead with equity in our work to achieve good oral health for all. Through partnerships, we focus our prevention and access priorities on racial and ethnic communities—specifically Black, Indigenous, and People of Color—where disparities in oral disease and access to care are significant. Our mission is in our name: bending the **arc** of **oral** health toward equity.”

I therefore highly recommend that the Fluorides Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors accept this nomination for the ASTDD Fluoridation Merit Award 2024.

Nominated by: Howard Pollick, BDS, MPH
Member, ASTDD Fluorides Committee



**ASTDD/ADA/CDC
Fluoridation Special Merit Award
California Oral Health Technical Assistance
Center (COHTAC)**

I nominate the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC) for the Fluoridation Merit Award from ASTDD/ADA/CDC in 2024. In August 2022, COHTAC released a comprehensive "[California Fluoridation Manual](#)."

This manual not only highlights community water fluoridation science for implementation but is a first of its kind document on how to initiate water fluoridation policy.

As someone that has worked in water fluoridation for over five years, the rise in misinformation and accessible but false documents has been a concern. This resource addresses the need to build connections with our decision makers and how to increase such a powerful public health practice. I personally have used this document to meet with local public health officials, state department water operators, and speak for fluoridation support at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.

The publication not only focuses on fluoridation science but also the process of obtaining fluoridation in California, the governing processes, and information on making a case for fluoridation. This is aligned with ASTDD's goals to increase community water fluoridation because this template can be used by other states as well.

I sincerely believe that recognizing COHTAC is to recognize how dental public health includes fluoridation by design. It takes interprofessional teams to increase fluoridation confidence and governmental intervention and interaction to decrease fluoridation hesitancy. I am not the only one who has benefitted from COHTAC's resources, which include health literacy resources. Increasing health literacy can also increase fluoridation confidence! COHTAC released the first comprehensive [oral health literacy toolkit](#) that is used nationwide. Their multifaceted resources and approaches to building fluoridation confidence and initiation of community water fluoridation are deserving of this honor. I see them as an inspiration to water fluoridation leaders and those addressing misinformation nationwide.

Nominated by: Tooka Zokaie, MPH, MAS, CPH
Senior Health Policy Analyst
California Dental Association

ASTDD Excellence in Communication Award Minnesota Oral Health Program

School-based dental programs and community water fluoridation are proven ways to provide preventive benefits to a local population. By producing and getting these posters in the hands of key school contacts, the Minnesota Oral Health Program conveyed these benefits in a clear and eye-catching way. Each well-designed and colorful poster follows the best practice "rule of 3" by conveying no more than three essential points. The graphics on the fluoridation poster reflect Minnesota's diverse population. Many oral health posters focus on dentists and miss the opportunity to present the dental team, so it is encouraging to see this visual on the school-based dental program poster. Great job, Minnesota!

SEAL MINNESOTA

A STATEWIDE IN-SCHOOL DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM

GETTING KIDS
READY FOR SCHOOL ONE SMILE AT A TIME

50% OF MINNESOTA 3RD GRADERS have experienced tooth decay.

UNTREATED CAVITIES can cause pain and infection that can lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and learning.

80% OF CAVITIES CAN BE PREVENTED by dental sealants.

- Licensed dental teams will visit your school and apply sealant on children's back teeth to prevent future cavities.
- Getting sealants is safe, quick, painless, and comfortable.
- Participation in this program requires parents/guardians to sign a written permission form.
- At a minimum, children will receive dental screening, oral health education, dental sealants and a warm handoff for follow-up care as needed.
- There is typically no cost to the students.

Hi! We are dental providers visiting schools.

We give children a healthy smile to help them learn, play and grow.

SCHOOL

m DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IN-SCHOOL DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAMS OR DENTAL SEALANTS: Talk to your school nurse, a community dental hygienist or dentist, contact MDH at health.oral@state.mn.us or scan the code.

Schools are important partners in preventing cavities in children who might not receive regular dental care. Please contact Minnesota Program for your school and promote the benefits of dental sealants among students, teachers, staff, and food.

DRINK TAP WATER FOR HEALTHY TEETH

OUR COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER CONTAINS FLUORIDE

- Fluoride in local drinking water prevents cavities, the most common disease among children. Tap and water-bottle filling stations are safe sources of fluoride.
- Most vending machine beverages contain high levels of sugar that increase the risk for diabetes, obesity and heart disease. Choose tap water and water-bottle filling stations when you are thirsty.
- Communities benefit from fluoride in water by:
 - reducing lost hours at work or school due to dental problems,
 - saving money from fewer dental treatment needs,
 - and having a healthier mouth and body.

TAP WATER PREVENTS CAVITIES AND IS GOOD FOR YOUR OVERALL HEALTH.

m DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ORAL HEALTH EQUITY BEGINS WITH COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION
Community water fluoridation is one of the most cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures to prevent cavities and improve oral health. It is recommended by Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and many public health, medical, and dental organizations. Contact health.equity@state.mn.us to learn about educational materials, grants and other resources. Scan the code to learn more.

Outstanding Achievement Award

Jana Winfree, DDS, MPH

I enthusiastically nominate Dr. Jana Winfree for the prestigious ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award. Dr. Winfree has demonstrated exceptional dedication and achievement in the field of dental public health, making significant contributions to the welfare of the people of Oklahoma through service, education, and research. Her commitment to advancing dental public health for the betterment of the community is evident in her multifaceted contributions:



Dr. Winfree has tirelessly worked to advance dental public health within Oklahoma. Through her extensive service from 2008 through 2023, she directly impacted the lives of countless individuals, particularly underserved populations, by providing essential preventive care and education in oral health. She has achieved remarkable milestones in the field of dental public health, demonstrating both quality and initiative. Her public health endeavors have led to innovative solutions and interventions aimed at addressing prevalent oral health issues within Oklahoma.

