

# Bulletin



Spring 2011

[www.CSPD.org](http://www.CSPD.org)

Vol. XXXIX No. 1

## President's Message

Congratulations to Dr. Steve Chan and his team for a successful Annual Session. He brought us a well-planned, captivating meeting in a metropolitan setting which was a lure for all those that attended. The weather in San Francisco was perfect! 75 volunteers made up of CSPD members, friends, and family were organized and orchestrated by Dr. Chan to make this year's meeting sensational. We had over 400 attendees which included a record 53 sponsors. The venue took place at the world-renowned Fairmont Hotel atop Nob Hill which presented us with an awe-inspiring picture of historic San Francisco. The grandeur of the hotel, coupled with its great location and an impeccable view of the Bay Bridge, gave us a truly memorable experience.



**Oariona Lowe, DDS  
CSPD President**

The tireless days and sleepless nights experienced by our Annual Meeting Chair are now over. Steve, you can rest now confident in the knowledge that you did an amazing job! The Welcome Reception was held in the Grand Kahuna of all tiki bars, the Tonga Room. In its heyday, luminaries such as Fred Astaire frequented the Tonga Room, which unfortunately will be closing its doors at the end of the year.

The Saturday Night Gala entertainment was marvelous! It began with dancing Chinese Lions and continued on with waiters singing an opera aria from Puccini's Turandot and 'O Sole Mio! The CSPD Foundation held its silent and live auction which raised over \$18,000. CSPD Distinguished Service Awards were given to Drs. Mel Rowan and Roland Hansen. The evening ended with a raffle hosted by the Board of Directors. The grand prize was a \$100 bill in a red envelope commemorating Chinese New Year. Steve, thank you again for hosting such a magnificent meeting.

As the new CSPD year begins, I look forward to working with my team: the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Standing committees. We will strive towards fulfilling our mission, which is to serve the membership and the public by advocating for the optimal oral health of infants, children, and adolescents. Last year,

we developed a new Strategic Plan, revised our by-laws, and modified our Policy and Procedures manual. A new management style is being considered to help our organization continue to grow and prosper at its current pace. Additional expertise will be needed to keep up with our momentum. Our tech-savvy members, Gary Sabbadini (CSPD Editor) Steve Niethamer (CSPD Website Editor), and Jonathon Lee (WSPD President), will continue to update the contents and presentations of our Bulletin and Website to make it the best in the nation. The Bulletin and Website informs our CSPD members of the most recent developments that affect our specialty.

Currently, we are represented by over 750 members. As part of WSPD/District VI, we are the fastest growing segment of the AAPD. WSPD comprises 23% of the total membership of the AAPD with 10% of the total AAPD membership coming from California.

I would like to thank Dr. Dave Rothman for guiding us through a successful year. Dave seemed more relaxed as the Annual meeting came to a close. He told more jokes on Sunday than I heard him tell all year. Dave deserves congratulations for a great presidential year!

The IAPD (International Association of Pediatric Dentistry) meeting is scheduled June 15-18, 2011 in Athens, Greece. Please join me and other CSPD/AAPD members to mingle and share with our international colleagues! Check out their website [www.iapdworld.org](http://www.iapdworld.org) for more information.

See you all in New York for the AAPD meeting (don't forget to join us at the CSPD/WSPD reception) and in Portland at next year's meeting!

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### CSPD donates \$1,000 for Japanese recovery

With the unanimous approval of the Board, CSPD is donating \$1,000 to help with the earthquake and tsunami relief efforts in Japan. The funds will be sent to the Japan Dental Association along with \$10,000 donated by CDA and will be delivered to local dental associations to support impacted members and assist in recovery efforts of the region.

If you would like to help, donations are being accepted through the ADA at [www.ada.org/internationalactivities.aspx](http://www.ada.org/internationalactivities.aspx).



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**For a complete list of committee members visit the CSPD Website at [www.CSPD.org](http://www.CSPD.org)**

California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

## BULLETIN

CSPD members are encouraged to contribute to the Bulletin. Articles, Letters to the Editor, or other items of interest are welcome. Items for publication may be submitted to Gary D. Sabbadini, DDS by mail (1500 Tara Hills Dr. Suite 100 Pinole, CA 94564 or GarySab@comcast.net).

Product and informational content presented in the Bulletin by contributing authors and advertisers is not necessarily endorsed by CSPD.

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Editor: Gary D. Sabbadini, DDS

### MISSION OF THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry shall be to examine and identify the issues that affect the specialty of Pediatric Dentistry and the oral health of teenagers and children. All of our readers should remain informed and participate in the formulation of public policy and personal leadership to advance the purposes of the Society. The Bulletin is not a political publication and does not knowingly promote the specific views at the expense of others. The views and opinions expressed in the Bulletin do not necessarily represent those of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry.



## Profile on New Members of the CSPD Board of Directors

**Dr. Jennifer Hendershot** obtained her doctoral degree from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 2000 and earned her Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry as well as an MS in Oral Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 2002. In 2003, Dr. Hendershot completed her Fellowship in Pediatric Dentistry with special emphasis on public health at UIC and is currently working as a full-time staff pediatric dentist at the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast, a federally qualified community health center. She is a member of the AAPD, CSPD, ADA, CDA, and the Central Coast Dental Society San Luis Obispo Oral Health Coalition as well as being a Fellow of the AAPD and a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr.



Hendershot currently serves as a consultant on the AAPD's Council on Dental Benefit Programs and previously served as its chair. She is also an Adjunct Clinical faculty for the University of Southern California in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Public Health for the Dental Pipeline program which focuses on increasing dental student exposure to public health settings.

She is passionate about infant oral health, public health and advocacy. Dr. Hendershot currently works for an FOHC and in the past has worked with Native American tribal populations in California and in Arizona, both with the Indian Health Service and US Department of Health and Human Services. She hopes to bring her experience and unique perspective from the public health setting and serve as a voice for underserved children. Her goal is to advocate dental homes for the highest risk populations. Many of these high risk patients have cavities by 1-2 years of age so she feels success can only be achieved if these children have access to culturally competent, high quality, evidence based care at a very early age. Risk assessment and motivational interviewing strategies can help lead to success. She looks forward to working on the Board and feels honored that she has a unique opportunity to work with such talented CSPD leadership. Under the mentorship of such strong leaders, she looks forward to serving CSPD and becoming a more effective pediatric dentist/ child advocate/public health servant.



**Dr. Don Schmitt** did his undergraduate work at UC Berkeley prior to completing dental school at the University of the Pacific (UOP), Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. Following in the footsteps of his father, Leonard Schmitt, Dr. Schmitt pursued a career in pediatric dentistry and completed his pediatric dental residency program at USC. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, has two practices in Danville and Concord and lives in Alamo with his wife, Paula, and son, Charlie. He teaches part time at UOP and enjoys snow skiing and coaching his son's baseball and basketball teams.

