The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity

Biographies of Membership

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MICHAEL ALFANO, DMD, PHD

Dr. Michael Alfano is a successful researcher, educator and business person recognized for insightful thinking, and for innovative approaches to education and improving communications among the academic, government and business sectors. Dr. Alfano received his DMD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry & Oral Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Nutrition & Food Science.

After retiring from New York University in 2014, he continued to serve as a member of the Boards of DentsplySirona, Inc. and the Santa Fe Group. Dr. Alfano also consults on finance, budget and clinical operations for educational institutions and non-profits. Recent awards include the Tribute Award from Oral Health America (2016) and the Achievement Medal (2016) from Alpha Omega International. He was a founder of the Friends of NIDCR, Nexus Magazine, and the Santa Fe Group. Dr. Alfano currently assists the Santa Fe Group and several other associations and consumer advocacy organizations to create a dental benefit within Medicare.

MYRON ALLUKIAN, JR., DDS, MPH

Dr. Myron Allukian Jr. formerly served as the Dental Director for the City of Boston for 34 years, and is a Past President of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the 1st Vietnam Veteran and 2nd dentist at that time in APHAs history. Dr. Allukian Jr. is board certified in dental public health and a Past President of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American Association for Community Dental Programs, and the American Board of Dental Public Health. He has over 150 publications/abstracts and 23 book chapters.

While with the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam, he set up a "people to people" program in the orphanages, refugee camps and villages in the Danang area. Dr. Allukian Jr. was the first dentist to receive the Sedgwick Medal for Distinguished Service in Public Health. Dr. Allukian is currently Vice Chair of the Oral Health Working Group, World Federation of Public Health Associations; Vice President of the American Fluoridation Society; and President of the Massachusetts Coalition For Oral Health. He holds a BS from Tufts University, DDS from the University of Pennsylvania, and MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. He is on the dental faculties of Harvard, Tufts and Boston Universities.

LEON ASSAEL, DMD

Dr. Leon Assael is Professor and founding Dean of the California Northstate University College of Dental Medicine. He is adjunct Professor of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry in community health at University of California San Francisco. Previously he served as Dean of the University of Minnesota from 2012-2017 which has the first US dental school-based dental therapy program.

A graduate of Columbia University, Dr. Assael earned his doctor of dental medicine from Harvard University School of Dental Medicine. He holds a certificate in medical management from the Gatton School of Business, University of Kentucky. He completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Assael serves on many professional organizations including the American Dental Association and the Hispanic Dental Association. The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons awarded Dr. Assael and the Board of Trustees a special recognition award in 2010. He is the recipient of the national Gies award for vision from the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and is the past chair of the ADEA Board of Directors.
VICTOR BADNER, DMD, MPH

Dr. Victor Badner is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania and Harvard School of Dental Medicine (DMD) and UCLA (MPH). He completed a General Practice residency at Montefiore Medical Center in NY and a Dental Public Health (DPH) residency at University of California San Francisco, and became board certified in Dental Public Health. Currently, he is Department Chairman of Dentistry/Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Jacobi Medical Center and North Central Bronx Hospital. He serves as Co-Chair of the Council of Dental Chairmen of NYC’s municipal hospitals. He has served as President of the Medical Board at Jacobi Medical Center.

Dr. Badner published and received grants for promoting inter-professional education, residency training, assessing and improving oral health services to HIV infected patients and underserved populations. In 2013, he was the author of a book chapter, Oral Complications of Pregnancy, in Cherry and Merkatz’s Complications of Pregnancy and another chapter in 2019 on Dental Financing in the textbook Dentistry, Dental Practice, and the Community.

JAY BALZER, DMD, MPH

Dr. Balzer obtained the DMD degree at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, the MPH degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and completed a Residency in Dental Public Health at the University of Florida College of Dentistry. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. He spent a 20-year career as a Commissioned Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service in multiple assignments, including the Indian Health Service, the National Health Service Corps, a State Maternal and Child Health Program, and administering federal health programs in a USPHS Regional Office.

Upon leaving Federal service, Dr Balzer became Executive Director of a non-profit community dental clinic and later, Program Director of the Dental Public Health Residency at NYU Langone Health. These varied career experiences have given Dr Balzer an appreciation for the unmet oral health needs of vulnerable populations and the potential to at least partially meet these needs through the wider use of dental therapists.

TERRY BATLINER, DDS, MBA

Dr. Terry Batliner is the founder of Sage Dental in Lafayette, Colorado. He recently retired from his position as the Associate Director of Native Oral Health Research at University of Colorado – Denver School of Public Health where he was the Principal Investigator for a clinical trial using motivational interviewing to improve the oral health of small children in a Plains Indian Nation.

A member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, he spent the first eight years of his career in the Indian Health Service. Before returning to Denver in 1995 to run the VA Hospital in the Rocky Mountain area, he managed seven large group dental practices at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care in Boston and held senior leadership positions at Delta Dental. As a dentist highly experienced in restorative dentistry and endodontics, Dr. Batliner has continued to practice part-time while serving in leadership positions.

KENNETH BOLIN, DDS, MPH

Dr. Kenneth Bolin is the Medical Director of the Sammons Cancer Center Dental Clinic at Baylor Scott and White Health in Dallas, Texas and is a faculty member for the Ilisaqivik College Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program in Anchorage, Alaska. He graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio with a DDS degree and completed a fellowship program in Dental Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Following his fellowship, he obtained his Master of Public Health degree
from the UT School of Public Health-Houston and received his certificate in Dental Public Health from TAMU Baylor College of Dentistry. Dr. Bolin is also board certified by the American Board of Dental Public Health.

**THOMAS BORNSTEIN, DDS**

Dr. Thomas Bornstein is the former Director of Dental Services for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), a position he held for 30 years. SEARHC is a tribal health organization responsible for providing medical and dental services throughout southeast Alaska. The dental program delivered a full range of services including: primary care provided by Dental Health Aides; dentists, dental therapists (DHATs), hygienists, and dental residents and specialty care provided by pedodontists, orthodontists, prosthodontists and endodontists. SEARHC provides dental care in diverse settings such as hospital operating rooms, large outpatient clinics and remote rural village clinics. Dr. Bornstein now teaches part-time in the Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) training program in Bethel, Alaska.

Dr. Bornstein retired from the US Public Health Service at the rank of Captain. He received his dental degree from the University of Maryland Dental School and completed a two-year general practice residency (AGPR) through the US Public Health Service. Additionally, he holds a BA degree (Sociology) from Tulane University, a BS degree (Zoology) from the University of Maryland, and a BA degree (Art) from the University of Alaska.

**LARRY BURNETT, DDS**

Dr. Larry Burnett received his dental degree from the Medical College of Virginia, which is now known as Old Dominion University. After graduation, he practiced in the states of Virginia and Florida. He was Supervising Dentist and Adjunct Professor of Oral Microbiology at the School of Dental Hygiene, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Virginia. Dr. Burnett became a noted lecturer and authority on the subject of periodontal therapy and caries prevention.

