



## ASTDD Roundup for 2022 Virtual Business Meeting and In-Person Board Meeting and National Oral Health Conference

By *Bev Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS*

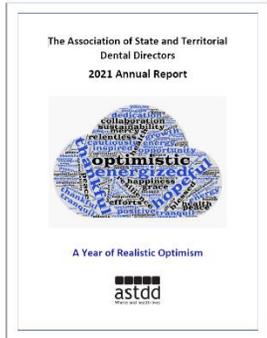


*Photos thanks to Bev, Bob Wacloff, Heather Beavers and Matt Jacob.*

### ASTDD 2022 Virtual Annual ASTDD Business Meeting March 23, 2022 and 2022 ASTDD In-Person Awards and Installation Ceremony April 10, 2022

The Annual meeting was attended via ZOOM by 33 dental directors or their proxies and 66 associate members. You can access the [2021 ASTDD Annual Report](#) on the website as well as the [2021 ASTDD Overview PowerPoint](#).

Christine Wood recognized 11 new dental directors and acknowledged the addition of 103 new Associate Members who have joined ASTDD since the 2021 business meeting, bringing our total Associate Membership to 468; by the end of April, total membership was 530. The treasurer announced that ASTDD remains financially stable with diverse funding sources.



New nominees to the Board of Directors (BOD) were elected, joining incumbents Treasurer Russell Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACD, FICD (WI); Director Jay Kumar, DDS, MPH (CA); and Associate Member Director John Welby, MS (MD). Kimberlie Payne, the most recent Past-President in attendance, installed the new Board members at the in-person ceremony in Ft. Worth.

- President: Julia Wacloff, RDH, MS (AZ)
- Immediate Past-President: Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA (MI)
- President-elect: Adam Barefoot, DMD, MPH (GA)
- Secretary: Sam Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, MPH (RI)
- Director: Mona Van Kanegan, DDS, MS, MPH (IL)
- Director: Angela Filzen, DDS (MS)



Read the Presidential remarks from Chris and Julia on pgs. 5-6.

The following awards were presented during the Awards ceremony. You can read/view more details in the [2022 ASTDD Awards Brochure](#), the [2022 ASTDD/CDC/ADA Community Water Fluoridation Awards Brochure](#), and the [2022 Fluoridation Awards PowerPoint](#) on the website.

**ADA/ASTDD/CDC  
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION (CWF) AWARDS  
Honoring 77 Years of Community Water Fluoridation in the United States**

**Special Merit Award**

**Given to recognize an outstanding contribution toward the progress of fluoridation**

**Leon Stanislav, DDS** has been Chair of the ADA’s National Fluoridation Advisory Committee for fifteen years. He has served as Committee Faculty for Chapter Oral Health Advocates training with the American Academy of Pediatrics to teach pediatricians about fluoride uses and water fluoridation. Dr. Stanislav engages at the community and policy levels to advance dental public health and public health. He has been instrumental in promoting water fluoridation across his home state of Tennessee.



## CWF Community Awards

- **Fifty Year Awards:** 142 water systems in 22 states (see list of states in the Fluoridation Awards brochure)
- **Systems Reaching 75 Years of Continuous Water Fluoridation:** Midland, Michigan; Marshall, Texas; Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- **2021 Community Fluoridation Initiation Awards:** Ironwood, Michigan; Williamsburg, Iowa
- **2021 Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Awards:** cities of Loveland, Colorado; Tama, Iowa; Orono, Maine; Veazie, Maine; Joplin, Missouri; Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania; Hazelton, Pennsylvania; Trenton, Tennessee
- **Communities that defeated initiatives to discontinue community water fluoridation during the past year:** Rangely, Colorado; Park Hills, Missouri; Tavares, Florida; Green Bay, Wisconsin
- **2021 Healthy People Objective Award:** Alabama; Kentucky was recognized retroactively
- **2021 State Fluoridation Quality Awards.** Consistent optimally fluoridated water in over 90% of the adjusted water systems or population supplied by adjusted water systems as measured in WFRS: Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island

## ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award

**Julie Watts McKee, DMD** has demonstrated her leadership abilities in both ASTDD and the State of Kentucky Oral Health Program. Julie managed a four-county district health department for more than 12 years. Since 2007, she has held the position of State Dental Director. From 2010-2016 she was a member of the ASTDD Board of Directors. 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 through 2026.