He is looking forward to building on the strong advocacy, both for children and member dentists, that previous board have created. One of Dr. Schmitt's principal areas of interest will be the ongoing implementation of the new U.S. health care plan and its effect on our membership: both as dentists and as small business owners.

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# CSPD in San Francisco

Be sure to view all the photos on the CSPD website!! [www.cspd.org/images/2011SFAM](http://www.cspd.org/images/2011SFAM)



The Welcome Reception in the World Famous "Tonga Room"



The Installation Luncheon & Foundation Dinner

# GATEWAY TO GOLD MOUNTAIN...



Congratulations to Drs. Roland Hansen and Mel Rowan who received the CSPD Distinguished Service Award



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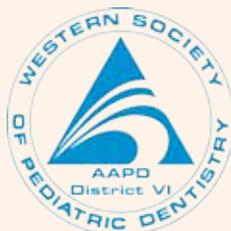


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Paul Reggiardo, DDS  
Public Policy Advocate

## Bills of Interest to CSPD

### California Legislature 2011-2012 First Regular Session April 30, 2011

CSPD follows these and a number of other bills potentially impacting pediatric oral health. Members having questions or wishing to comment on these or any other legislative initiatives are invited to contact CSPD's Public Policy Advocate, Dr. Paul Reggiardo, at [reggiardo@prodigy.net](mailto:reggiardo@prodigy.net).



**AB 437 (Pan) State Oral Health Infrastructure:** As introduced, this bill would remove the requirement that the Dental Director of the California Department of Public Health be licensed in California.

**CSPD Position:** Watch

*Comment:* This CDA-sponsored bill is a vehicle for improving the state's oral health infrastructure by, among other things, re-establishing a state dental director who could then tap into federal and other funding sources through a new state Office of Oral Health. It is unlikely to be acted upon in this legislative session.

**AB 669 (Monning) Sweetened Beverage Tax: Children's Health Promotion Fund:** As introduced, the bill would impose a tax on the distribution of sweetened beverage products for the purpose of obesity prevention.

**CSPD Position:** Watch

*Comment:* AB 669 is very similar to unsuccessful legislation authored last year. Although the bill does contain language stating that a portion of the proceeds would fund "children's dental programs," what proportion that would be is unclear. Because AB 669 would create a new tax, it will require a two-thirds vote in the legislature to even reach the ballot. In the current budgetary/political environment, this would seem unlikely as would passage by the voters.

**SB 486 (Dutton) California Children and Families (First 5) Program Funding:** As introduced, this bill would place before the voters a measure to abolish the state and counties First Five Commissions and provide that Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues be deposited in the General Fund for appropriation by the legislature for the support of the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs.

**CSPD Position:** Watch

*Comment:* SB 486 is identical to SB 1109 (Cox), which failed passage last year by the Senate Health Committee. Proponents see this as a necessary step in balancing the state budget that supports necessary Medi-Cal and Healthy Families funding. Opponents see this as an attack on the concept of First 5 county commissions to direct the bulk of tobacco tax revenue spending on a local basis.

**SB 694 (Padilla) Dental Workforce:** As amended, this bill would require that Dental Board of California in collaboration with a stakeholder working group to determine the workforce requirements necessary to meet needs of additional children eligible for care under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

**CSPD Position:** Watch

*Comment:* This is the anticipated "spot bill" sponsored by the Children's Partnership Coalition that would establish a new dental provider category in California. It is not expected to be acted upon until the second legislative session in 2012.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

### SCORE ONE FOR THE LITTLE GUY!



Gary Sabbadini, DDS

Through the efforts of CDA's policy analyst, Greg Alterton, and CSPD's own policy analyst, Paul Reggiardo, Delta Dental has approved a policy change which will be seen later this year. The issue in question was Delta's refusal to pay for a stainless steel crown that I placed on the same day as the placement of a unilateral space maintainer (e.g. a stainless steel crown placed on #A was not paid when tooth #B was extracted and a unilateral space maintainer was placed on tooth #A). The stainless steel crown was bundled as part of the space maintainer. At the behest of Mr. Alterton, Dr. John Yamamoto, Delta Delta's Vice President of Professional Services, brought the case before Delta's Policy Committee last November. He presented a recommended policy change to allow payment of a stainless steel crown independent of a space maintainer when placed in the same quadrant on the same date of service (allowing them as two separate procedures). The committee voted and approved this recommended change. The implementation of this policy change has been started, but with a phased conversion of the entire claims processing system currently being undertaken at Delta, the change will be seen in payment on such claims later this year. Hopefully, Delta will soon be forthcoming with an official notice of the change.

If you ever have a problem with an insurance company, please contact Paul Reggiardo and/or Greg Alterton. We can't expect any change in insurance company's policies unless we bring these issues to their attention.

Greg Alterton  
CDA Policy Analyst  
916-554-4994  
[greg.alterton@cda.org](mailto:greg.alterton@cda.org)

## DISTRICT VI UPDATE

"There is more that unites us than divides us" is an oft-used quote that is certainly true today in the dental profession. Throughout our careers, challenges present that we believe negatively affect dentistry and the oral health of our patients. The current obstacle facing dentistry is the midlevel provider issue. Whatever your stance on this topic, it is an issue which will affect all of us. I eagerly await the California Dental Associations Dental Workforce Study. I understand the intent is to conduct an objective assessment of various ways to address the dental access to care challenge in California. As it critically looks at the potential impact current and potential new workforce models may have in California, I believe the results will be used as a model for states throughout out country. The Board of the AAPD has also approved the establishment of an AAPD policy on midlevel/non-dentist providers to be presented at the 2011 Annual Session. I am confident the United States dental profession will continue to set the standards in oral health being mindful that the future may include a new workforce member.

In other news from the Academy:

- Membership in AAPD totals 7,805 of which 4,147 are Active Members
- The AAPD website redesign is underway with the launch expected in Spring. In addition, AAPD will launch [www.MyChildrensTeeth.org](http://www.MyChildrensTeeth.org), a website designed specifically for parents and caregivers. Finally, a full Pediatric Dentistry Today website with article archive and a mobile version of the AAPD website will be unveiled soon.
- Those considering a move into academics should consider participating in the AAPD Master Clinicians Program.
- Between 2002 and 2010, there was a 64% increase in pediatric dentistry applicants participating in the Match (a total of 562 in 2010) and a 65% increase in the number of positions filled (a total of 299 in 2010).