Dr. Burnett has traveled throughout the United States and Canada making presentations at the Academy of General Dentistry Annual Scientific Sessions, the American Dental Association Annual Scientific Sessions and the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Annual Session. His extensive experience led him to become a co-designer of one of the most widely used ultrasonic instruments, the Burnett Power Tip (named after Dr. Burnett) used to treat periodontal disease. He has authored numerous articles on non-surgical treatment of periodontal disease, biofilms and caries prevention.

**TAMMY GIERKE BUTTON, DDS, MSD, MA**

Dr. Tammy Gierke Button has a broad background in clinical pediatric dentistry and has a record of accomplishment leading dental offices and clinics. She also has served as Executive Director of Southshore Skipping Stones Dental Education Foundation, for the past five years. The Foundation delivers prenatal and early infant dental health education classes in both English and Spanish specific to addressing oral health inequities in Northern Indiana. She has a long history of advocacy and action regarding access to care, social justice, and oral health equity for underserved populations. As a clinician, she has provided pediatric dental care to underserved populations in various locations around the United States and has supervised dental students and residents in pediatric dentistry. She is also currently serving as a consultant for Indiana University School of Dentistry Community Based Dental Education Program. Dr. Button is a graduate of Indiana University School of Dentistry and received specialty training in pediatric dentistry at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana.
DAVID CAPPELLI, DMD, MPH, PHD

Dr. David Cappelli is the Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Nevada. Dr. Cappelli earned his DMD and MPH from the University of Pittsburgh, and his PhD in epidemiology from the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, School of Public Health. He completed his residency education in dental public health from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), Department of Community Dentistry, and was awarded Diplomate status by the American Board of Dental Public Health.

Dr. Cappelli developed an extensive career in research, education, and service. During 2015, Dr. Cappelli received two awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) totaling $3.75 million. Through the grants, he established the American Institute for Dental Public Health where he serves as the executive director. The awards created educational opportunities for dental public health residents across the country and expanded the dental public health workforce. Dr. Cappelli has held leadership positions in several national and state organizations, including past-president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD), and is currently chair of the AAPHD Foundation Board.

FRANK CATALANOTTO, DMD

Dr. Frank Catalanotto is a graduate of the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and completed a post-doctoral research fellowship in pediatric dentistry at Harvard School of Dental Medicine and Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston. During his long career in dental education and research he has been on the faculty of five dental schools. Dr. Catalanotto is the co-author of more than 110 scientific publications and has been the principal investigator or co-investigator for numerous federal, state and foundation grants.

Dr. Catalanotto has been active in dental education, research and advocacy organizations for much of his career. He served on the American Dental Education Association Board of Directors as vice-president for Deans and as President of ADEA from 2002-03, representing all of dental education. Many of the other organizations he has served on have a focus on improving access to care for all. His academic and professional interests include community-based dental education, ethics/social responsibility, oral health disparities and racial equity, advocacy for health care reform and access to dental care. In addition to the above topics, Dr. Catalanotto’s current advocacy efforts are focused on the new emerging oral workforce models.

Dr. Frank Catalanotto is the former dean and currently a professor in the department of community dentistry and behavioral science at the University Of Florida College Of Dentistry. His opinions are his own and do not necessarily represent the official viewpoints of any organization with which he is affiliated, nor the official views of the college.

JAMES C. CECIL, III, DMD, MPH

Dr. Jim Cecil, CAPT, DC, USN (Ret), is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, College of Dentistry, the University of Michigan, School of Public Health, and Bellarmine College in Louisville, KY.Dr. Cecil served in various positions in the United States Navy as clinician, leader, administrator, assistant inspector general, and research investigator and research program administrator. His last assignment was as the Adviser to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). Following Navy retirement, he was appointed to the Faculties of the UK College of Dentistry and the College of Public Health. He served as Dental Director for the Commonwealth of Kentucky 2001-2007.

He is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, and the American College of Dentists, a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and received the John W. Knutson Award. Dr. Cecil was inducted into the University of
Kentucky Public Health Hall of Fame in 2011. Dr. Cecil’s research and public service interests included the epidemiology and prevention of oral diseases and conditions, the linkages of oral infections with systemic diseases, access to oral healthcare and prevention, the assurance of sound health and safety for those most at risk.

ROBERT COLLINS, DMD, MPH

Dr. Robert Collins joined the faculty at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Dental Medicine in 2006 after careers in the US Public Health Service and with the International Association for Dental Research. He served as the Director of the Division of Community Oral health from 2006-2012. He continued to serve as the Director of the Office of International Relations and as Head of the WHO Oral Health Collaborating Center until 2015.

Dr. Collins continues to lecture and conduct seminars related to public health. He mentors University of Pennsylvania Dental Medicine students enrolled in the DMD-MPH dual-degree program, as well as those who may have interest in exploring whether dentistry in public health settings may be part of their future professional careers.

RAYMOND DAILEY, DDS

Dr. Raymond Dailey is the Clinical Dentist of the Swinomish Clinic where he helps lead the effort to address the oral health crisis in Indian County. He is currently supervising two dental therapists through their preceptorships and works alongside Mr. Kennedy, a dental therapist with 10 years’ experience. Dr. Dailey is an advocate for a well-rounded dental team utilizing dental therapists and expanding the functions of dental assistants, as well as recognizing the importance of culturally competent care and diversifying the dental profession.

Dr. Dailey completed his dental education at the University of North Carolina. After graduation, he returned to the Pacific Northwest and worked with the Klamath Tribal Community in Oregon for two years before taking a job with the Swinomish Tribal Community, where he has provided dental care for more than 20 years. During his time with the Swinomish Dental Clinic, Dr. Dailey has seen it grow from 4 chairs to 14. He was one of the first dentists in Washington to testify for dental therapists in Olympia. Dr. Dailey continues to volunteer his time providing free dental care to migrant farm workers with the Dental Van sponsored by Sea-Mar.

MARK DAVIS, DDS

Dr. Mark Davis is an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at the University Of Florida College Of Dentistry. He has also held the position of Staff Dentist at the Lake City VA Medical Center and the Miami VA Medical Center, had a private practice in Houston, Texas and was a Captain in the US Army Dental Corp.

MIRANDA DAVIS, DDS, MPH

Dr. Miranda Davis is the Native Dental Therapy Initiative Project Director with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. In this role, Dr. Davis assists tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho as they incorporate dental therapists into their clinics. Dr. Davis also provides clinical care with the Puyallup Tribe in Washington State, where she has worked since 2006.

Dr. Davis is passionate about public health, disease prevention, and expanding access to high quality oral health care. She has special interest in helping patients with dental fears and in providing respectful care. Originally from northern California, Dr. Davis received a DDS from University of the Pacific in San Francisco and an MPH from University of Washington.
JACK DILLENBERG, DDS, MPH

Dr. Jack Dillenberg is Dean Emeritus of A.T. Still University’s Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) after serving fifteen years as the Inaugural Dean. After dental school he served as a Dentist in the US Navy then practiced at a residential facility for people with severe disabilities before moving to Jamaica to work in a very rural clinic for their Ministry of Health.