Dr. Winfree has made special contributions toward the attainment of local, state, and national oral health program objectives. Her proactive approach and collaborative efforts have played a pivotal role in implementing effective strategies to improve oral health outcomes and access to care. In her roles in scientific, administrative, and other professional capacities, Dr. Winfree consistently displayed superior work performance. Her dedication to excellence has earned her the respect and admiration of peers and colleagues alike, in particular the Oklahoma Public Health Association.

Through her endeavors, Dr. Winfree has brought distinction to dental public health concepts and principles. Her innovative approaches and commitment to evidence-based practices have elevated the standards of oral health care delivery in the community. Dr. Winfree exemplifies exceptional leadership ability and skill in the advancement of oral health. Her visionary leadership has inspired positive change and fostered collaboration among stakeholders, leading to tangible improvements in oral health outcomes at the community level.

In summary, Dr. Winfree embodies the essence of excellence in dental public health and is truly deserving of recognition through the Oral Health Section Award. Her unwavering dedication, outstanding achievements, and leadership have made a lasting impact on the oral health landscape in Oklahoma, setting a precedent for others to follow.

Nominated by: Julia Wacloff, RDH, MSPH



APPLE TREE DENTAL

Access • Compassion • Excellence

M. Dean Perkins Distinguished Service Award Apple Tree Dental

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Apple Tree Dental for the Distinguished Service Award. Apple Tree Dental has played an instrumental role in enriching the landscape of dental public health, its commitment evident through active engagement in ASTDD workgroups and conferences. This steadfast involvement has not only fostered knowledge exchange but also propelled the advancement of best practices in the field. Moreover, Apple Tree Dental's contributions have extended beyond mere participation, as it has significantly augmented the repository of best practice reports, thereby fortifying the foundation upon which future innovations and initiatives can thrive.

Apple Tree Dental was founded as a non-profit dental organization to address the lack of access to dental care for residents of nursing and assisted living facilities in Minnesota. Its "Community Collaborative Practice" delivery model has evolved and grown over 35 years. Eight Centers for Dental Health serve as clinics for patients of all ages and abilities and as care coordination centers for a nationally recognized mobile dental program. Since its establishment in 1985, Apple Tree Dental has been unwavering in its commitment to overcoming barriers to oral health for people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities. Through its innovative programs and pioneering approach, Apple Tree Dental has significantly impacted the lives of countless individuals and families throughout the Nation with providing specialty care in for pediatric, older adult, and special needs populations.

In 2022 alone, Apple Tree Dental provided an impressive 92,765 visits and screenings, delivering services valued at over \$36 million. With more than 84% of its patients enrolled in Minnesota's public health care programs, Apple Tree Dental remains steadfast in its mission to serve those most in need, regardless of their financial circumstances.

In conclusion, Apple Tree Dental exemplifies the highest standards of service, compassion, and innovation in the field of oral health. Its dedication to overcoming barriers and improving access to care for underserved communities makes it an exceptional candidate for the Distinguished Service Award. I wholeheartedly endorse Apple Tree Dental for this well-deserved recognition.

Nominated by: Julia Wacloff, RDH, MSPH

Greg McClure Memorial President's Award **Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS**

I am honored to nominate Ms. Beverly Isman for the 2024 Greg McClure Memorial President's Award in recognition of her unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and invaluable service to the ASTDD. Ms. Isman's remarkable contributions have significantly advanced dental public health initiatives nationwide, making her an exemplary candidate for this prestigious accolade.



Ms. Isman's educational background underscores her commitment to excellence, having earned a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene and a Masters of Public Health from the esteemed University of Michigan. Additionally, her continued pursuit of knowledge is evident through her further studies in epidemiology, communications, technical writing, and evaluation.

Throughout her illustrious career, Ms. Isman has held pivotal roles that have positively impacted the field of dental public health. Her tenure as the dental director for the state of Maine, followed by her service as a public health advisor for Portland Area Indian Health Service, and her faculty positions at UC Davis and the University of Colorado, exemplify her dedication to promoting oral health initiatives at both the state and national levels.

Within ASTDD, Ms. Isman's contributions have been nothing short of exemplary. She has served as the cooperative agreement grant manager and grant writer, actively participated in numerous committees and special projects, provided invaluable technical assistance to states, fostered partnerships with national organizations, and contributed her expertise as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors. Notably, Ms. Isman's efforts have significantly enhanced the sustainability of ASTDD by diversifying funding streams and ensuring the organization's continued success. For nearly three decades, Ms. Isman has been a steadfast presence in the ASTDD community, offering guidance, leadership, and her extensive knowledge during monthly board calls. Her unwavering commitment has been instrumental in steering ASTDD towards its mission of supporting State Oral Health Programs and advancing dental public health initiatives nationwide.

In recognition of her remarkable achievements and profound impact on ASTDD, I wholeheartedly endorse Ms. Isman for the 2024 Greg McClure President's Award. Her dedication, patience, and visionary leadership have been invaluable in sustaining the vital work of ASTDD, and her contributions have undoubtedly shaped the trajectory of dental public health for the better.

Nominated by: Julia Wacloff, RDH, MSPH