- Consider giving back to our specialty through the Healthy Smiles/Healthy Children Foundation. For 2010, gifts and pledges to the Foundation were almost \$900,000.
- Reviews and updates are in the process of being completed on 14 AAPD Oral Health Policies and Guidelines. See [www.aapd.org](http://www.aapd.org) for more information.
- They are investigating putting the CE course "Contemporary Sedation of Children for the Dental Practice" in DVD format.
- There will be a Code Workshop at this year's AAPD Annual Meeting addressing the additions and revisions to the 2011-2012 CDT. For those interested in having the AAPD do a workshop in your state/region, contact the AAPD.
- This year's Advocacy Forum at the Annual Session will focus on practical issues: how pediatric dental practices can serve a significant percentage of Medicaid/CHIP patients while balancing the overall payer mix, examine the pros and cons of Medicaid lawsuits via an update on a pending Florida case, and highlight state innovations in Medicaid dental administration.
- AAPD continues to push for increased Dental Title VII Funding.
- 2011 Legislative and Regulatory priorities were reviewed and approved.
- AAPD encourages members to partner with PEARL, which is a practice-based research network. To date, there are 28 practices involved.
- 60% of pediatric dentists are Board Certified. The renewal of certification was launched in January, 2011.



*Jade Miller, DDS  
District VI Trustee*

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*Steve Gross, CDT  
 CSPDF President*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Success is the Value of Hard Work

The Annual Meeting in San Francisco was alive with a buzz in the air of participation and good will. The outstanding weather (albeit a little cold for us Southern California residents!) added to what was one of the most memorable events I've personally attended. Congratulations to Steven and Sue Chan!

The President's Circle event at the La Colonial restaurant on Friday night was a great success with over 80 people in attendance. Everyone had a wonderful time visiting with old friends and rubbing elbows with VIP's.

**Our 2011 Silent/Live auction raised over \$18,000 in support of our mission.** Thank you to all the donors and bidders who participated!



**A special thanks to Mark Lisagor, our auctioneer!!**

### We Asked – You Spoke - We Listened

Since its inception, the Foundation has funded educational, travel, and research grants in the neighborhood of \$200,000. Last year, to determine whether we were staying true to our mission, we embarked on a feasibility study to determine how you, our donors and members of the CSPD, feel about our efforts. Once the study was completed, the Foundation board was quite disappointed to hear that most of you felt that our mission was not being carried out as anticipated. So, on January 9, 2011, the Foundation rolled up its sleeves and approved the funding for:

- 1. Becoming a Platinum Sponsor for the CSPD Annual Meeting.** This \$6,000 helps fund the postgraduate's travel to the annual meetings.
- 2. Providing "Lunch & Learns" for all the California pediatric dental residency programs.** This \$800 will help educate residents about the benefits of membership in CSPD and help encourage them to join.
- 3. Two Warren Brandli Interns.** This \$8,000 will cover the expenses for two pediatric dentists who will serve both the CSPD board and the CSPD Foundation board. This mentorship program will help nurture these future leaders of our organization.



We approved and rapidly set into motion our new **"Bridging the Gap"** faculty enhancement program. In short, the program establishes an annual initial budget of **\$150,000** that will be earmarked for support of the six pediatric dental programs in California: **USC, UCLA, UCSF, UOP, LLU & Western Pomona**. \$25,000 will be allocated for each program through a simple application process.

This program will be limited to supporting faculty recruitment, faculty training, loan forgiveness, and volunteer faculty incentives that will help enhance the effectiveness of each program. I am pleased to announce that we have already approved 2 programs for this award: UOP and USC. Checks will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

This program would not be possible without those members who saw a vision and supported it! For this program to be fully sustainable, it will require the **full support** from its corporate sponsors and you, the CSPD membership. We need your support ... for less than the cost of a cup of coffee (\$2.75 a day) you can become a major supporter of the Foundation. Remember, better trained pediatric dentists will continue the quality dental care children in California currently receive. Please put us on the top of the list of organizations that receive your support. Thanks in advance for your generous donation!!

Thank you to Mike McCartney and Lisa Brennan/Albert Cosand for stepping up to the plate and pledging Diamond Life!

# 2011 - 2012 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN DONORS

as of 3/31/2011

## Presidents' Circle Donors

### Diamond Life

Lisa Brennan  
& Albert Cosand

Roland Hansen &  
Lorraine Hansen

Mark & Teri Lisagor  
Mike McCartney

Bob & Judy Oliver  
Mel & Linda Rowan

Ken & Patty Szymanski

### Corporate Life

Appliance Therapy-Space Maintainers

### Platinum Life

Vernon Adams  
Leslie Aspis  
Ann Azama  
Thomas Barber  
Stephanie Brandli  
Madeleine Brandli  
L. Jeffrey Brown  
Santos Cortez  
Mark Dal Porto  
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Martin & Dea Steigner  
Ray & Penny Stewart  
Karen Sue  
Karen Teeters  
Scott Thompson  
Lynn Wan  
Wesley & Jan Wieman  
Randall & Gloria Wiley  
Philip Wolkstein

### Patron Life

Donald Dal Porto

Duane Spencer

Dennis Nutter

### Gold Life

Arthur Rabitz

## Circle of Friends Donors

### Sustaining

Mark Bayless  
Ron Bills  
Donald Duperon

Joseph Friedgen  
& Linh Van  
Marc Grossman

Alison Jackson  
David Morris  
Raymond Ramos

Gary Sabbadini  
Wayne Tofukuji

### Contributing

Randy Ligh  
Simon Morris

Leticia Mendoza-Sobel  
Judith Pabst

Donald & Paula Schmitt  
Kanoknuch Shiflett

Eddie So

### Member

Jan Gerber  
Geoffrey Groat  
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Estela Liou  
Vivian Lopez  
Steve Mascagno

Lorraine Neri  
Gus Petras  
Lindsey Robinson

Joseph & Laurie Sigala  
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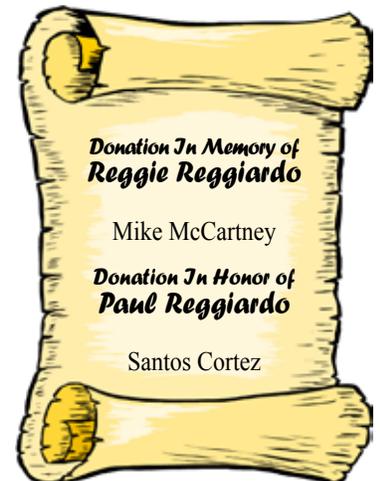
### Other

Earl Goldstein

Sumalee Sangsurasak

Sharine Thenard

Patricia Turley



## Action and Reaction

The first monies from the "Bridge the Gap" program have been awarded to the University of Southern California and University of the Pacific dental schools. There are some happy smiles as the inaugural faculty funding grants are received by the pediatric dental programs. "Bridging the Gap" is the name of the CSPD Foundation grant which provides up to \$25,000 towards faculty support in the undergraduate pediatric dental departments or advanced pediatric education programs of the California schools. The funds may be utilized to assist with the recruitment, development or retention of full time, part time, or volunteer faculty.



Lisa Brennan, DDS

"We greatly appreciate the CSPD Foundation's generous support of pediatric dental education through this grant to our school," said Dr. A. Jeffrey Wood, chair of the University of the Pacific's department of pediatric dentistry. "This additional funding will help us to continue to attract high-quality faculty members in this specialty to work with our students and patients."