Prior to joining ASDOH, Dr. Dillenberg was Associate Director for public health programs in the California Department of Health Services and prior to that served as an Area Health Officer serving the west area of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. During most of the 1990s, Dr. Dillenberg served in several capacities in the Arizona Department of Health Services, including four years as its Director.

Dr. Dillenberg is the recipient of a great number of honors and awards, including the Arizona Medical Association Humanitarian of the Year, the Fresh Start Foundation Man of the Year, the Harvard School of Public Health Alumni Award of Merit and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry. Most recently, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry 2019 Distinguished Service Award.

He currently is the executive clinical director for the newly created non-profit Pacific Dental Services Special Needs Dental Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Dillenberg serves as the Board President of Global Smiles For All a 501c3 nonprofit making a difference in global oral health. He also serves as the Global Ambassador for the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry, and currently is the Board Chairman for the Brighterway Institute. He was recently elected to the Town Council of Jerome, Arizona.

BURTON L. EDELSTEIN, DDS, MPH

Dr. Edelstein is a Board Certified pediatric dentist and Professor of Dental Medicine and Health Policy & Management at Columbia University where he served as Chair of Population Oral Health in the College of Dental Medicine from 2000-2019. From 1998 to 2020, he was Founding President and Senior Fellow in Public Policy at the Children’s Dental Health Project, a DC-based organization that promoted governmental policies and programs to improve children's oral health equity. His experience in private pediatric dental practice, federal government as a US Senate Staffer and Department of Health and Human Services consultant, academe as a researcher, teacher, and administrator, and advocacy provides perspective on current and future oral health care delivery and financing.

CASWELL EVANS, JR., DDS, MPH

Dr. Caswell Evans Jr. recently retired from his position as the Associate Dean for Prevention and Public Health Sciences at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry. He also served as the Executive Editor and Project Director for Oral Health in America: A Report of the U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Evans was previously the Director of Public Health Programs and Services for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Prior to that, he was director of the King County Division of the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health.

Dr. Evans is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences and is currently co-chair of its Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education. He is a past president of the American Public Health Association, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the American Board of Dental Public Health. Dr. Evans is President of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago and Chairman of the DentaQuest Foundation’s Board. He also serves on the Chicago Board of Health and the board of the Children’s Dental Health Project.
ALLAN J. FORMICOLA, DDS, MS

Dr. Allan Formicola is Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. He is credited with expanding the school’s mission by creating a far-reaching community-based network of care known as the Community DentCare Network. The program has dramatically improved access to oral health care in the underserved communities of northern Manhattan – Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood. He headed the Northern Manhattan Community Voices Collaborative, one of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation’s 17 national sites. It expanded the DentCare Network to include 35 community-based organizations and all units of the Columbia University Medical Center to improve the general health of the communities.

The accomplishments of this program can be found in “Mobilizing the Community for Better Health (Formicola A and Hernandez-Cordero L. Mobilizing the Community for Better Health, Columbia University Press, 2010.). After his 23-year deanship, Dr. Formicola established the Center for Community Health Partnerships, which merged with the Center for Family and Community Medicine at Columbia. Dr. Formicola has served in many national leadership positions, such as President of the American Association of Dental Schools. Among a number of national demonstration projects he operated, Dr. Formicola co-directed (with Dr. Howard Bailit) the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project entitled Pipeline, Profession & Practice: Community-Based Dental Education, which assisted 23 dental schools to establish community-based education programs and to increase their enrollment of underrepresented minority students. Dr. Formicola has published extensively and been the recipient of many honors and awards.

JOHN C. FRACHELLA, DMD

John Frachella, DMD is a pediatric dentist in Oregon and Maine with 40+ years’ experience in the delivery of dental services in public and private settings. For the first 32 years of his career, he was the dental director of a free clinic for indigent children in Bangor, Maine and is recently retired from being the director of Asher Dental Services in Wheeler County, Oregon. He also works in private practices across the country, is on staff at OHSU Dental School and lectures for Lutheran Medical College dental residency programs. Over the past 12 years, Dr. Frachella has been using silver solutions in combination with glass ionomer technology to arrest caries while simultaneously addressing destructive cavitation caused by caries. He sees the minimally invasive, non-aerosol medical management of caries as a new yet historically proven, highly preventive standard of care for the treatment of worldwide populations of children and special needs adults who desperately need restorative and preventive dental services the most.

JAY FRIEDMAN, DDS

Dr. Jay Friedman has had a significant impact on the oral health of the public. His commitment to public health has spanned seven decades from the 1950s to the present. He pioneered in the development of quality standards for dental care, group practice, and dental insurance. An accomplished clinician, he has been a consultant to a number of state and national organizations. Notable are Dr. Friedman’s remarkable contributions in leading the challenge against the prophylactic extraction of third molars, as well as advocating for adding dental therapists to the oral health workforce.

Dr. Friedman earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Columbia University in 1948. Subsequently, he practiced general dentistry in Farmingdale, New York from 1948-1954, including two years in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps. In 1955, Dr. Friedman became the director of an innovative group practice dental cooperative in Seattle, Washington, which served as a prelude to his pursuit of a life in public health. He received his MPH in 1962 at the University of Michigan, followed by an NIH Fellowship. Friedman then moved to Los Angeles, California, becoming actively engaged in research, writing, consulting, and clinical practice. In
2012, he received the John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award in Dental Public Health from the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

SAULO GERALDELI, MS, PhD, DDS

Dr. Saulo Geraldeli is a graduate of the University of Mogi das Cruzes, Brazil, where he received his DDS degree in 1987. He received his MS and PhD from University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, taught Operative Dentistry at University of Iowa and University of Florida and has served in several institutional and organizational committees. Dr. Geraldeli is currently teaching Dental Biomaterials at East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, and Dental Biomaterials and Operative Dentistry at Ilisagvik College, Dental Health Aide Therapist Program.

DAVID GESKO, DDS

Dr. David Gesko is the Dental Director and Senior Vice President for HealthPartners in Minnesota. He has served on several national organizations focused on improving quality in oral health. Dr. Gesko has also been on the advisory panel for the Institute for Oral Health and is a past Chair of the Institute for Oral and Systemic Health sponsored by Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Both of these groups are working to build national consensus on guidelines for prevention and disease management in oral health care and to facilitate implementation of those guidelines into the care, policy, and financing systems.

Dr. Gesko just completed a 6-year appointment by former Governor Mark Dayton on the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. During his tenure on the Board, Dr. Gesko has held all the officer roles including President.

BARRY GIBBERMAN, BS, DDS

Dr. Barry Gibberman began his career doing clinical research for Procter and Gamble managing clinical trials for the sodium fluoride Crest. He also worked on the original animal studies of Peridex and some of the early evaluations of Crest White Strips. After going into general dental practice in early 1981, Dr. Gibberman continued to consult for Procter and Gamble and did the first presentation of Crest White Strips live on the QVC channel. He is recently retired from his private practice.