## ASTDD Distinguished Service Award

**National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC)** has been a great partner and supporter of ASTDD since its inception in 1996. The following are a few of the major highlights and projects that demonstrate how the OHRC has supported ASTDD and its mission. 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. Since 2017, OHRC, in partnership with ASTDD and the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA), has led a cooperative agreement for the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII) project from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). COHSII provides technical assistance, 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 OHRC staff members have played an important role in development and dissemination of ASTDD resources and served on several committees. Pictured below (left to right): **Katrina Holt, Beth Lowe, Sarah Kolo, Kati Battani, Ruth Barzel and Susan Lorenzo.**



## Greg McClure Memorial President's Award

**John O'Malley, MHI, BA** is a population health data scientist with Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. He has been involved in oral health data collection and analysis for several years and has worked with the DentaQuest Institute, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, and the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. John also is a PhD student at the University of Michigan studying spatial epidemiology and analysis of complex sample surveys. 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 [ASTDD National Oral Health Data Portal](#). John continues to be a consultant for ASTDD and updates the Portal with additional datasets.



The 23<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting of the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) co-sponsored by ASTDD and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) was held in-person at the Omni Hotel in Fort Worth, TX April 11-13, 2022. April 9-10 included weekend workshops; BOD meetings of ASTDD, AAPHD, and the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH); the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC) annual meeting and the DPH Residency Directors meeting; with the ABDPH exams on April 7-9. A Federal Dental Session brought together the U.S. Public Health Service, Army, Navy, Air Force and VA Health Administration dental programs. We want to extend our appreciation to the meeting planning staff, Jan Aument, Leticia Harnung, and Aly Brazil for their dedication and hard work in bringing us a seamless in-person meeting again! And Kudos to the wonderful IT support staff and the Omni hotel staff as well!



The **ASTDD Board of Directors** meetings focused on reviewing and updating our 2019-21 Strategic Map. The sessions were facilitated by BJ Tatro, a previous ASTDD Evaluation consultant. Our new strategic map will be posted when it is finalized. The BOD also enjoyed a joint lunch with the AAPHD BOD (pictured at left).



**Weekend workshops** sponsored by ASTDD included:

- *Enhancing State/Territorial Oral Health Programs Using the Updated ASTDD Guidelines and Competencies:* Bev Isman, Julie Janssen and Lori Cofano, facilitators
- *Exploring Strategies to Inform State Oral Health Workforce Policy and Programming:* Hannah Maxey, Sierra Vaughn and Courtney Medlock, facilitators
- *Big "P" Policy, Little "p" policy and Putting it Into Practice:* Greg Holder, Mona Van Kanegan, Judy Feinstein and Harry Goodman, facilitators
- *Getting the Media to Listen and Cover Your Story:* John Welby and Matt Jacob, facilitators
- *Evaluation Plans in Action: Tackling Real-World Road Blocks:* Mary Davis and Carissa Beatty, facilitators.



Other weekend workshops and sessions included:

- *Exploring Surveillance and Claims Datasets for Conducting Population-based Oral Health Research*
- *Navigating the Road to Oral Health.*

Approximately 580 people attended the conference. Attendees could earn up to 27.5 continuing education credit hours by attending weekend and weekday sessions. The Planning Committee chose a social responsibility initiative this year for Gill Children's Services; to date, 24 conference attendees have donated a total of \$2,100 to provide emergency dental care to children.