Dr. Richard Udin, program director for the postgraduate pediatric dental program at USC, reports being "very grateful for the support which will help create a 2 day per week faculty position to provide additional clinical faculty supervision for predoctoral and postdoctoral students at the school."

Those of us on the board of the Foundation are excited by the response to the offer. More grants are pending as other schools prepare their requests. However, with these requests comes the responsibility of raising enough money to support the 2 year commitment which totals \$300,000. We hope our members will respond with a generous spirit as we help the schools that train the members of our specialty.



Dr. David Good receives a check on behalf of Dr. Richard Udin, Chair of the Pediatric Dental program at USC.



Dr. Richard Sobel, Mr. Steve Gross and Dr. Jeff Wood with the check on behalf of UOP Dental School.

## CSPD Foundation Silent/Live Auction

The CSPD Foundation's 2011 Silent/Live Auction turned out to be a huge success! Our amazing auctioneer, Mark Lisagor, was able to elicit some substantial bidding wars resulting in a very entertaining and successful event. The auction ended up raising close to \$19,000 dollars, which was far beyond what we anticipated. We wish to send out a special thanks to all the donors and bidders who made this possible.

~ Matt Hamilton, DDS



### The Gift of Health

The Foundation has developed an opportunity to honor a person or to donate for a memorial gift. Gifts of \$25 or more can be made using the donation form on the website ([www.cspd.org/foundation](http://www.cspd.org/foundation).) A letter will be sent to the person or family for whom the gift is made plus a letter to the donor for tax purposes.

There will be a one-time listing in the CSPD Bulletin of the gift. Please write out how you would like the listing published on the donation form.

Item	Donor	Winner(s)	Winning Bid
Giant's Tickets	Ronald Bills	Dennis Nutter	\$300
Guided Fly Fishing Trip	Ray & Penny Stewart	Wesley Weiman	\$2,700
		Roland Hansen	\$2,700
		Rebecca Lee Pair	\$2,700
Train Ride	Lisa Brennan & Albert Cosand	Rebecca Lee Pair	\$1,700
Golf Weekend	Mel & Linda Rowan	Mike McCartney	\$1,700
		Santos Cortez	\$1,700
Mexico Trip	Richard Sobel & Leticia Mendosa-Sobel	Lisa Brennan	\$1,700
Hollywood Bowl	Mark & Terri Lisagor	Raz Molina	\$1,200
Vegas Trip	Appliance Therapy Group	David Rothman	\$1,200
Golf Clubs	Appliance Therapy Group	Ann Azama	\$225
Web Listing	Dentists4Kids	Natalie VanderKam	\$80
Flossers	EZ Floss	Lisa Brennan	\$30
Concours d'Elegance	Matt Hamilton	Lisa Brennan	\$150
Dennis Eckersley Baseball	Steve & Sue Chan	Jade Miller	\$60
Apple iPad	Gary Sabbadini	Rebecca Lee Pair	\$300
Flavored Gloves	Plak Smacker	Samuel Burg	\$20
Kinder Crowns	KinderCrowns	Tom Floyd	\$120
Dodger Tickets	Steve Gross	Lynn Fujimoto	\$30
Space Maintainer Kit	Space Maintainer Lab	Tom Floyd	\$180
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,765</b>

# Annual Giving Campaign 2011 - 2012

(All contributions accrue yearly helping you achieve a personal level of satisfaction)

## All donors receive the following benefits:

- Recognition in the CSPD Foundation's Annual List of Contributors published in the CSPD Bulletin and Annual Meeting program.
- Recognition in the CSPD Foundation's Annual List of Contributors published in the Giving Campaign annual brochure.
- Badges showing membership level to be worn during the CSPD Annual Meeting.
- Recognition in the CSPD Foundation's Annual List of Contributors displayed prominently at the annual CSPD meeting.

## President's Circle donors receive the following additional benefits:

- Special designation in Annual List of Contributors, in all CSPD Bulletins at the Annual Meeting
- Personal Annual Briefing by Foundation Trustees
- Invitation to the President's Circle reception at the CSPD Annual Meeting

## MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Presidents' Circle

- Diamond Life.....\$25,000 may be payable in up to 5 annual Installments of \$5,000 each
- Platinum Life.....\$10,000 may be payable in up to 10 annual installments of \$1,000 each
- Gold Life.....\$5,000 may be payable in up to 5 annual installments of \$1,000 each
- Patron.....\$1,000 may be payable in 1 annual installment of \$1,000

### Circle of Friends

- Sustaining.....\$500
- Contributing.....\$300
- Member.....\$200
- Student.....\$25

### Special Giving

- ..... In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_
- ..... In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_
- ..... Give what you can – denote below amount enclosed

### Corporate Allies

- Recognition in the CSPD Foundation's Annual List of Contributors published in the CSPD Bulletin and Annual Meeting program.
  - Recognition in the CSPD Foundation's Annual List of Contributors published in the Giving Campaign annual brochure.
  - Badges showing membership level to be worn during the CSPD Annual Meeting.
  - Recognition in the CSPD Foundation's Annual List of Contributors displayed prominently at the annual CSPD meeting.
  - Special designation in the Annual List of Contributors, in all CSPD Bulletins and at the Annual Meeting
  - Personal Annual Briefing by Foundation Trustees
  - Invitation to the President's Circle reception at the CSPD annual meeting
  - Mentioned by name at every social event during the CSPD annual meeting
- 
- Corporate Life.....\$10,000 may be payable in up to 10 annual installments of \$1,000 each
  - Corporate Sustaining.....\$5,000 may be payable in up to 5 annual installments of \$1,000.00 each
  - Corporate Friend.....\$1,000.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please list name above exactly as you wish to be recognized in all publications)

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: **CSPD Foundation, PO Box 221608 Carmel, CA 93922**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ray Stewart, DMD  
Executive Director

Another year and another Annual Meeting have passed. The Annual Meeting was a rousing success in all regards including the quality of the academic programs and the outstanding social events. The Welcome Reception in the renowned Tonga Room of the beautiful and historic San Francisco Fairmont and the Saturday Night Gala featuring the performance of the Chinese Lion Dancers and the Singing Waiters were enjoyed by all and made the entire week a memorable one. This year's meeting chair, Steve Chan, is to be congratulated for the truly outstanding job that he did in planning and executing the meeting,

especially in the area of sponsor recruitment. We had a record number of 53 paid sponsors at this year's meeting surpassing the previous record by a large margin.

