



USPHS Chief Dental Officer Newsletter #42: October 24, 2019

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*A newsletter provided to USPHS dentists and key partners
to provide updates of USPHS Dental Category and CDO activities*



Canadian Chief Dental Officer makes first official visit to the U.S.

From October 16-18, 2019, the [Chief Dental Officer of Canada](#), Dr. James Taylor, made his first official visit to the U.S. in his role as chief dental officer. Together, we visited multiple agencies and organizations over a very busy three days to share knowledge and to think about future collaborations.

On October 16th we visited the American Dental Association (ADA) house in Washington, D.C. where [Dr. Chad Gehani](#), the new president of the ADA, greeted us. We discussed some the hot topics in dentistry including community water fluoridation, value-based care, dental amalgam, and alternative dental workforce models. Following this meeting, we met with Rear Admiral Erica Schwartz, deputy surgeon general, to discuss the [Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health](#), the SG's [priorities](#), and to listen to Dr. Taylor talk about



Dr. James Taylor, Canadian Chief Dental Officer, with me and VADM Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General

some of the

reports and activities arising out of his office. We concluded this first day of his visit with a trip over to Alexandria, Virginia to meet with the [International and American Association of Dental Research](#) (IADR and AADR), where Dr. Chris Fox, executive director of both, provided an overview of his organizations and how they interact with federal agencies and with Canadian research agencies.

On the second day of his visit, Dr. Taylor spent much of the day at the HHS building in Rockville, Maryland. After I provided dental public health residents from various residency programs around the country – including the University of California, Harvard, the University of North Carolina, and several others – with an overview of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Taylor provided them with some of the activities that his office oversees and provides in the public health arena. We then met with Lieutenant Commander Eleanor Fleming, an epidemiology

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officer with the [National Center for Health Statistics](#) (NCHS), where we learned about the oral health component of the [National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#) (NHANES) and Canada's plan to create an NHANES-like survey starting in 2021. This was followed by a meeting with the [Association of Dental Support Organizations](#) (ADSO). ADSO represents over 75 different dental support organizations, and recent data show that as many as 10% of dentists work within this practice model; ADSO leaders reported to us that there are over 1,500 organizations with as many as 30,000 dentists working within a DSO structure. We were joined at this meeting by Dr. Rochelle Rollins from the Office of Minority Health and the Office of the Surgeon General. Captain Renée Joskow, chief dental officer of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), stopped by to meet with Dr. Taylor, Dr. Rollins, and me next, and during this meeting she provided Dr. Taylor with an overview of HRSA's oral health programs and their work toward oral health-medical integration.

Following a meeting with Dr. Tim Lozon, Director of the Indian Health Service Division of Oral Health, where Dr. Taylor described his activities related to the [First Nations in Canada](#), we traveled to Bethesda to meet with Dr. Martha Somerman and her team at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), one of the institutes of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Somerman and Dr. Jonathan Horsford described the research priorities of NIDCR and provided an overview of ongoing extramural and intramural activities. Finally, on the third day of his visit, Dr. Taylor and I visited leaders of the [Pan American Health Organization](#) (PAHO) where we each provided an overview of oral health activities in our respective countries to Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva, Jr., Assistant Director PAHO; Dr. Cuauhtemoc Ruiz Matus, Acting Director, Family, Health Promotion and Life Course; and to Dr. Carolina Hommes, Specialist, Healthy Life Course.



Top Left: RADM Erica Schwartz, Deputy Surgeon General; and Dr. James Taylor, Chief Dental Officer of Canada.



Bottom Left: With Dr. Chris Fox, Chief Executive Officer, International Association of Dental Research



Bottom Right: With Dr. Chad Gehani, President, American Dental Association



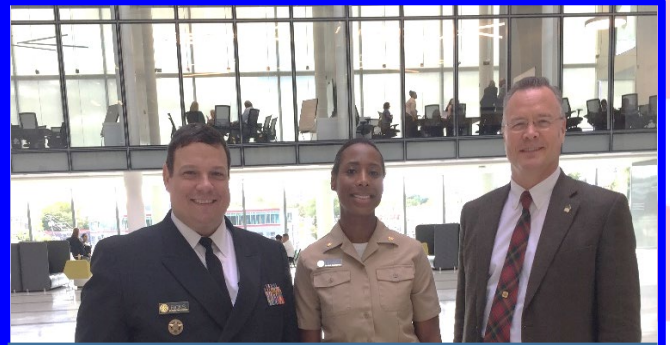
On October 17th, Dr. Taylor and I were able to address dental public health residents as part of an orientation sponsored by the American Institute of Dental Public Health. Thanks to Dr. Annaliese Cothron and Dr. David Cappelli for coordinating this event.