EARL ERNEST GUILE, DMD, MPH

Dr. Earl Ernest Guile is an independent health consultant, reviewing medical program clinical standards in community health centers. Dr. Guile completed a Research Fellowship in Cell Biochemistry, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and a Research Fellowship in Experimental Embryology, University of Helsinki Laboratory of Experimental Embryology. He was a Teaching Fellow, Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Guile established and was Director of an Urban Indian Health Dental program, Portland, Oregon. He has held academic appointments at Oregon Health Science University and was a Research Consultant, Center for Health Research, Kaiser-Permanente. He also consulted for Head Start.

Working abroad, Dr. Guile was a consultant for the Ministry of Health in Suriname, South America, for both Dental and Epidemiology Services. He taught dental therapists in Suriname. At King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Guile was Chairman of the Community Dentistry Division. In his division, he coordinated establishing a graduate program in dental public health. He later was Coordinator of Preventive Dentistry at Aramco Health Services. In Saudi Arabia, Dr. Guile organized as a co-principal investigator the first nation-wide survey of oral diseases and behavior. Dr. Guile was a faculty consultant in the Provost's Office for the founding of a research-based engineering university, KAUST. He is author of peer-reviewed research in journals from eight countries and has authored five books. Dr. Guile graduated from Morehouse
College (BS), University Of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine (DMD), the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health (MPH epidemiology) and completed the Harvard School of Dental Medicine Dental Public Health Residency. He is a Diplomate, American Board of Dental Public Health.

RICHARD GYLES, DDS, MBA

Dr. Gyles received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the City University of New York - Queens College, Doctorate of Dental Surgery degree from Columbia University, School of Dental Surgery, and Specialty Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from Lutheran Medical Center. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a specialization in Health Care Management from Saint Leo University. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Gyles is the Pediatric Dental Director at Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc. and the Associate Director for NYU Langone, Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry – Florida.

After his residency, Dr. Gyles accepted a position at AO Fox Memorial Hospital, where he practiced for seven years as a pediatric dentist in the Central New York Region, covering eight counties. In 2014, Dr. Gyles joined Suncoast Coast Community Health Centers, where he was instrumental in establishing the NYU Langone Dental Medicine; Commission on Dental Accreditation approved Pediatric Dental Residency program, Florida site.

Dr. Gyles is on medical staff at Tampa General Hospital and South Florida Baptist Hospital, where he is an attending pediatric dentist supervising pediatric dental residents providing oral health care to children and individuals with special healthcare needs. Dr. Gyles maintains membership and professional interest with the American Academy of Healthcare Executives, Dental Anesthesia, Orthodontics and Laser Dentistry.

HAZEL J. HARPER, DDS, MPH

Dr. Hazel Harper is a graduate of Howard University College of Dentistry and the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. She maintains a part–time private practice in general dentistry in Washington, DC. She is President and CEO of Hazel J. Harper & Associates, LLC, management consultants and President and Founder of Hear to HEAL, Inc., a non-profit to support inter-professional education, community groups, and student leadership.

She has served her profession in many leadership roles including: a member of President Bill Clinton’s Health Reform Task Force; National Spokesperson for the American Dental Association; Transition Teams of District of Columbia mayors Sharon Pratt Kelly and Marion Barry; and reviewer of the first ever Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in America, under the direction of U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher (2000). She has served on the Board of Directors of Oral Health America, the American Association of Women Dentists, the Ed Shils Entrepreneurial Fund; and the planning committees of the ADEA International Women’s’ Leadership Summits. She was on the Clinical Advisory Boards of Dentsply International, GlaxoSmithKline, Adec and Discus Dental; and the Editorial Board of the Woman Dentist Journal as well as the Editorial Advisory Board of Heart and Soul Magazine.

Dr. Harper is a woman of many firsts- the first woman President of the National Dental Association (1997), Chairman of the NDA Board of Trustees, and President of the Howard University College of Dentistry Alumni Association. She was one of the founders of the Student National Dental Association; longtime editor of National Dental Association (NDA) Journal; and created many NDA programs including: The Women’s’ Health Symposium, NDA-Corporate Roundtable, and the Eddie G. Smith Leadership Institute. She co-founded and directed the Deamonte Driver Dental Project (DDDP), a school-based, mobile dental project in Prince George’s County, MD named in memory of the 12-year old boy who died in 2007 from untreated tooth decay.
She is currently the Founding Director of the award-winning NDA-HEALTH NOW® Project and architect of the Inter-Professional Student Leaders Colloquium and Summit. Since Deamonte’s death, Dr. Harper has devoted her energies and creative talents to developing, implementing and supporting inter-professional health education programs and community outreach events in cities across America and the world.

Her reputation for innovation and success has merited awards from several foundations including the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Coca Cola Foundation, Henry Schein Cares Foundation, Aetna Foundation, GE’s African American Forum, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the DentaQuest Foundation and many others. She received an Honorary Doctorate from Medgar Evans College in Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Harper lectures and writes extensively on eliminating health disparities; and in 2019, she was lead author of book chapters in *Oral Health in America: Removing the Stain of Disparities*, published by the American Public Health Association. She was also selected to be a contributing author for the 2020 Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health.

**TODD HARTSFIELD, DDS**

Dr. Todd Hartsfield is a graduate of Loyola Dental School. He served two years as a U.S. Army dentist, including a tour in South Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he started a dental training program for Buddhist monks at the Buddhist Center in Qui Nhon. Dr. Hartsfield’s 48-year career has included private practice in rural Louisiana and Canada, public health dentistry and dental education. He spent 20 years in northern Canada training, supervising and working alongside dental therapists in isolated northern communities. As the Dental Director for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona for 5 years, he trained Tribal members to develop and implement oral health promotion/disease prevention programs, such as dental sealants, fluoride varnish and xylitol gum, in addition to providing care in IHS/Tribal clinics.

Dr. Hartsfield was an Assistant Professor of Clinical Dentistry at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ASDOH), Associate Clinical Director at Dental Care West, a private practice model clinic that is part of ASDOH, and full time faculty in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency Program for 9 ½ years. He currently provides dental care for the underserved and special needs patients 3 days a week at Southeast Community Health Systems, a Federally Qualified Community Health Center in Zachary, LA.

**LAWRENCE HILL, DDS, MPH**

Dr. Lawrence Hill is the executive director of the American Association for Community Dental Programs and currently serves on the Governing Council of the Ohio Public Health Association and the Board of Directors of Universal Health Access Now-Ohio. He served as the dental director for the Cincinnati Health Department and volunteer executive director for a United Way partner dental care nonprofit organization for over 30 years, during which he developed one of the largest community based dental programs in the country.

Dr. Hill served as Chair of the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association, a member of the Governing Council of APHA, was president of the Ohio Association of School Based Health Centers and a founding board member of both the National Network for Oral Health Access and the US National Oral Health Alliance. He was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to a three year term on the National Health Service Corps National Advisory Council. He is a recipient of the American Public Health Association John W Knutson Distinguished Service Award in Dental Public Health, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors Distinguished Service Award, and the United States Public Health Service Chief Dental Officer’s Exemplary Service Award and numerous other recognitions.
ALLEN HINDIN, DMD, MPH

Dr. Allen Hindin is currently the Dental Director of the Connecticut Institute for Communities. He serves as Director of Dentistry for Hudson Valley Celepalsy in Brewster, NY. Since 1996, Dr. Hindin has a private practice of general dentistry in Danbury, Connecticut. He graduated from New York University College of Dentistry and completed a US Army general dentist residency. He went on to earn his Master’s in Public Health at New York Medical College.