**Sponsors and exhibitors** supporting the NOHC this year included (see selected photos at the end of the newsletter):

- **Platinum Premium Sponsor:** CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
- **Gold Sponsor:** American Dental Association
- **Silver Sponsors:** Elevate Oral Care, GC America Inc, Planet DDS, OPEN
- **Exhibitors:** Teledentix/Holland Healthcare, Aseptico, Inc, Virtual Dental Care, SDI (N America) Inc, SHOFU Dental Corporation, Air Techniques Special Markets, VOCO America Inc, Patterson Dental, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, ASI Dental, Henry Schein/Dentrix Enterprise, MouthWatch LLC, Envista,
- **Non-Profit Supporters:** American Fluoridation Society Inc, CDC Division of Oral Health, Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP), ASTDD, AAPHD, American Institute of Dental Public Health (AIDPH), National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Institute for Healthcare Advancement, McMillen Health, Minnesota Dental Therapy Assoc.

**Program.** You can access the session listings and abstracts at the [2022 National Oral Health Conference site](#). A plenary session on Monday featured Rena D'Souza, director of NIDCR, discussing the recently released *Oral Health in America Report - Advances and Challenges*, followed by 10 concurrent panels and a poster session covering 68 posters. The Tuesday plenary, *ABDPH Symposium: Value-based Healthcare and Populations Oral Health*, was a panel of four speakers: Diptee Ojha from the American Dental Association, Linda Vidone from CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, Gary Allen with Advantage Dental from DentaQuest, and Christopher Okunseri from Marquette University. This was followed by seven panels and a roundtable session covering 36 roundtables; 15 oral presentations during three sessions were also held on Monday and Tuesday. The Wednesday plenary, *Development of an Interstate Licensure Compact for Dental Hygiene & Dentistry*, featuring Ann Lynch of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) and Dan Logsdon from the Council of State Governments (CSG), was followed by eight panels. During the Roundtable session, John Welby, ASTDD Communications Committee chair, facilitated a discussion about *Creating Your Best Message* where attendees shared communication challenges they face. Members of the Committee offered ideas, proposed strategies, and discussed the importance of having communication plans. Kimberlie Payne, Communications Committee consultant, also facilitated a roundtable, *ASTDD Resources Galore*, showcasing some of the competencies, guidelines, best practices, communication plan templates, evaluation tools, public health policy statements, basic screening surveys for various age groups, and other significant resources.



AAPHD, ASTDD and AIDPH co-sponsored the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Five-Minute Masterpiece Session for Dental Public Health Residents** on Tuesday. During the session, seven DPH residents gave presentations of five-minutes or less using plain language, a title slide and one visual slide. Matt Jacob, John Welby, Bev Isman, Frances Kim, and Annaliese Cothron facilitated the session and provided feedback to the residents on their presentations.

ASTDD also sponsored the panel, **USAPI Oral Health Program Needs Assessment and Two Case Studies from the COVID Pandemic**, featuring Ohnmar Tut, ASTDD USAPI consultant, Reg Louie, ASTDD consultant, and Angelica Sabino from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). ASTDD has been working with the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands to conduct an oral health needs assessment and provide technical assistance since 2019. We were excited to welcome four of our colleagues from Palau and three from CNMI to the conference.





ASTDD and the OHRC also gathered the **state dental hygienist liaisons (DHL)** and **regional dental hygienist liaison coordinators (RDHLC)** in attendance who provide a communication link between states and the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health and Safety (NCHBHS) during the Monday networking lunch. Kathy Hunt, co-lead for the DHL project with Gina Sharps, presented a roundtable about their Head Start activities on Tuesday.

ASTDD consultant subject matter experts finally were reunited and networked to discuss how to best collaborate to meet the needs of state and territorial oral health programs (S/TOHP). Many served as presenters, facilitators or moderators for the weekend workshops and NOHC sessions. They also provided onsite TA to S/TOHP attendees and provided input into the NCHBHS and CDC continuation applications and progress reports that were due less than a week after the NOHC! Never a dull moment with this group!