With Dr. Carolina Hommes, Specialist, PAHO Healthy Life Course; Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva, Jr., PAHO Assistant Director; and Dr. Cuauhtemoc Ruiz Matus, Director Family, Health Promotion and Life Course



Dr. Taylor and I with Dr. Alissa Meister, Dr. Martha Somerman, Director, and Dr. Jonathan Horsford from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



With LCDR Eleanor Fleming from the National Center for Health Statistics



Dr. Rollins and I with Lisa Steelman and Chris Badgley, Executive Director of Association of Dental Support Organizations



Dr. Taylor meeting with CAPT Renée Joskow, HRSA Chief Dental Officer, and Dr. Rochelle Rollins from OSG/OMH



With Dr. Tim Lozon (CAPT, Ret.), Director of the Indian Health Service Division of Oral Health

University of Tennessee College of Dentistry leaders strive to improve education & access

On October 7 and 8 I had the pleasure of visiting the [University of Tennessee College of Dentistry](#) in Memphis, Tennessee. Over the two days I learned much about what school leaders are doing to improve access to care in Tennessee and Arkansas and how they are striving to improve dental education in the oldest dental school in the South and the third oldest public college of dentistry in the U.S.

Dr. [James C. Ragain](#), a retired Navy captain, has served as dean of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's (UTHSC) College of Dentistry for the past two years. I was inspired by his vision, and those of his assistant and associate deans – including Dr. Jeff Brooks (Executive Associate Dean) and Dr. Orpheus Triplett (Assistant Dean of Community Oral Health and Outreach) – to improve access to oral health services throughout Tennessee and Arkansas, to increase research at UT to not only advance oral health in the region but also nationally and internationally, to improve diversity within the college and within the applicant pool through an innovative initiative called “Moving Forward,” and to increase the quality of dental school education. On that last goal, as Dean Ragain explained to me, the school has already increased board exam scores substantially just in the past year.



With Dr. Orpheus Triplett (Assistant Dean), Dr. Steve Schwab (Chancellor), and Dr. James Ragain (Dean)

Following several meetings with UTHSC leadership – including a meeting with Dr. Steve Schwab, Chancellor of UTHSC, a [system](#) that oversees medical, dental, pharmacy, and nursing education with over 3,000 students in



Observing a student using digital radiography in the pre-clinical labs, with Dean Ragain and Dr. Jeff Brooks, Executive Associate Dean

four Tennessee cities, and a meeting with the dental school assistant deans – I was able to provide an update on the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and other contemporary oral health issues to over 200 third and fourth year dental students as well as some faculty. On October 8th, I had the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion with over 50 College of Dentistry faculty on a wide range of topics including access to care, alternative dental workforce models, third party reimbursement issues, oral health disparities, community water fluoridation, oral-medical integration, tele-dentistry, and more. Afterwards, Drs. Ragain and Brooks provide me with a tour of the dental school, including the multiple dental residency programs. I was amazed that UT has a total of nine cone beam CT

scanners. I was also fortunate to meet many dental students and watch them in action in the preclinical labs and in the clinical areas. Most of all, I was impressed by the knowledge of the dean and all of the assistant deans, and the faculty, about what was going on throughout the school and throughout the country in oral health.

Finally, Dr. Triplett, assistant dean for community oral health and outreach, set up a meeting where I met with multiple directors of local community health centers representing over 15 dental clinics in the west Tennessee and east Arkansas areas. These dental programs are developing partnerships with UT to have students rotate through them to expose them to public health dentistry and treatment of underserved populations. Pictured below are some of the attendees of this meeting.



Thanks to everyone at the UT College of Dentistry for their hospitality and especially to Dean Dr. James Ragain, Executive Associate Dean Dr. Brooks and to Assistant Dean Dr. Triplett for setting up this visit.

NNOHA meeting focuses on improving access to rural and underserved areas

On October 14th and 15th I had the opportunity to participate in the [National Network for Oral Health Access](#) (NNOHA) annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. NNOHA was founded in 1991 with the mission of advocacy to promote access to oral health across the country. MORE. While most of the 1,000+ in attendance were from federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), NNOHA membership is open to everyone. To learn more about how you can join this movement, click here.