WILLIAM HITT, DDS

Dr. William Hitt is a mobile dentist with Smile America Partners, who does preventative and restorative visits to elementary schools in central Ohio. After graduating from the West Virginia University School of Dentistry Dr. Hitt accepted a mission contract for two years with the Ministry of Health in Jamaica, West Indies. Afterwards, he returned to Morgantown and opened a general dentistry practice that focused on the treatment of children and youth with developmental orthopedic appliances and orthodontics for over twenty-three years. After Dr. Hitt sold the practice, he began joined the dental department of the Foundation of Man in the town of Man, West Virginia, and later became the Director of Dental Services at Scranton Primary Health Care Center, FQHC. After twelve years at the health center, he is currently retired.

RACHAEL HOGAN, DDS

Dr. Rachael Hogan is the Dental Director of the Swinomish Clinic where she helps lead the effort to address the oral health crisis in Indian County and supervises the first dental therapist to provide basic oral health services in the Lower 48 States. Dr. Hogan is a strong advocate for well-rounded dental teams utilizing dental therapists and expanding the functions of dental assistants, as well as recognizing the importance of culturally competent care and diversifying the dental profession.

Dr. Hogan completed her dental education at Marquette School of Dentistry in 2002. After graduation, she moved closer to her Alaska roots to settle and fulfill a National Health Service Corp obligation in Bellingham, Washington. Dr. Hogan worked for SeaMar, one of the largest non-profit community health clinics in the Pacific Northwest for more than 10 years and continues to contract with SeaMar. During that time, her passion for access to care issues introduced her to the ADA’s Diversity in Leadership Program, the Steering Committee of the Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition and was the Membership Chair for the Mount Baker District Dental Society. Dr. Hogan volunteers at Migrant Camps, Smile Mobile and Project Homeless Connect. She piloted programs such as the Placksmakin’ Preschoolers, a Volunteer Hygiene Program and a symposium on Prenatal Oral Health. She encourages dental students to consider public health dentistry as a career and mentors externs.

BRIAN HOLLANDER, DDS, MS

Dr. Brian Hollander formerly served as the dental director for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Alaska, where he worked with his staff to serve remote villages throughout the state. Now living in Anchorage, he continues to serve remote villages as a dentist for Southcentral Foundation, a health care organization that seeks to improve the health and social conditions of Alaska Natives and American Indians.

Dr. Hollander joined the American Dental Association Foundation International Programs Committee and HVO Oral Health Steering Committee in 2012, and he has completed Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) volunteer assignments in Cambodia, Laos, and Nepal since joining the organization. In 2015, he collaborated with the Dhulikhel Dental School in Kathmandu to launch HVO’s oral health project in Nepal. In 2019, Dr. Hollander was honored with the 14th annual Health Volunteers Overseas Golden Apple Award for his
leadership and contributions to oral health care in Nepal. Dr. Hollander work in Nepal stems from the 29 years he and his wife Judy spent living, practicing dentistry and raising their two children in the country.

AUBREY HOPKINS JR., DMD, ABDG

Dr. Aubrey Hopkins Jr. is a general dentist and Diplomate of the American Board of General Dentistry. He is in his fortieth year of practice and has been in Federal Service for the last 30 years. As a member of the AAC and of ORCA, Dr. Hopkins is an advocate of disease management with respect for the scope of Mount’s principles of minimally invasive dentistry (updated to include disease management with SDF, ART variants and RI) and CaMBRA. He consistently brings those evidence based and evolving concepts to his practice within the VA System of Care. He and his co-author have published two papers affirming the efficacy of resin infiltration.

JEREMY HORST, DDS, PhD

Dr. Horst has been central to introducing SDF to the United States, creating protocols on how to use it, integrating it into restorative dentistry, and advocating for the big orgs to create policy statements in support (which has been very successful). He co-named SMART fillings and has done much to develop and promote that technique; essentially it is to use SDF to dramatically decrease and in many cases eliminate caries excavation. Dr. Horst has been developing and promoting minimally invasive maximally effective techniques to manage dental caries.

He has been an advocate for DHATs since 2006 when fighting for the AK program, within UW and in the Washington legislature. Dr. Horst has traveled to AK and WA to teach the DHATs in the program and in their alumni group; written letters to many dental boards advocating for RDHs and DHATs/DTs to practice in dentist-free situations such as schools and nursing homes, particularly focusing on and succeeding in preventing blocks to these folks placing SDF, FV, sealants, etc. in these situations.

RONALD INGE, DDS

Dr. Ronald Inge is currently the Chief Operations Officer/Chief Dental Officer/VP of Professional Services for Delta Dental Plan of Missouri. In this capacity, his responsibilities include all aspects of development and management of the dental operations department including claims and customer service. Dr. Inge is also responsible for the growth and development of the dental networks including clinical policies and procedures, quality management, and utilization review management.

Dr. Inge is an experienced senior level dental benefits executive with exposure to all aspects of the dental industry. Acknowledged as an innovative thought leader in the dental benefits industry. As Chief Dental Officer, he led the initial data analysis at Aetna that launched medical/dental integration. Dr. Inge served as the Associate Director for the Division of Dental Practice at the American Dental Association. Dr. Inge has served as the VP of Professional Services and Chief Dental Officer for Delta Dental of Washington. As the past Executive Director of the Institute for Oral Health, Dr. Inge has championed efforts to publicize innovative solutions to many of the current challenges to improving oral health. The mission of the Institute for Oral Health was to advance oral health care by identifying effective and efficient guidelines for treatment, access, and delivery of health care, and to promote best practices by serving as a central resource for shared practical knowledge and collaboration to benefit the dental profession and the public. Dr. Inge is also a member of the Santa Fe Group, a unique group of internationally renowned scholars and leaders from business and the professions bound by a common interest to improve oral health. Dr. Inge has over 15 years of private practice experience. Dr. Inge received his dental degree from the UCLA School of Dentistry. Dr. Inge received a BA degree in Human Biology from Stanford University.
ROBERT ISMAN, DDS, MPH

Dr. Robert Isman, currently retired, was a Dental Program Consultant for the California Department of Health Care Services in the unit that administers California’s Medicaid dental program. Previously, Dr. Isman was Chief of the Department's Dental Health Section (State Dental Director) for 10 years. He is a past President of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, past Chair of the Oral Health Section of the American Public Health Association, founder and past Chair of the Oral Health Section of the California Public Health Association--North, the first dentist in the U.S. to be selected as a Pew Fellow for Health Services Research, and a founding member of the Dental Health Foundation, now the Center for Oral Health. He is also a founding member and past Chairperson of the Medicaid/CHIP State Dental Association.