### Christine Farrell's Outgoing Presidential Remarks



Welcome, I am Chris Farrell, President of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, and I want to welcome you to the 2022 ASTDD awards and installation ceremony. I have been the President of ASTDD for the past two years, and I want to take the time to thank all of you for your support. When I was installed in 2020, I wondered about my purpose for this organization. I wondered whether I could create an inspirational tone and encourage ideas, possibilities, and imagination. It appeared a daunting task, but I focused on a simple idea: DOTS. This was the equation from Sir Richard Branson:  $A+B+C+D=$ Always Be Connecting the Dots. The idea was to connect and weave dots to create new and unusual concepts. It was to connect diverse people to combine talents, experiences, and perspectives and to connect partners to gain reach, to solve bigger problems and connect SOHPs to operate different and better. It was to connect partners and ideas from different places, across geographies and sectors to build richer communities. It was a simple vision to connect and use dots to explore new models, ideas and build systems.

The past two years have been about exploring new ways to interact and provide new experiences. Virtual meetings and technology have been incorporated into the workplace to connect partners and ideas. I have participated in more webinars and meetings across time zones from my home that I could not have done pre-pandemic. Through the dental director calls that were implemented early in the pandemic, I have been able to strengthen and foster relationships with many of the dental directors. I hope that many of you have enjoyed this collegial network.

ASTDD has also weaved a stronger network. We have amplified our message through increased social media and other forms of communication. We have met new stakeholders through the Public Private Partnership that Rear Admiral Tim Ricks has convened. This new community offers opportunities for ASTDD to increase the awareness of dental public health and the roles of SOHPs. The past two years has provided new ways to interact with new and exciting patterns of communication.

ASTDD has also been involved in health systems change, collaborations and collective impact. Earlier this year, the ASTDD National Oral Health Data Portal was launched, which provides oral health information in a collective site. ASTDD has stayed abreast of current issues such as COVID-19 and the role of infection control practice in dentistry, reviewing opioid prescribing in dentistry, updating public health emergency procedures, and tracking the impact of oral health equity among the population. To paraphrase legendary Coach John Wooden: "ASTDD did not let what we could not do interfere with what we could do."

These past two years have been one of unparalleled and dramatic change. ASTDD has adapted and adopted to new ways of doing business and providing services that will continue into the future. The key to remain vibrant and strong is to continue to weave networks and create connections that see the bigger picture, to support the bigger space so that the

connections are interesting, unusual, distinctive, and better. I remain Optimistic and Energized about the future. I want to thank all the members of ASTDD, for without your support this Association would not be the vibrant and energetic association “Where Oral Health Lives.” In closing, I will share this quote from Jane Goodall again. “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you make.” Continue to make some DOTS. Thank you.

### **Julia Wacloff’s Incoming Presidential Remarks**

I am most honored and humbled to be appointed President of ASTDD, and, with the help and support of the BOD and fellow members, I will do my best to meet the challenge. ASTDD has been built on a strong leadership foundation, and I am fortunate to have a membership that is fully committed to ASTDD, which continues to go the extra mile in carrying out the vision and mission of the association.



I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Immediate Past-President, Chris Farrell, for a very successful past two years and keeping ASTDD members informed, engaged, and encouraged during some very challenging times for us all. During her term, Chris did many things to show her support for me as her successor, and I thank her for her dedicated leadership. I would also like to express sincere gratitude for our fearless leader and Executive Director, Chris Wood, who helped the association adapt and keep pace with the changing times.

This past weekend the BOD revised the Strategic Map for ASTDD, which will provide guidance for me, the BOD, and the association in terms of setting and achieving our goals in supporting the states and territories. I would also like to congratulate each of the new BOD members. Our fellow members have shown their confidence by electing us to our respective positions, and I look forward to serving with you. I have already seen the energy, enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment that you bring to the organization.

Despite extraordinary uncertainty, I am eager to chart a path forward. Our last in-person NOHC conference was in 2019 in Memphis TN, and I know that the 2022 NOHC will be a beacon of light for us to reconnect and re-energize. I am fully optimistic that ASTDD will continue to thrive and be a leader “where oral health lives.” I will end with a quote from a great English poet, Robert Browning, “the best is yet to be,” which I truly believe for oral health.

### **A few Notes About Departing the Dallas/Ft Worth Area**

Well, the weather wasn’t the best while we were at the NOHC: lots of wind, drenching downpours, some sun, and pleasant evenings, but definitely not pool weather. Despite sunny skies on Wednesday, flight delays and cancellations occurred due to weather in other areas, airline staffing shortages, etc. Here are a few examples, including my own.