With the April close of the 2010-2011 fiscal/administrative year and on behalf of the entire membership, I would like to thank the Officers and Board of Directors of CSPD for a job well done. You have accomplished an incredible body of work and have provided CSPD with dedicated and responsible leadership during your tenure ensuring that we will grow and evolve and allow us to achieve our Mission: "to serve our members and the public by advocating for the optimal oral health of infants, children and adolescents." It has been my great honor and privilege to have served with all of you and to have played a role in seeing this organization maintain its position as the preeminent pediatric dentistry state unit in the country. Through the visionary restructuring of our Strategic Plan, we have also made great strides in assuring a continuing line of future leaders for the Society by formalizing and institutionalizing our Leadership Development Committee activities and by expanding the opportunities for residents and recently graduated dentists to participate in Society affairs.

A wonderful example of this increased participation by young members of the organization occurred this past March with the attendance of several residents from the UCLA program at the AAPD Advocacy and Lobby days in Washington, DC. These young residents, who were accompanied by three seasoned "old hands," visited no less than a dozen House of Representatives offices and both of California's Senatorial offices. This experience provides an opportunity for the residents to have significant face time with the older and more experienced "mentors" as they visit the various congressional offices as well as participate in the social events which take place during the course of the three day event. It provides a firsthand view of our democracy in action and is a real eye opener for those experiencing direct advocacy and lobbying for the first time. I believe that I speak for all of us, residents and mentors alike, when I rate this opportunity and experience as one of the highlights of my year. I also think that

all of the pediatric dentists from California who have attended Lobby Days and have had the opportunity to interact with residents would agree that it is important to advocate for expansion of this experience to the other programs throughout the state.

The UCLA residents who attend AAPD Lobby Days are most fortunate in that they have their travel expenses covered as part of their Community Health Advocacy Training (CHAT) grant. I have proposed to the Board that CSPD offer one scholarship each year to each of the three other California pediatric dental residency programs to cover the travel



(Pictured from Left to Right) Top: Drs. Ray Stewart, Deyanira Sanchez, Gerardo Martinez, James Crall, and Mark Lisagor  
Bottom: Drs. Carrie Loewen, Magnolia Becker, Alison Fronczak, Francesca Artiga, Brian Rooney, and Breanne Reid

and incidental expenses for one of the post-doctoral students to attend AAPD Lobby days. I will also be advocating for a similar type of CSPD resident/mentor participation in the CDA lobby activities which take place in Sacramento each year. Both

of these proposals will serve to promote a broadened interaction between CSPD members and the pediatric dental residents by giving them exposure to CSPD advocacy efforts, legislative and policy activities and perhaps encourage them to become more engaged with our organization so that they will continue to be active members following completion of their programs.

I am pleased to report that the CSPD Foundation has launched a significant new program, "Bridging the Gap", designed to assist the Pediatric Dentistry departments in all of the California schools in recruiting and retaining new faculty personnel. We are all well aware of the difficulties that the schools have had in recruitment and retention for the past several years due to their inability to offer competitive salaries and benefits. This fact, coupled with the staggering debt that most students incur during their pre and post-doctoral educations, has led to severe limitations in the school's ability to attract new teachers. In an attempt to address this problem, the Foundation has invited the departments to submit proposals for funding for loan forgiveness, salary supplementation, or other creative solutions for up to \$25,000 per year. To date, three proposals have been received. Two have been funded and the other is expected to be funded in the very near future.

## CSPD LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CSPD would like to invite any members who may be eligible for Life Membership to contact Dr. Ray Stewart at the central office to apply. The requirements for Life Member status are defined in Chapter 1, Section 8 of our Bylaws which reads as follows:

*"An Active member who has been a continuous charter member in good standing, or a continuous member in good standing for twenty years and has reached the age of sixty-five (65) years and continues to fulfill the provisions set forth in Chapter 1, Section 2A, may apply for Life Membership. An official application form is available from the Executive Director's office. An Active member who thus applies may be elected to Life Membership upon the recommendation of the Membership Services Committee and approval of the Board of Directors. Life members have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as an active member, except annual dues are not required unless the member earns income from dentistry. In that event, dues shall be fifty percent (50%) of active membership dues."*

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Stewart.

DR. THOMAS LENHART

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DR. THOMAS E. LENHART IS A BOARD CERTIFIED DENTIST ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND A LICENSED CALIFORNIA DENTIST. HE COMPLETED HIS POST-DOCTORAL ANESTHESIA RESIDENCY TRAINING AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY, MEDICAL CENTER & AFFILIATE HOSPITALS. HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE IN DENTAL MEDICINE FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE. DR. LENHART HAS OVER 18 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING ORAL SEDATION, CONSCIOUS SEDATION & GENERAL ANESTHESIA FOR DENTISTS & THEIR PATIENTS THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA & NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the people who volunteered to help run the sign-in tables and CE certificate distribution at the 2011 CSPD/WSPD Annual Meeting in San Francisco. I could not have done it without you. To all of my speaker hosts, thank you for making our speakers feel welcomed by our organization.



**Karilyn House, DDS** are also looking at a way of creating your CE certificates to completely fulfill the guidelines set by the Dental Board of California (don't worry, the CE certificates you received for this year's meeting are valid!) In the future, the attendee's names will be printed on the CE certificates; it's just a matter of determining the most efficient way of doing this.

Thanks to all of you who completed the CE survey. A repeated theme expressed by you is the importance of interesting and relevant topics. Your input will help us in determining topics for the 2013 meeting. Speaker arrangements are planned well in advance and Dr. Rebecca Lee-Pair has worked hard to provide interesting topics for the 2012 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Another concern that was expressed in multiple areas of the survey was the issue of the meeting cost. Especially in this economy, we will be working to be

considerate of your concerns. The convenience of meeting location was also important to the respondents. As far as an auxiliary course, the highest percentage of respondents felt neutral about having a CSPD sponsored auxiliary course. The cost was the primary reason respondents do not send staff to these courses. A more detailed report will be posted on the CSPD website.

If you have not already received an e-mail regarding the CE course evaluations and overall meeting evaluation for the 2011 meeting, you can find the link on the CSPD website at [www.cspd.org/news/message.asp?news\\_id=487](http://www.cspd.org/news/message.asp?news_id=487). Your input will help us assess this year's speakers, vendors, and overall meeting quality. There are comment boxes for most of the questions as well as a place for your input at the end of the survey. We are aware of some of the problems that occurred at this year's meeting and are working to ensure that similar issues do not arise at future meetings.

CSPD is developing a course to present at an upcoming CDA Scientific Session. While CDA has requested that this course be geared towards general dentists, we will also try to show some of the innovative techniques we use in pediatric dentistry. Our goal is to make this course interesting for both general and pediatric dentists.

In conclusion, I look forward to continuing to serve you as the chair of the Continuing Education Committee and as a member of the 2013 Annual Meeting Committee. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me at [karihouse@pobox.com](mailto:karihouse@pobox.com).

### **AAP Release Free Online Culturally Effective Care Toolkit for Practicing Pediatricians**

Learning to deliver culturally effective care is considered by many to be a lifelong journey. The new AAP Culturally Effective Care Toolkit ([www.practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2990](http://www.practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2990)) is a practice, hands-on resource to help practicing pediatricians and their staff provide culturally effective care to their patients and families.