Most of Dr. Isman’s professional career and interests have been devoted to increasing access to dental care for vulnerable populations. He is a longtime student of, and advocate for, improved access to care, and, with his wife Beverly, wrote an extensive monograph on this issue for Oral Health America several years ago. Dr. Isman received his DDS from the UCSF School of Dentistry and his MPH from the University of California at Berkeley.

STEVEN KRAUSS, DDS, MPH, MBA, EMT-P

Dr. Steven Krauss is a pediatric dentist, dental anesthesiologist, and volunteer paramedic. He received an MPH and an MBA from UMASS Amherst. He has been an Assistant Clinical Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Rose Kennedy Center, in pediatric dentistry and dental anesthesia since 1990. Dr. Krauss presented lectures at numerous national dental meetings on medical emergencies, pediatric dentistry, and sedation. He edited a chapter on dental emergencies in “Clinical Manual of Emergency Pediatrics“ (4th ed.) by Crain and Gershel, and authored a chapter on medical emergencies in the AAPD Handbook of Pediatric Dentistry, 3rd edition. Dr. Krauss has completed residencies in Dental General Practice Residency, Pediatric Dental Residency and Dental Public Health, and a fellowship in Special Care Dentistry.

RAYMOND KUTHY, DDS, MPH

Dr. Raymond Kuthy joined the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1999. He served as head of the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry from 1999 to 2006. Dr. Kuthy is a past president of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Dr. Kuthy has been a consultant for the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors.

Dr. Kuthy is the recipient of a number of national awards, including the President’s Award of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (1997), Distinguished Service Award of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (2016) and the Exemplary Service Award from the Chief Dental Officer, U.S. Public Health Service (1995). In 2007 he received the Boston University Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Kuthy is a member of the Iowa Dental Association, AcademyHealth, the American Association for Dental Research, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and the American Dental Association.

DANE LENAKER, DMD, MPH

Dr. Dane Lenaker is a general dentist, NYU AEGD Associate Director, and Senior Clinical Director for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium based in Juneau, Alaska. He was the Dental Director at The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation for seven years and was responsible for overseeing the dental services for forty-seven distinct communities and clinics. Dr. Lenaker regularly travels by small plane, boat or snowmobile to provide dental services to patients. He has developed a robust dental telemedicine protocol to enhance patient access.
Dr. Lenaker holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks where he received the honor of “outstanding male graduate” and his DMD, MPH from A.T. Still University. He is the immediate past chair for the Dental Academic Review Committee and the chair and dentist-member of Alaska’s Medical Care Advisory Committee for Medicaid.

DOUG LEWIS, DDS

Dr. Doug Lewis is the Dental Director at Mendocino Community Health Clinics (MCHC) in Northern California. He has been with the organization since 1995 and it has grown to three sites with twelve dental providers.

Prior to dental school Dr. Lewis worked as a paramedic in Michigan. He graduated from Northwestern University Dental School followed by a one-year Navy GPR. He stayed with the Navy an additional four years, two of which he was deployed aboard the USS Peleliu.

REGINALD LOUIE, DDS, MPH

Dr. Louie was a career commissioned officer in the US Public Health Service and retired in 2002. His many assignments included ones focused on health professions education, primary care, & consultation in childcare/early childhood settings. Over his last 12 years in the PHS, Dr. Louie oversaw the family health services programs including the Title V Maternal and Child Health and Title X Family Planning program for USPHS Region IX (California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the US Pacific jurisdictions), which included Title V state block grants, SPRANS, state and community systems grants, Healthy Start grants and Title X Family Planning grants. He has served as a private public health consultant for several Federal agencies and national organizations, including for the OASH/Family Planning Services, HRSA, CDC and for the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors as the Coordinator for the Perinatal Oral Health Committee and consultant to the Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement.

In the past he has served in many leadership positions, e.g., on the American Board of Dental Public Health as President, American Association of Dental Public Health, and American Public Health Association. He is a recipient of the APHA John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award in Dental Public Health, the ASTDD Distinguish Service Award, the AACDP John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award, as well as other recognitions. Dr. Louie’s current area of research interest and focus is the systematic efforts to promote total health and wellness, enhance the building of oral health program infrastructure and explore how these efforts can improve the overall oral health of populations.

JACK LUOMANEN, DMD

Dr. Jack Luomanen is a Public Health Dentist, providing technical, operational and strategic assistance to FQHC Clinics, Community, group and private practices. He facilitates start-up, clinic design and expansions well as current practice evaluations. Dr. Luomanen has decades of experience in executive administration, management and problem solving as a dental director in community clinics and as a consultant to HRSA and BPHC.

Dr. Luomanen holds a Doctor of Dental Medicine from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and is a Fellow in the Health Care Leadership Fellowship at the University of California San Francisco, School of Medicine and the California HealthCare Foundation. Dr. Luomanen is deeply involved in public health with a focus on policy, strategic planning, legislation and finance. His mission is the addition of oral health as a medically integrated part of a comprehensive, holistic health care system.
ANA KARINA MASCARENHAS, BDS, MPH, DRPH

Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas is the Associate Dean of research at Nova Southeastern University’s College of Dental Medicine. Dr. Mascarenhas has a B.D.S. degree from Goa College and Hospital in India and also holds a M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. degrees from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with an emphasis on oral epidemiology. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health and Fellow in Dental Surgery of the College Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. She has held positions at The Ohio State University, Columbus and Boston University’s Goldman School of Dental Medicine where she was the Graduate Program Director for Dental Public Health, and the project director for Boston University’s Robert Wood Johnson Community-Based Dental Education Program. She also held an appointment at Forsyth Institute, Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Mascarenhas served as the President of the American Board of Dental Public Health, President of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, CODA Commissioner, is the recipient of numerous research grants and contracts at the institutional, state, foundation and federal levels and has over 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

PETER MILGROM, DDS

Dr. Peter Milgrom is Emeritus Professor of Oral Health Sciences and Pediatric Dentistry in the School of Dentistry and adjunct Professor of Health Services in the School of Public Health at the University of Washington. Dr. Milgrom is a founder and the director of Advantage Silver Dental Arrest, LLC, which introduced silver diamine fluoride into the United States. He holds academic appointments at Case Western University, University of Michigan, University of Rochester, and University of California, San Francisco.