I was fortunate to deliver some opening remarks, and I used that opportunity to provide a brief overview of the upcoming Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health and the decreases in caries in 1-5 and 6-9 year-old American Indian/Alaska Native children that were reported in data briefs released last year and earlier this year by the Indian Health Service. Following my presentation I listened to Mr. Stan Bergman, CEO of Henry Schein, Inc., and Dr. Marko Vujicic, a health economist with the American Dental Association, provide data on the status of oral health in the country, but more importantly, delivering a call to action to all of us on things we can do to continue the fight to improve oral health. Specifically, Mr. Bergman suggested the following actions:



1. Embrace and promote open architecture in technology that leads to integration of a health record to improve consistency and quality of care;
2. Continue to explore workforce models;

3. Raise awareness of oral health, especially with “new” audiences (non-traditional stakeholders, for example); and
4. Expand access to care for all segments of the population.

Dr. Vujicic pointed out that due to Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, the gap in disease burden has decreased between the rich and the poor and between minority populations compared to white, non-Hispanic Americans, but this gap has not decreased among adults and has even widened in older adults.

The conference also gave me the opportunity to interact with numerous oral health advocates from around the country.

Dental Therapist in Minnesota. I had the opportunity to sit down and talk to a dental therapist working in Minnesota. Drew Christianson, MDT, CADT, has been a dental therapist for six years and works at an 11-chair dental clinic in Maple Grove, Minnesota, about 20 miles north of Minneapolis. In this particular practice, there is only one dentist, six dental hygienists, one expanded function dental assistant, and three dental therapists. Much has been said about how approximately 55% of dental therapists in Minnesota work in the seven-county metropolitan area of Minneapolis, but Drew explained to me that about 61% of the population lives there, so the distribution of therapists in the state correlates with the population distribution. Drew, who also serves as a clinical assistant professor at the [University of Minnesota School of Dentistry](#), focuses most of his work on pediatric dental patients: “I enjoy working with children, and I am able to do recall exams while the dentist focuses on other aspects of the practice.” He said that about 90% of the patients in the practice are either uninsured or Medicaid patients. Pictured above with me are Mr. Christianson (far right), and Dr. Steve Geiermann from the American Dental Association (ADA) and the 2019 NNOHA Conference Chair. To learn more about the Minnesota Dental Therapy Program, [click here](#).



Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) in Las Vegas.

At a meeting on October 14th organized by Dr. Jane Grover from the ADA, the ADA’s leading voice on the CDHC model, I met Xochitl Flores, CDHC, CAC, a former dental assistant who is now a CDHC working for [Future Smiles](#), a dental program serving Las Vegas. Terri Chandler, Executive Director and Founder of Future Smiles, Xochitl, Ariana Goertz, Associate Director, and Dr. Eric Koenig provided me with an overview of the program. Working with 56 schools in the Greater Las Vegas Area and 19 community centers, the program features a mobile van that provides a school-based sealant program, dental screenings, digital x-rays, fluoride varnish, dental cleanings, and oral health education, while a fixed dental center located at one of the schools opened this year to provide comprehensive exams and restorative treatment. In the last school year, this amazing program provided oral health education to over 45,000 schoolchildren, over 6,500 screenings/exams, and almost 4,000 dental sealants. To learn more about the CDHC program, [click here](#).



The best oral health presentation I've ever heard. I thought that title might get your attention. Before leaving Vegas, I sat in on a plenary session at the NNOHA conference on the 15th, listening to Dr. Brian Novy, a world renowned cariology expert, provide a lecture on dental caries. If you've ever heard Dr. Novy speak, you know that he mixes in a fair amount of humor in with the complex science he discusses regarding caries, and it makes for an entertaining experience. Well-published, Dr. Novy, pictured to the right with me, has some very interesting ideas on caries management and has a wealth of resources to support these ideas at www.whollymolar.com.



The NNOHA Conference was an enriching experience. I enjoyed meeting numerous oral health professionals and others working to improve access to care in underserved populations across the country. Thanks to Dr. Scott Wolpin, NNOHA President; Mr. Phillip Thompson, NNOHA Executive Director; and Dr. Steve Geiermann, NNOHA Conference Chair for inviting me to the conference and allowing me to listen and learn! Below are some additional pictures from the conference.