- I left for the airport at about 12:30 with Adam Barefoot and Kathy Hunt in an Uber. Got stuck in traffic for more than 30 minutes due to major accident 20 minutes from DFW. Finally checked in at Concourse B and headed over to Concourse A to my favorite restaurant, Pappadeaux, as my flight was listed for 5:15 pm. Lovely lunch but flight delayed until 6:18 and gate changed to C4. Took the Skylink to Concourse C where there were six more gate changes and two more flight delays until 5:44. Then the gate was changed back to A17 right when I was served a nice glass of wine at a restaurant next to my C gate. Flight further delayed to 8:00 and plane still needed cleaning. Finally left at 8:30. Thank goodness for the Skylink train!
- Kimberlie Payne’s late afternoon flight to Phoenix was cancelled; rather than staying in Dallas, they routed her to Portland, OR where she arrived at midnight for a next day 5am flight to Phoenix with no food vouchers or anything. Flight was delayed to 11:40 and later, with her finally making it home at 5 pm.
- We heard that the ND and CDC folks got stuck for a couple of days for various reasons; the ND folks made it home Friday afternoon after a record blizzard there. Some RI folks missed their connections in Charlotte and had to stay overnight. Others were on flights that sat on the runway for more than an hour, some of which then went back to the terminal and the flight was cancelled.

Are we still having fun??? Let’s hope travel goes smoother next year in Orlando, April 13-19, 2023!

Faces of the NOHC



The ASTDD BOD relaxing



Friends forever



Island colleagues and consultants



COVID Precautions: Levels of "Touchiness"

Voted best dressed consultant



Evaluation specialists extraordinaire

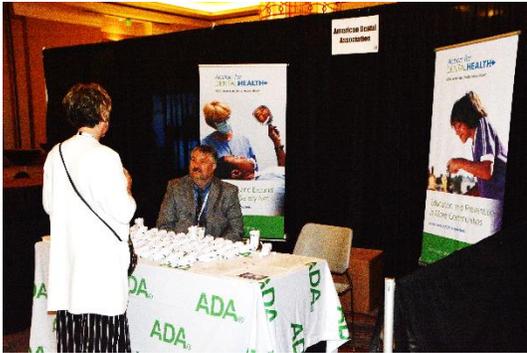
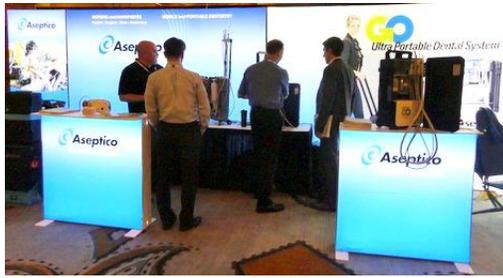


We're still here, not retired!

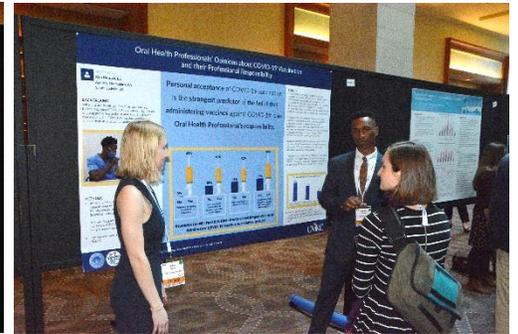
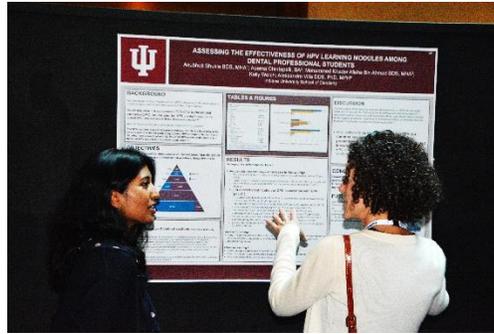


Our stellar Executive Directors

Some of the Exhibits



## Poster Session



## Engaging with Technology



## Some of the Sessions