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## Just Uncheck the Box

Our office recently converted to digital radiographs. As you might expect, offices built over 20 years ago are not exactly setup for computers in every room. And the computers often are a variety of operating systems (OS) and hardware. As we started adding Dexis software, we found out (as many of you already know) that the radiographic software program must be integrated with our Dentrax primary software. Doing this allows the data bases to be shared and enables the radiographs to be viewed from the patient chart page. With help from software techs, the installation went reasonably well except for one computer – my laptop.

This special and well used computer was purchased after my previous old companion died and we could only buy one running a Vista OS. I've been fairly satisfied with it until the Dexis installation and integration started. This installation involved a couple of weeks of phone calls, emails, techs taking over my computer and ... more phone calls.

At first, the company was sure that they could fix it. We uninstalled, reinstalled, changed pathways and allowed/disallowed this and that ... all without success. Finally, a frustrated software tech confided to me that he has never made Dexis/Dentrax work on a Vista computer. Well thank you very much! Why didn't they say this at the beginning? As I muttered many words under my breath, I started estimating the number of hours needed to take the next step and upgrade to Windows 7.

It was the weekend and I thought that there must be a way to make it work. A man must try again. Because some of the previous problems were with a program called the User Account Control (UAC) and its frequent requests to allow programs to run, I investigated that program again. Sure enough, we had clicked on a link to turn this UAC off and clicked again on the OK. It should be off. But looking again at the page I noticed a checked box next to the words, "Use UAC to help protect your computer." I thought, "Huh..." and then a light went on in my head. After unchecking this box, clicking OK and restarting the computer, the radiographic program ran perfectly! So it seems that many of our problems with computer programs are solved by checking or unchecking a box.

Yesterday, I spent an embarrassing amount of time trying to

complete California's new EDD - DE9c online program. Truthfully, I started the process a few weeks ago and stopped when the program failed to offer me the option to designate my wife as a family member where certain payroll taxes are not deducted. The previous program allowed it. I spent what seemed like hours making friends with a number of "experts" in Sacramento. Finally one said, "It is time to give candy to the child to stop it from crying." This meant that I should uncheck the box, click on the SUBMIT and deal with the problem later. I vigorously disagreed with her use of this particular example and told her why. But I agree with the logic. The form was submitted before the deadline and penalties. Again it involved unchecking the box.

Late last night, I was thinking about all of the office projects, paperwork and journals that needed attention. I thought about my extended family and their incurable medical problems. I thought about all of the world's problems. Then suddenly, another light turned on and I thought what if all of these problems could be solved by just finding and unchecking all those little boxes. Suddenly Uncle Lewis would walk, cancer is gone, stacks of unread journals vanish, the bank account is full, I leave the office every day at 5:00 PM, and even this article is done. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could somewhere find and just uncheck that box?



Steve Niethamer, DMD  
Website Editor

## The Website

Spring means that we must clean and rebuild the [State Unit Leadership](#) page. If you have an interest in working with CSPD, please go to the [Members Only](#) page, review the updated *Strategic Plan, Policy and Procedure Manual* and *Constitution & Bylaws*, and decide where you would best be able to help. Then send an e-mail to our new President, the Executive Director or the chair of a specific committee (all found on the Leadership page).

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## NEW CSPD MEMBERS

### Active Member

Noyan Aynechi.....Danville, CA  
 Terry Horlick.....Grass Valley, CA  
 J. Angelo Vasquez.....Merced, CA  
 Robert Virata.....Los Alamitos, CA

### Post-Doctoral Student Members

Shikha Bubna.....Chicago, IL  
 Brett Carranza.....Los Angeles, CA  
 Richard Dela Rosa.....New York, NY  
 Niki Fallah.....San Francisco, CA  
 Stephanie Hardwick.....Los Angeles, CA  
 Kathryn Hawn.....Los Angeles, CA  
 Jenna Khoury.....Boston, MA  
 Chanel McCreedy.....Los Angeles, CA  
 Scott Ngai.....Los Angeles, CA  
 EunHae (Grace) Park.....Boston, MA  
 Breanne Reid.....Los Angeles, CA  
 Jessica Wilson.....Providence, RI

## CALIFORNIA PEDIATRICIANS WELCOME CSPD ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Pediatric Oral Health issues are of primary concern for our pediatrician colleagues. With the advent of the establishment of the Dental Home and Oral Health Assessments the American Academy of Pediatrics needs our help and support. The AAP welcomes our members to join their organization as Associate members.

All interested CSPD members should contact their local California Chapters through [www.AAP.org/membership](http://www.AAP.org/membership) section or they can contact Oariona Lowe at [w.roslo@verizon.net](mailto:w.roslo@verizon.net) for membership information.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS and CONTINUING EDUCATION DATES

### CSPD

March 28 - April 1, 2012: [CSPD's 37th Annual Session](#) in Portland, OR

### AAPD

May 26-29, 2011: [AAPD 64th Annual Session](#), New York, N.Y.

Sept. 1-3, 2011: [Joint Session of the AAPD and Royal College of Surgeons](#), Edinburgh, Scotland

Sept. 8, 2011: [Oral Clinical Exam Review](#), Chicago, IL

Sept. 9-11, 2011: [Comprehensive Review of Pediatric Dentistry](#), Chicago, IL

Oct 21-23, 2011: [Sedation Course](#), Chandler, AZ

Nov. 4-5, 2011: [Pediatric Medicine Update](#), Boston, MA

May 24-27, 2012: [AAPD 65th Annual Session](#), San Diego, Ca

2013 [Orlando](#); 2014 [Boston](#); 2015 [Seattle](#); 2016 [San Antonio](#); 2017 [TBD](#); 2018 [Hawaii](#)

See [www.CSPD.org](http://www.CSPD.org) and [www.AAPD.org](http://www.AAPD.org) for more sponsored courses

Visit the CSPD "Members Only" Section at [www.CSPD.org](http://www.CSPD.org) to view the approved changes to the Constitution & Bylaws

## Reading About Leadership

*From the CSPD Leadership Development Committee*

Looking for something new to read? In response to the request of our members, the Leadership Development Committee has compiled a list of reading materials on the topics of:

- 1) Organizational and Management Skills
- 2) Leadership and Team Management
- 3) Communication, Marketing, and People Skills

Whether you are interested in joining organized dentistry, already actively involved in leadership, or just looking for ways to better manage your dental team in private practice, this list is sure to have something that can help you become a better leader.