Clockwise from top left: I had fun doing a 5K run/walk down the Las Vegas Strip with other conference attendees. RADM (Ret.) Bill Maas, Chief Dental Officer from 1997-2001, was my run/walk partner and it was a great opportunity to learn from him! Top right: With Kathy Eklund, RDH from the Forsythe Institute, and Michelle Lee, OSAP Director. Bottom right: With Dr. Prasida Khanal, MN State Dental Director; Dr. Jevae Nelson from Harvard School of Dental Medicine presented an excellent poster session examining barriers to dental care; and with faculty (including Dr. Francisco Ramos Gomez) and a student from UCLA School of Dentistry, Tarek Kassem, who presented a great poster session on dental students' perceptions of pediatric dental care training in dental school.

Meharry and UT presentations help promote the USPHS

This month I had the opportunity to visit two dental schools to promote the U.S. Public Health Service, the Surgeon General's priorities, and the forthcoming Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health.

On October 7th I spoke to about 200 third and fourth year students at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in Memphis, and on October 24th I spoke to about 35 third and fourth year students at [Meharry Medical College's School of Dentistry](#) in Nashville, an event sponsored by the student chapter of the [American Association of Public Health Dentistry](#).



With Meharry AAPHD Student Chapter

I've enjoyed meeting students and sharing the great story of the U.S. Public Health Service with them. Whether they join the USPHS or one of our public health agencies immediately after graduating or whether they "get their feet wet" in private practice for a few years before they join us, or even whether they go into private practice but support our mission, these meetings and presentations hopefully are enlightening to them! I've been fortunate to have spoken to almost 1,500 students at many programs over the past year: Jamaica Hospital, New York; University of Maryland, Baltimore; Eastman Institute, Rochester; University of Mississippi, Jackson; National Dental Association Student Leaders Summit; University of Louisville, Louisville; ADA Dentist/Student Lobby Day, Washington; Harvard, Boston; University of California, San Francisco; University of Tennessee; and Meharry. In addition, we have had multiple other dental officers and retired officers helping in recruitment at the American Dental Association meeting and at various other dental schools. Thanks to all of the dental school deans and residency directors who have invited me or other USPHS dentists to your campus, and I hope by the end of my tenure as Chief Dental Officer I can say that I've visited every U.S. dental school!

Congratulations to promoted dental officers!

Congratulations to all of the dental officers promoted in the PY 2019 permanent promotion cycle:

To Permanent Lieutenant Commander (O-4)

- Joan Maza Attridge
- Daniel Thomas Barcomb
- David Barrett Collier
- Li-Kuei Gabrielle Hung
- Chien-Ying Lee
- Pauline S. Linhart
- Lucia Helena Nascimento
- Brittany Marshay Satini
- Abby Joanna Shannon
- Sarah Ann Shoffstall-Cone
- Justin Bidwell Sikes
- Lori Jane Snidow
- Anna Marie Woods

To Permanent Commander (O-5)

- Marilyn Melody Weeden

To permanent Captain (O-6)

- Sandra L.S. Aretino
- Stephanie M. Burrell
- Marisol Cordero
- Craig S. Kluger
- Katrina J. Leslie-Puhuyaoma
- Angie J. Roach



Upcoming Chief Dental Officer meetings and events

- October 28th: Great Lakes Area Oral Health Convening, Bloomington, MN
- October 29th: Tufts University School of Dentistry, Boston, MA
- November 7th & 8th: Kansas Conference on Oral Health, Olathe, KS
- November 8th-10th: Academy of General Dentistry Meeting, Chicago, IL
- November 25th: Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN
- December 1st & 2nd: Greater New York Dental Meeting, New York City, NY
- December 3rd-6th: Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S., National Harbor, MD
- December 5th: Oral Health Coordinating Committee Meeting & USPHS dental leadership (dentist and hygienist) meeting with American Dental Hygienist Association (ADHA), Rockville, MD

Retirement: CAPT Kim Montoya

Captain (CAPT) Kim Montoya is retiring from the U.S. Public Health Service following a diverse 20-year career.

A graduate of the University of Louisville School of Dentistry in 1999, CAPT Montoya began her USPHS career in Shiprock, New Mexico in July 1999. After a two-year stint there, she served with the Klamath Tribe in Chiloquin, Oregon for 18 months until she was accepted into an advanced general practice residency (AGPR) at Gallup Indian Medical Center in 2002. Upon completion of the AGPR, CAPT Montoya began working in the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna (ACL) Service Unit in western New Mexico, and is closing out her USPHS career at ACL. While at ACL, Dr. Montoya served as a chief dentist at Laguna, a deputy chief of the service unit, and as dental chief of the service unit.