He was the co-founder of the UW Dental Fears Research Clinic and is developing a series of specialized dental fear clinics across the US. Dr. Milgrom's current work includes research on the effectiveness of fluoride varnish and iodine in preschoolers, clinical efficacy and safety of silver diamine fluoride in children and older adults, delivery and pay-for-performance systems in dental managed care organizations to increase perinatal and child dental visits and decrease disparities in rural communities, behavioral studies of behavioral interventions to improve dental visiting and diet, and studies of cognitive interventions in pediatric and adult dental fear. Dr. Milgrom is author of 5 books and over 325 scientific articles. Dr. Milgrom received his DDS from the University of California, San Francisco and had a previous position at the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

M. RAYNOR MULLINS, DMD, MPH

Dr. M. Raynor Mullins is a Kentucky public health dentist and member of the Emeritus Faculty of the College of Dentistry at the University of Kentucky (1972-2017 and 2019-present). During retirement, he has worked the UK Center for Oral Health Research (COHR), forming a state-wide Kentucky Oral Health Network (KOH) to improve oral health literacy and reducing oral health disparities in Appalachian and other underserved Kentucky populations. Most recently, he has led strategic planning with the UK Provost’s Office, the UK College of Public Health and the COHR for university implementation of a new interdisciplinary Kentucky Oral Health Innovation Initiative (KOHI). From 2011-2017, he served the UK Project Leader for an Appalachian Rural Dental Education Partnership (ARDEP), a major Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) demonstration project with Morehead State University. and multiple KOH partners.

Dr. Mullins received a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree (D.M.D.) from the University of Kentucky (1968) and a Master’s in Public Health degree (M.P.H.) from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina (1970). He is a past department Chair and Academic Dean, holding dental public health, research, and academic leadership positions at UK for 46 years. In 2006, he was inducted into the Kentucky Public
Health Hall of Fame. He is also a Past-President of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (1981-82). In 2014, Dr. Mullins received Distinguished Alumni Awards from the University of Pikeville and the UK College of Dentistry. In 2015, he received the Lois Baker Exemplary Service Award from the Kentucky Primary Care Association. In 2018, Dr. Mullins received a special Chair’s citation from the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), recognizing his career contributions to ADEA’s mission. He is a current member of the Community Advisory Committee for the Foundation for Healthy Kentucky and the Executive Board of the Kentucky Primary Care Association.

RONALD NAGEL, DDS, MPH

Dr. Ron Nagel, known for his patience, high standards, and integrity, devoted 22 years to working for the Indian Health Service, promoting oral health and better access to oral health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Dr. Nagel initiated the Alaska dental health therapist program and helped make it a reality despite enormous opposition by organized dentistry. He worked tirelessly to improve access to oral health care for a population with oral disease rates of 2.5 times the national average. Dr. Nagel devoted himself to making oral health services available for this neglected population who live in a rural area of 600,000 square miles with no roads, no electricity, no running water, and no dentists.

ALEJANDRO NARVÁEZ, DDS

Dr. Alejandro Narváez has directed Sea Mar’s dental services since 1982. He oversees clinical practice and operations for all Sea Mar dental clinics. His philosophy of care is that all people, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, deserve the highest quality health care.

Originally from California, Dr. Narváez was raised in a low-income, bilingual/bicultural family where he learned the value of a strong work ethic. In 1977, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University and completed an independent internship at Moses Lake Community Health Center where he gained a deep appreciation for the mission of community health centers to help underserved populations.

Dr. Narváez earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Washington in 1982 and completed a course for general practitioners in orthodontics in 1998. He presently practices dentistry in the White Center and South Park clinics, with a focus on children and limited orthodontics.

Throughout his career, Dr. Narváez has devoted time to many worthy causes and professional activities. He has served on the Washington Dental Service Foundation Board of Trustees since 2006 and he participates in Sea Mar activities and other community events focusing on health care.

SHEILA RIGGS, DDS, MS, DMSc

Dr. Sheila Riggs chairs the Department of Primary Dental Care at the University of Minnesota’s School of Dentistry. Her career journey includes helming Delta Dental of Minnesota as CEO after serving on the organization’s board for six years; leadership roles at Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Iowa and South Dakota and its Foundation; and running for Congress in Iowa. Her journey also includes serving as a facilitator for MNSure Board of Directors Work Groups; service on the Task Group on Health Care Delivery, Presidential Transition Team on Health Care Reform; a member of the National Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management; and being founder and chair of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Workgroup on Foundations and Charitable Giving.

Dr. Riggs serves on the Board of Directors of two healthcare companies; Hennepin Healthcare System and Benco Dental, Inc. Committed to the community, she also serves on the Boards of the Cargill Foundation, the Minnesota Hospital Association, and the Wellmark Foundation. Past Board of Director memberships include

Dr. Riggs completed her Doctor of Dental Science degree at University of Iowa and a Doctorate of Medical Science in the field of epidemiology at Harvard University. She also has two certifications from the Wharton School of Business Executive Education Program.

RONALD ROMERO, DDS, MPH

Dr. Romero was born and raised in the Espanola Valley and is a product of the Espanola School System. He attended New Mexico Highlands University (BS), the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry (DDS), the University of New Mexico (MPH), and the University of California at San Francisco where he completed a Dental Public Health Residency Post Graduate program.

Dr. Romero has had an exciting dental career in dental public health. He began public service with the State of New Mexico as Chief Dental Officer for the NM Department of Corrections, a position that oversaw expansion of prison dental clinics and staff in Grants, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. Dr. Romero then served as staff dentist at the Las Vegas Medical Center providing dental services for the mentally ill, adolescent and long-term care patient populations. Dr. Romero previously served as State Dental Director with the NM Department of Health, managing the Office of Dental Health Under his watch, the first statewide oral health survey was conducted to assess the oral health status of New Mexico's Children.

ROBERT RUSSELL, DDS, MPH, MPA, CPM

Dr. Robert Russell serves as the Public Health Dental Director for the State of Iowa, Department of Public Health. He joined the organization in 2005. Bob earned a B.S. degree from Grand Valley State University in 1981, a Doctor of Dental Surgery from Loyola University of Chicago in 1988, MPH in Public Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 2002, MPA in Public Administration in 2019 and Certification in Public Management CPM, in 2017. He is a member of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the National Network for Oral Health Access, the American Dental Association, the Iowa Dental Association, and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

Dr. Russell was recently appointed a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, and to the Pi Alpha Alpha International Honor Society for Public Administration and a Fellow to the International College of Dentists in 2019. Bob resides in Des Moines where he also serves on the Board of Directors and President of the Region VII Head Start Association, the Board of Directors of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), the Iowa Hawk-I Advisory Committee, the Free Clinics of Iowa Advisory Committee, and the Lifelong Smiles Dental Coalition.

KARL SELF, DDS, MBA

Dr. Karl Self joined the faculty of the University Of Minnesota School Of Dentistry in 2006 and in January of 2010, he was selected to be the director of the newly created Division of Dental Therapy. In addition to managing all aspects of the implementation of this program, he is engaged in teaching dental, dental therapy, and dental hygiene students. His current research efforts are focused on the implementation of dental therapy in Minnesota. His general research interests include team-based care, access to care, and global health.

Dr. Self earned his DDS degree from the University of Minnesota’s School of Dentistry, and a MBA from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management. He has been engaged in a variety of dental practice types including private practice and large group practice, yet he has spent most of his professional life in a
community clinic. Dr. Self also served as a consultant for the Department of Human Services’ Medical Assistance program, director of Diversity and Inclusivity for the School of Nursing, and executive director of a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center in Minneapolis. Dr. Self serves on the board of a number of non-profit dental focused organizations and has been involved in improving oral healthcare in Africa.