Have you read something recently that you feel belongs on this list? The Leadership Development Committee welcomes your suggestions. Follow this link to learn more:

[www.cspd.org/news/message.asp?news\\_id=483](http://www.cspd.org/news/message.asp?news_id=483)

## CSPD Professional Opportunities



Alex Alcaraz, DDS  
 Membership Services

Opportunities  
 Wanted

Opportunities  
 Available

Faculty Positions  
 Available

Practices for Sale  
 Offices for Lease

Have you been thinking about hiring an associate, but just aren't sure where to look? Or are you finishing your residency soon, and aren't sure where you'd like to live and practice? The answer is right on the CSPD website. To look at these opportunities and others, go to [www.cspd.org](http://www.cspd.org).

## AAPD District VI Trustee

The CSPD Board of Directors has unanimously voted to endorse **Santos Cortez** as the next AAPD District VI Trustee. Santos has a long and distinguished history of serving organized dentistry:

- CSPD Past President (2005-2006)
- CSPD Leadership Development Committee (2006 – Present)
- Chair of CDA Government Affairs Council (2007 – 2010)
- CSPD Strategic Planning Committee (2006, 2009)
- CDA Strategic Planning Committee (2007, 2010)
- ADA Delegate 13th District (2009 – 2011)
- AAPD District VI Representative, Council on Government Affairs (2008 – 2011)
- Chairman of Harbor Dental Society Legislative/CalDPAC (2009 – present)
- Board of Directors Memorial Healthcare System (2006 – present)
- Board of Directors Long Beach Memorial/Miller Children's Hospital (2006 – Present)
- Chairman Long Beach Children's Oral Health Task Force (2005 – present)
- Past President, Los Angeles Chapter of Hispanic Dental Association (2009)
- CDA Foundation Board of Advisors (2009 – present)



*Santos Cortez, DDS*

## Electronic Health Records Incentive Program Begins in 2011



The Medi-Cal Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program will promote the adoption and meaningful use of EHR through incentive payments to eligible providers. It is scheduled to launch late spring 2011 pending approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid.

Visit [www.medical.ehr.ca.gov](http://www.medical.ehr.ca.gov) where you can learn more about the program, determine if you are eligible, and complete a workbook to help guide your registration in the state level registry (SLR). You will also be able to access resources including Frequently Asked Questions and links to Regional Extension Centers (RECs) for assistance, as well as timely articles and other useful resources and websites. You can also learn more about this on the CSPD website in "Latest News."



The ADA analysis of the Pew report entitled "It Takes A Team" is available at [www.ada.org/sections/advocacy/pdfs/follow-up-ada-study-to-pew-report.pdf](http://www.ada.org/sections/advocacy/pdfs/follow-up-ada-study-to-pew-report.pdf)

## Strengthening Dentistry through Grassroots Advocacy



CDA has enjoyed a great deal of success in Sacramento in large part due to grassroots advocacy. With the ever changing political climate, your involvement is even more crucial now than in years past. The 2012 elections will create a whole new environment in Sacramento due to the redrawing of political boundaries, the open primary system and the impact of term limits in California. These changes will likely result in incumbents who have been supporters of dentistry running against one another in addition to creating much more competitive legislative races. There will most likely be an increased number of locally elected officials running for the state legislature and state legislators running for congressional seats. All of these factors will make a strong grassroots program even more important.

In order to continue to represent dentistry in the most effective way possible and prepare for the upcoming elections, the California Dental Association is hosting the first in a number of conferences around the state to educate and engage dentists in the legislative and political processes. These sessions will provide training and interaction with politically active dentists, political consultants and legislators.

Please join us on June 24, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the San Mateo County Dental Society located at 240 Twin Dolphin Drive in Redwood City. CDA will be hosting a reception immediately following to give you the opportunity to discuss any questions or issues with the presenters as well as their staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Rivas, External Affairs Manager, at [michelle.rivas@cda.org](mailto:michelle.rivas@cda.org) or 800.736.7071, extension 4990.

We look forward to seeing you.

## Jen Sun, M.D.

*Board Certified Anesthesiologist*



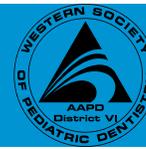
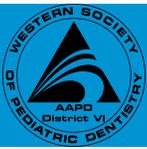
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## Two Numbers: “23” and “1988”



**Jonathan Lee, DDS**  
**WSPD President**

“23” is the percentage of AAPD Active and Life Pediatric Dentist members within the WSPD. “1988” is the year when the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure initially refused to continue recognizing pediatric dentistry as a specialty.

As many of you know, WSPD is one of 6 AAPD districts and WSPD is the largest district with a total membership of 1,787. The Southeast Society of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD District III) is the second largest district within AAPD. They represent 21% of the Active and Life AAPD members. When you include all 13 AAPD membership categories, the WSPD represents 23% of AAPD membership. You can view the statistics here: [www.cspd.org/pdf/2011/2011WSPDAAPDMembership.xls](http://www.cspd.org/pdf/2011/2011WSPDAAPDMembership.xls).

Results from the 2010 United States census indicate that the population center of the United States is shifting from the middle towards the west with the four fastest growing states being Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Idaho. (“US ‘heartland’ near historic shift from Midwest” - [www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/03/08/ap/politics/main20040760.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/03/08/ap/politics/main20040760.shtml). Traditional population centers are also changing in California where we are seeing a shift of population from the coast to the inland Central Valley. ([www.baycitizen.org/census-2010/story/central-valleys-clout-expected-climb/](http://www.baycitizen.org/census-2010/story/central-valleys-clout-expected-climb/)).

Based on these census and demographic facts, the number of pediatric dentists in District VI will most likely increase and may end up practicing where the population and need are growing the fastest (Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Idaho). In California, the largest state component in WSPD, there will probably be increased demand for pediatric dentists in Central Valley communities.

The WSPD has made significant progress this past year to improve communications and relations with both AAPD and the State/Province components. Outreach with Alberta has been promising and, for the first time, Alberta had a representative, Dr. Sarah Hulland, attend our board meeting in April.

At the WSPD Leaders Caucus in San Francisco, we identified the need to increase WSPD representation at the national level to be commensurate with our level of membership. It is often in the Western region where issues first arise that affect the profession. Alaska, Oregon and Washington have seen legislation introduced that has implications on the delivery of pediatric oral health care. Being engaged and involved will bring such issues to the national level at the AAPD. It all begins at the AAPD Council, Committee and General Assembly level. If you want to protect your specialty from outside and special interests, you have to be involved.

An example of successful establishment of national policy that began with a grass roots effort is the 1986 publication of the AAPD Infant Oral Health Care Guideline. Dr. Arthur Nowak, after seeing patient after patient with rampant decay and what was commonly called “Baby Bottle Tooth Decay” in his private practice during the late ‘60s and ‘70s, decided something needed to be done. Dr. Nowak, as well as other early infant oral health care proponents such as Anderson, Sanger, Schneider, and Moss, saw the need for the establishment of the Age One Dental Visit and the importance of preventive dentistry. Dr. Nowak eventually became active with AAPD committees and

the AAPD Board of Trustees and, in 1984, he recommended the First Visit guideline. Even though it was initially tabled “for insufficient evidence,” through Dr. Nowak’s persistence and the efforts of the AAPD Clinical Affairs Committee, the guideline was accepted by the AAPD membership in 1986. I highly recommend reading Dr. Nowak’s editorial titled “Celebrate but rededicate AAPD infant oral health care guideline—are we ready to celebrate?” (*Pediatric Dentistry*, Volume 33, Number 1, January/February 2011, pp. 7-8(2)).