CAPT Montoya has brought a zest for learning and teaching in all that she has done. She helped create the expanded function dental assistant (EFDA) curriculum for the Indian Health Service, and she prides herself in her clinical skills: “I love teaching adults, difficult extractions, distracting my patients especially for difficult procedures, removable prosthetics, diagnostics, ER dentistry, and finding a way to make things happen, even when the odds are a long shot.”

Dr. Montoya looks at the USPHS as a way to use the gifts she has been given. “All of us go into public health for a reason. You never know what life will send you, but you can for sure fill up your soul if you have the heart of a servant, and serve others with the gifts you have been given. Whoever reads this has special gifts and I want to encourage you to tirelessly use those gifts and don't give up on doing it every minute of every day, especially at work. If you squander your gifts that is wasteful and you could be actually touching someone's life in a way that was never expected by using your gifts instead. If you don't have the right mindset, then you can't let your gifts go to others and enrich their lives.”

CAPT Montoya intends to remain in New Mexico, saying that “there are too many things I like here that I have not had the time to enjoy.” Congratulations, CAPT Kim Montoya, on your successful career, thank you for your contributions to the IHS and USPHS, and best wishes to you upon retirement!



In the news

NEW: New study shows significance of opioid problem in Medicaid beneficiaries. A new study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine [2019;57(3):365-373] examined medical and pharmacy claims data from 13 states from 2013 to 2015. Of the over 5 million patients fitting in one of seven diagnostic groupings, 18.8% had an opioid prescription, with orthopedic pain (34.8%) being the primary reason for the opioid prescription but with dental conditions (17.3%) being the second biggest reason. In addition, patients receiving an opioid prescription for conditions associated with acute pain management – including dental pain – were more likely to receive the prescription from an emergency department provider than a general practitioner. According to Dr. Bruce Dye, one of the co-authors of the study, what is new is “the extremely low opioid use among Hispanic Americans compared to other race/ethnic groups and the variability in prescribing patterns across the days of the week.” Understanding these prescribing patterns is important in developing guidelines to prevent the inappropriate use of opioids, concludes the study.

NEW: HHS publishes new guide to advise clinicians on changing opioid dosage. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a new [Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics](#). Individual patients, as well as the health of the public, benefit when opioids are prescribed only when the benefit of using opioids outweighs the risks. But once a patient is on opioids for a prolonged duration, any abrupt change in the patient’s regimen may put the patient at risk of harm, and should include a thorough, deliberative case review and discussion with the patient. The HHS Guide provides advice to clinicians who are contemplating or initiating a change in opioid dosage. The HHS Guide emphasizes that care must be a patient-centered experience. We need to treat people with compassion, and emphasize personalized care tailored to the specific circumstances and unique needs of each patient. This Guide provides more resources for clinicians to best help patients achieve the dual goals of effective pain management and reduction in the risk for addiction. Compiled from published guidelines and practices endorsed in the peer-reviewed literature, the HHS Guide covers important issues to consider when changing a patient’s chronic pain therapy. It lists issues to consider prior to making a change, which includes shared decision-making with the patient; issues to consider when initiating the change; and issues to consider as a patient’s dosage is being tapered, including the need to treat symptoms of opioid withdrawal and provide behavioral health support.

NEW: NIDA releases new information for teens on drug use and oral health. Then National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens, in collaboration with the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) recently released new resources for teens that shows the effects of drug use on the mouth including opioids, methamphetamine, tobacco, and other drugs. This new resource is available online by clicking [here](#).

NEW: Periodontal inflammation associated with migraines. A study published in May in the [Journal of Periodontology](#) found a relationship between periodontitis and chronic migraine. Examining 102 people with chronic migraines and 77 people free of migraines, researchers found that patients with periodontitis had greater levels of serum calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP), a “key element in migraine pathophysiology.” Researchers concluded that further research is needed to determine the exact mechanisms of how periodontitis and CGRP are related to migraines, but this is yet another example of the oral-systemic link.

NEW: The latest on lung injury and e-cigarettes, including a new name. On October 18th, the CDC issued [Interim Guidance for Health Care Providers Evaluating and Caring for Patients with Suspected E-cigarette, or Vaping, Product Use Associated Lung Injury](#). E-cigarette, or Vaping, Product Use Associated Lung Injury – EVALI – is the name given to this condition. The new guidance provides information on the initial clinical evaluation, criteria for treatment, patient follow-up, special considerations for high-risk groups, and clinical and public

health recommendations. As of October 15th, there have been 1,579 EVALI cases in every state except Alaska, with 33 deaths confirmed in 24 states. The CDC [website](#) has information on what we know, what we don't know, and recommendations, including the following recommendations that we as oral health professionals should reinforce to ALL patients:

1. E-cigarette, or vaping, products should NEVER be used by youths, young adults, or women who are pregnant. [For more information, you can also read the [2016 E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General and the 2018 Surgeon General's Advisory on E-cigarettes Among Youth](#)]
2. Adults who do not currently use tobacco products should not start using e-cigarette, or vaping, products.
3. THC use has been associated with a wide range of health effects, particularly with prolonged heavy use. The best way to avoid potentially harmful effects is to not use THC, including through e-cigarette, or vaping, products. Persons with marijuana use disorder should seek evidence-based treatment by a health care provider. [For more information, you can also read the [Surgeon General's Advisory on Marijuana Use & the Developing Brain](#), published in 2019]
4. There is no safe tobacco product. All tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, carry a risk.
5. CDC will continue to update guidance, as appropriate, as new data emerges from this complex outbreak.

NEW: Amalgam separator deadline approaching. According to the ADA (ADA News, October 15, 2019), most dental practices will need to have an installed amalgam separator by July 14, 2020 based on a 2017 rule by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA states that “the installation of amalgam separators, which catch and hold the excess amalgam waste coming from office spittoons, can further reduce discharges to wastewater. Without these separators, the excess amalgam waste will be released to the sewers.” To learn more about amalgam from the EPA perspective, click [here](#).

NEW: Article from oral health nursing education and practice (from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors). *The Interprofessional Role in Dental Caries Management: Impact of the Nursing Profession in Early Childhood Caries* was recently published in the October issue of the journal of the Dental Clinics of North America (DCNA). This article addresses early childhood caries (ECC) as a population health issue that disproportionately affects children from diverse racial/ethnic and disadvantaged backgrounds. Dr. Haber and Dr. Hartnett discuss the importance of oral health in pediatric care in the call for integration of oral health in primary care and the importance of nurses in reinforcing oral health screening and patient education in pediatric clinical practice. Click [here](#) to check out their article.

Upcoming deadlines & events of interest

Listing of events and organizational information does not, and should not, imply endorsement of these events or organizations. If you know of other events which should be listed, please let me know.

- **NEW:** October 29, 2019 – **The Dental Team's Role in Addressing Tobacco Use and Vaping**, webinar from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. ET. Knowing the dental team's role in addressing tobacco use and vaping is something every dental hygienist should know about! ADHA is partnering with the CDC to bring you Q & A with Tobacco Cessation Experts: The Dental Team's Role in Addressing Tobacco Use and Vaping [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5EXvD6bKT8C3k7Yvt8h0zQ] with Larry N. Williams, DDS, MPH, Maria Perno Goldie, RDH, MS, Shelley Hammond, MMC from the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health, and Vicki Pizanis, RDH, MS, EdD, ADHA's Education and Practice Specialist! This session will present as an interview of sorts, similar to a podcast format. The speakers will discuss the hazards and mechanisms

of tobacco use and vaping and explore educational resources. Slots fill up quickly for ADHA webinars so register today