Currently, the system in place for volunteering and submitting names to serve on AAPD Councils and Committees is very informal. AAPD used to send out interest forms to the membership but that practiced stopped at some point a couple of years ago. As the WSPD President, I have developed application forms for those interested in serving on AAPD Councils and Committees. These have been disseminated to the State/Province Unit Leadership and WSPD Board Directors.

I have asked Dr. Richard Mungo, our District Representative to the AAPD Nominations Committee and ex-officio member of the WSPD Board of Directors, to increase his responsibilities and involvement at the District member level. He has been asked to be the person responsible for collecting these application forms and maintaining a list of District VI members who are interested in serving on AAPD Councils and Committees. He is to report to the WSPD Board of Directors and forward this list to our District VI AAPD Trustee, Dr. Jade Miller, who will present them to the AAPD. Dr. Mungo can be reached at [rpmungo@gmail.com](mailto:rpmungo@gmail.com).

Referring back to Dr. Arthur Nowak’s editorial above, one paragraph stands out:

“In 1988, the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (ADA) initially refused to re-recognize pediatric dentistry as a specialty during a review of all the dental specialties as mandated by the House of Delegates. One ADA leader expressed his belief that there wouldn’t be any need for the specialty in the near future!”

In the 1980’s, the ADA House of Delegates mandated recognition of all the specialties. In 1988, pediatric dentistry as a specialty was almost eliminated. Through the volunteer structure of AAPD, the Task Force to Develop the Application for Continued Recognition of Pediatric Dentistry as a dental specialty was formed and chaired by Dr. Arthur Nowak. Because of the Task Force’s efforts and testimonies to the Council on Dental Education and Licensure and the ADA leadership, pediatric dentistry was again approved as a specialty in 1989. Volunteers such as Paul Casamassimo, Jim Crall, Martin Davis, Dave Good, Brian Lee, Ralph McDonald, David Myers, Theodore Oldenburg, and Michael Roberts. WSPD members Ken Troutman and Dave Good were respectively President and President Elect of AAPD at the time.

To protect the specialty of pediatric dentistry from outside interests and to ensure the AAPD’s Vision of “optimal health and care for infants and children through adolescence, including those with special health care need,” we must continue to be involved! A copy of the application form is available from your leaders and here: [www.cspd.org/pdf/2011/AAPDDistrictVICouncilCommitteeApp-DM4AR.pdf](http://www.cspd.org/pdf/2011/AAPDDistrictVICouncilCommitteeApp-DM4AR.pdf).

We hope to see you in New York at the CSPD/WSPD reception on Saturday night!



In this day of Social Media, WSPD now has a Facebook page. Just go to the WSPD website <http://www.aapd.org/district6/>, scroll to the Facebook Link at the bottom and become a fan by selecting “Like.”

# PATIENT SAFETY REPORT

This quarter's Patient Safety Committee column highlights recent warnings regarding children and development.

## Benzocaine Use and Methemoglobinemia

Benzocaine gels are commonly used for treating "teething" pain - mainly in children 2 years of age or younger. The FDA is particularly concerned about the use of OTC (over the counter) benzocaine products in children for relief of pain from teething; not only because of the serious outcomes (including death) that may be associated with methemoglobinemia, but also the difficulty parents or consumers may have in recognizing the signs and symptoms of methemoglobinemia when using these products at home. Methemoglobinemia is a blood disorder in which an abnormal amount of hemoglobin builds up in the blood. In some cases of methemoglobinemia, the hemoglobin is unable to carry oxygen effectively to body tissues. People who develop methemoglobinemia may experience pale gray or pale blue colored skin, lips, and nail beds, shortness of breath, fatigue, confusion, headache, lightheadedness, and rapid heart rate. The signs and symptoms usually appear within minutes to hours of applying benzocaine and may occur with the first application of benzocaine or after continued use.

Methemoglobinemia has been reported with all strengths of benzocaine gels and liquids including concentrations as low as 7.5%. Benzocaine sprays are marketed under different brand names such as Hurricaine, Cetacaine, Exactacain, and Topex.

According to a statement prepared by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association in Washington, DC: "OTC gel and liquid medications containing benzocaine provide relief for children and adults who experience mouth pain. While FDA's announcement notes very rare but serious instances of methemoglobinemia . . . these products are safe when used as directed for the large majority of consumers."

The FDA has recommended that the products not be used in children under 2 years of age except under the advice of a healthcare professional.

## Fluoride Level Changes Proposed

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is proposing new guidelines that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water be adjusted to the lowest end of the current optimal range. The proposed recommendation of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water replaces the currently recommended range of 0.7 to 1.2 milligrams. This updated recommendation is based on recent HHS and Environmental

Protection Agency scientific assessments to optimize the prevention of tooth decay while limiting any unwanted health effects.

The change was cited as necessary because Americans have access to more sources of fluoride than they did when water fluoridation was first introduced in the United States in the 1940s.

They do not dispute that water fluoridation and fluoride toothpaste are largely responsible for the significant decline in tooth decay seen in the US over the past several decades. Public comment is currently being accepted and final guidelines will be released by the end of 2011. ([www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110107a.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110107a.html))



David Rothman, DDS

## Topical Steroid Use and Cleft Palate

Two studies have found that pregnant women who use potent topical corticosteroids just before and during pregnancy risk fetal growth restriction in their infants, but there is no risk of fetal orofacial clefts with any form of corticosteroid taken by pregnant women. (*Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, April 2011, Vol. 31:4, pp. 884-891 and *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, April 19, 2011, Vol. 183:7, pp. 796-804)

## General Anesthesia and Developing Young Brains

There still exists controversy surrounding the use of general anesthesia and future cognitive and neurological development in children. A *New England Journal of Medicine* article (*NEJM*, March 9, 2011) cited a study done by the National Center for Toxicology Research that a dose of ketamine administered to monkeys for either 9 or 24 hours caused brain damage but there was no damage for those exposed over a 3 hour period. According to two articles (*Anesthesiology*, April 2009, Vol. 110:4, pp. 796-804 and *Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology*, October 2009, Vol. 21:4, pp. 286-291), general anesthesia may affect the developing brains of children 3 years of age or younger who have had more than 2 surgical experiences. A *NEJM* article disputes these findings because they lack "concrete evidence." According to the authors, a lack of data and difficulty in standardizing studies means that the evidence will remain weak. Some anesthesiologists believe that the existing evidence is enough to warrant added caution when considering general anesthesia in pediatric patients.



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