- **NEW:** November 1, 2019 – **2019 Annual Online Commissioned Officer Effectiveness Report (COER) is due to the Rater** (Commissioned Officers only). Log into the CCMIS website for more information.
- November 2-5, 2019 – **American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting**, Chicago, Illinois. Featuring more than 50 courses and 100 speakers, registration is now open for the 105th meeting. To learn more about the meeting, or to register, click [here](#).
- November 2-6, 2019 – **American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo**, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The theme of this conference is “Creating the Healthiest Nation. For science. For action. For health.” Early bird registration is available until August 8th at a rate of \$546 for members, \$871 for non-members (but you can join for \$225, meaning non-members can join and save \$100 on registration). To register, click [here](#). If you are planning to attend this meeting, there are also a variety of learning institutes sponsored by APHA on November 2nd and 3rd; for more information on these opportunities, click [here](#).
- November 14-15, 2019 – **Mid-Continent Dental Congress**, St. Charles, Missouri. The Mid-Continent Dental Congress offers two days of CE courses and hands-on workshops by 30 nationally recognized speakers. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).
- **NEW:** November 15, 2019 – **Deadline to submit comments to NIDCR on proposed research initiatives**. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is seeking input from researchers, industry, organizations, and the general public on identifying themes for development into research initiatives. Proposed research initiatives and the opportunity to comment on each or other suggestions can be found by clicking [here](#).
- **NEW:** November 18-24, 2019 – **Antibiotic Awareness Week**. According to the CDC, at least 30% of the antibiotics prescribed in outpatient settings are unnecessary. Do your part as oral health professionals to learn more about antibiotic stewardship and dentistry’s role through learning during this annual event, or click [here](#) to learn more about antibiotic awareness from the CDC website.
- November 22, 2019 – **Deadline to submit abstracts for the 2020 National Oral Health Conference**. The program committee for the 2020 NOHC invites abstract submissions for both the [Monday Roundtable Session](#) presenting scientific research, program evaluations, community-based interventions and partnerships related to dental public health, and the [General Poster and Oral Presentations](#) for the meeting. Click on the above links for more information.
- November 29-December 4, 2019 – **Greater New York Dental Meeting Annual Conference**, New York, NY. This is the largest dental meeting in the U.S. with over 52,000 attendees and will be held at the convention center, with the headquarters hotel being the Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway. Registration is free; click [here](#) to go to the registration page. One of the courses being taught is “The Changing Demographics in Leadership and multiple national women leaders, including CAPT Renée Joskow from HRSA, are scheduled to speak. Tuition for that course is \$105 for two credit hours. To register for this course, click [here](#).
- December 2-6, 2019 – **Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) Annual Meeting**, National Harbor, Maryland. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Transforming Healthcare through Partnership and Innovation.” There will be presentations throughout the week aimed at demonstrating and sharing knowledge of cutting-edge medical research, innovative medical advances, and superior

practices in healthcare and patient treatment. The Department of Health and Human Services strongly encourages USPHS Commissioned Corps officer (Corps) participation through attendance and/or submission of abstract proposals and posters. This is the only conference where federal health leadership and professionals from the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, industry and international partners come together to share information and results of collaborative efforts. To learn more about AMSUS or this meeting, click [here](#).

- **NEW:** December 31, 2019 – **Completed COERs must be in your eOPF** (Commissioned Officers only). See the CCMIS website for additional information.
- **NEW:** January 14-15, 2020 – **American Institute of Dental Public Health (AIDPH) 2020 Colloquium on Oral Health Equity**, Hilton Palacio Del Rio, San Antonio, TX. Early bird registration in the amount of \$150/person is available until December 20th. This year's program will consist of topics such as LGBTQ and health equity, working through anti-racism in public health, rural health, culturally responsive care, global health equity strategies, serving individuals with disabilities, and focuses for Healthy People 2030. To learn more about this meeting, to view presentations from previous meetings, or to register, click [here](#).
- January 27-29, 2020 – **Dental Infection Control Boot Camp™**, Chicago, IL. The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) announces registration is now open for Dental Infection Control Boot Camp™. Held January 27th to January 29th in Chicago, IL at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, this is a 3-day intense, fast-paced educational course presented by national and international experts in dental infection prevention and patient safety. "Dental Infection Control Boot Camp™ is a fantastic fundamental-level course that gives participants a comprehensive review of all the basics in dental infection control, including employee and patient safety" Michelle Lee, OSAP Executive Director stated. "Our goal is to ensure that attendees leave Boot Camp feeling educated and empowered to be infection control champions when they return to their dental offices." Early-bird rates are available now through October 31 on OSAP's [website](#).
- February 20-22, 2019 – **Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting**, Chicago, Illinois. The 155th midwinter meeting will consist of more than 250 courses including many hands-on workshops and live patient demonstrations, plus a symposium discussing oral cancer. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).
- February 28-29, 2020 – **National Mobile Dentistry Conference**. Registration for the first annual National Mobile Dentistry Conference taking place on February 28-29 in Orlando is now open! Please note that attendee space is limited. To learn more, click [here](#).
- April 6-8, 2020 – **National Oral Health Conference**, San Diego, California. Co-sponsored by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, this meeting will be held at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel & Marina, with weekend workshops April 4-5. For more information, click [here](#).
- **NEW:** April 20-22, 2020 – **Beyond Flexner Conference**, Phoenix, Arizona. Beyond Flexner 2020 is the conference of the Beyond Flexner Alliance, a national movement, focused on social mission in health professions education, including dentists, doctors, nurses, behavioral health, and others. This movement takes us beyond centuries-old conventions in health professions education to train providers prepared to build a system that is not only better, but fairer. The broad themes of social mission include social determinants of health, community engagement, disparity reduction, diversity promotion and value-based health care. To learn more, click [here](#).

From the USPHS Dental Professional Advisory Committee (DePAC)

The Dental Professional Advisory Committee (DePAC) provides advice and consultation to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service and to the Chief Dental Officer on issues related to professional practices and personnel activities of Civil Service and Commissioned Corps Dentists.

Finding balance by LCDR Sandra Pelto

As an avid motorcycle rider, I was excited to move out of Alaska to the warmth and sunshine of the desert southwest where the road system seemed endless and I could enjoy riding my motorcycle more often. For me, riding helps relieve tension and eases the stress of my day. In Alaska, I was able to enjoy some motorcycle riding (wind therapy) during the short riding season, but now it has exponentially exploded since living in the Southwest. I can ride every day if I want to, and most of the winter too! I now live in the perfect area to own and ride my motorcycle. As a Commissioned Officer working for the Indian Health Service, I inherently work long hours and often spend evenings or weekends on other Corps projects, deployments, readiness, education, etc. Sometimes it is a struggle to maintain a healthy work life balance, but I have found balance with my bike.

My Commissioned Corps career started in Anchorage, AK in 2008 as a dental hygienist for the Indian Health Service with Southcentral Foundation, the same year I started riding motorcycles. I had been an Alaska resident for many years starting out as a tribal hire employee before joining the Public Health Service. After 27 years in Alaska, I made my first career move to a small clinic on the Navajo Reservation in northern New Mexico called Dziłth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Health Center, a satellite clinic in the Shiprock Service Unit. It is so small that I am one of two Commissioned Corps officers at my facility.



On my quest to find other women motorcycle riders in my area of New Mexico, I was introduced to the Hardly Angels Motorcycle Drill Team, an all-female motorcycle performance group from

Durango, CO that performs choreographed routines to music and displays their talents in parades and other special events. They have also performed in Japan three times and at the Harley Headquarters in Milwaukee, WI. I decided to try out for the team and made it!

We have weekly practices where we go over handling skills, military turns, figure 8's, tight circles, standing on our seat, doing an arabesque, riding side saddle, squatting down on one side of the bike while riding and balancing, and other challenging skills. All of which will help us to be better riders with improved bike handling skills. For me, this is what I enjoy doing and I'm looking forward to learning more skills and choreographed routines, building pyramids, and other advanced maneuvers that these ladies do.

Being a part of the Hardly Angels Motorcycle Drill Team is what I do for fun and what helps me to have work life balance. I recommend everyone find something they enjoy doing that helps to de-stress, rejuvenate, and recharge your energy. The camaraderie of the other women riders is up-lifting and practice is challenging and exciting! It is a stress reliever that has nothing to do with dentistry and I love it! Be safe out there!

Use of silver diamine fluoride to prevent & arrest caries by CAPT Kim Hort

In public health settings, we often look for methods to efficiently manage high caries rates in our populations. Following the FDA clearance of SDF in 2014, local and national initiatives began to evaluate risks, benefits, and acceptability of this agent. As clinical protocols and best practices continue to emerge, many of us look to literature to support our clinical services. A [new research article](#) provides an umbrella review of eleven systematic reviews, with a mind toward minimization of bias within those studies. The review focuses on evidence for silver diamine fluoride (SDF) to prevent and arrest root and coronal caries. This article concludes that a strong body of research exists for SDF's effectiveness in arresting coronal caries in the primary dentition and arresting and preventing root caries in older adults, but notes insufficient evidence for prevention of caries in children. Importantly, no adverse events were reported. Additionally, the article provides insight regarding quality of evidence, research bias, and awareness of evaluating articles providing a larger context to the conclusions.

Index of major topics from past issues

Below is a list of major topics discussed in past issues of the newsletter. If you find a topic of interest and would like to receive a back issue, just let me know.

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