SARAH SHOFFSTALL-CONE, DDS, MPH

Dr. Sarah Shoffstall-Cone earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from The Ohio State University in 2005 and her Master of Public Health degree from A. T. Still University in 2010. In August 2018, she completed a public health residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Soon after graduation from dental school, Sarah moved to the hub community of Bethel, AK to work for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), and organization which provides healthcare for 58 rural communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in southwest Alaska. During her years at YKHC, she served in several roles - as a staff dentist, as a deputy dental director and as acting dental director. In 2009, Sarah moved to Anchorage, AK to work for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, specifically with the Alaska Dental Therapy Educational Program. Sarah is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service.

MANDIE SMITH, DDS, FAGD

Dr. Mandie Smith (CDR USPHS) completed her Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 2003 at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX. She earned a certificate of completion in an Advanced General Practice Residency through Lutheran Medical Center in 2008. After five years at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, in Bethel, AK, she transferred to SEARHC in Sitka, AK. Her leadership and mentorship quickly promoted her into the Deputy Chief in 2009 and Chief of a Complex Clinic in 2015. She is responsible for the management of a dynamic dental program at Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center, which includes the supervision and mentoring of 35 employees and oversight of seven remote clinics. Dr. Smith’s emphasis has always been on increasing access to care in the communities she serves. She has worked with Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) since the first cohort in 2005. She has been a strong advocate for alternative work force models in meeting oral health disparities in Alaska. She continues to mentor and supervise DHATs in her program.

PATRICK DEAN SMITH, DMD, MPH

Dr. Patrick Smith is currently employed as an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry in the Division of Prevention and Public Health Sciences. In this position, he facilitates community-based learning experiences for dental students with an emphasis on access to dental care, interprofessional collaboration, and the social determinants of health.

He completed his dental training at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, followed by a general dentistry residency at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, IL. He also earned a Master of Public Health from UIC School of Public Health in health policy and administration. His scholarly and policy interest is to address racism and advance heath equity among disadvantaged populations. He is a member of numerous national and community-based organizations.

EDWARD STERLING, DDS

Dr. Sterling is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and retired Board Certified Pediatric Dentist. His many years of service in the dental field include being the Director of the Nisanger Center Dental Program and an Associate Professor at Ohio State University College of Dentistry; and serving on many boards including the Americans with Disabilities Act - Ohio Board, Advocacy and Protective Services Ohio Board, and the Southeast Community Mental Health Center Board.
YVONNE TIJERINA-BURLESON, DDS

Dr. Yvonne Tijerina-Burleson obtained her DDS degree from Texas A&M University College of Dentistry; formally known as Baylor College of Dentistry. After working a short time in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, she moved to Dillingham, Alaska where she practiced as a staff dentist. After a few years, she became the Deputy Chief Dental Officer, and then eventually was honored with the promotion to the position of Chief Dental Officer. After six years in Dillingham she was selected to complete a pediatric dental residency at the University of Kentucky. This residency is providing her with advanced training in pediatrics which includes sedation dentistry, anesthesia, treatment of medically compromised patients, and many other services. Dr. Tijerina-Burleson is currently in her second and final year of this residency and is anxiously awaiting her move back to Alaska. She is honored and excited about joining the ANTHC family. She is looking forward to working with and serving the children of Alaska and guiding the DHATs with their dental endeavors and education.

Dr. Tijerina-Burleson is a member of the American Dental Association and The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

CHEYANNE E. WARREN, DDS, MS

Dr. Cheyanne Warren is the Dental Therapy Program Director at Vermont Technical College. She received her Master’s in Biochemistry with a research focus on periodontal disease from Virginia Commonwealth University. She then went on to complete her dental degree and followed on with an AEGD residency both from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry. Dr. Warren then returned to her home state of Vermont to practice general dentistry at an FQHC.

Dr. Warren is currently developing Vermont’s Dental Therapy Program and has received awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Dental Trade Alliance Foundation (DTA), and Community Catalyst totaling $1.8 million to support these efforts.

MEGHAN WENDLAND, DDS, MPH

Dr. Meghan Wendland is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dental Public Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at A.T. Still University. Dr. Wendland earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Southern California and her Master of Public Health degree from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. She completed her residency in Dental Public Health through NYU Langone at their training site at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.

Dr. Wendland has been a passionate advocate for health equity throughout her career; not only as a dentist and public health professional, but also through her social justice work with California Black Women’s Health Project after college. Dr. Wendland is a member of the American Dental Association and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, where she serves on the Council on Educational Affairs.

JESSICA WILLIAMS, DMD

Dr. Jessica C. Williams is a general dentist at River Hills Community Health Center in Iowa. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Afro-American Studies from Howard University. While at Howard, Dr. Williams interned for Oral Health America and worked on its Older Adults Programs, including Advocacy Day and the Wisdom Tooth Project. She also volunteered for America’s ToothFairy and Kids Smiles while at Howard University.
As a dental student at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Dr. Williams received numerous awards and scholarships, including the selective Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, in which she developed and implemented an oral health literacy project in the Ravenswood community in Chicago. In dental school, she also earned a Health Administration and Policy Certificate in Health Disparities Research from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health. While in dental school, she also helped to form her school’s American Dental Education Association chapter and served as the national Student Liaison for Advocacy and Governmental Relations for ADEA. Dr. Williams’ dedication to community health earned her a National Health Service Corps Students to Service Award in 2018.

As a rural Iowan dentist, Dr. Williams seeks opportunities to improve her patients’ health not only through direct service, but also on a statewide and national level, which includes active participation in the Iowa Public Health Association, serving on the Advocacy Committee and as an active member of the American Public Health Association’s Oral Health Section. Dr. Williams is also an inaugural member of the American Enterprise Institute Millennial Cohort and a member of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, American Dental Education Association, National Dental Association, Oral Health Progress & Equity Network, National Network for Oral Health Access, Chicago Dental Society, and the Iowa Dental Association.

MARY WILLIARD, DDS

Dr. Mary Williard graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1994 and completed a 2-year General Practice Residency at the Carolinas’ Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1996. She is the Director of the Department of Oral Health Promotion at ANTHC and of the Ilisaġvik College Alaska Dental Therapy Educational Program.

Dr. Willard has worked in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities since 1996, including having experience as a clinician and administrator, supervising Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) and working in remote Navajo and Alaska Native communities. Dr. Williard is a recognized national expert in dental therapy education, supervision and practice.

DOUG YOUNG, DDS, EDD, MS, MBA

Dr. Doug Young is a Professor Emeritus at the University of the Pacific where he is an active and ardent educator in the field of minimally invasive dentistry and cariology. He currently works on oral health promotion for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium as a dentist specialist and instructor. He was one of the founders of the CAMBRA (Caries Management By Risk Assessment) Coalition, American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Cariology Section, and the American Academy of Cariology.

Dr. Young served on the ADA Council of Scientific Affairs (2012-2016) and is currently a member of the ADA Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) Leaders network and a cariology consultant for the ADA. Dr. Young has presented at congresses and universities around the world. He has been published in numerous peer-reviewed dental journals and textbooks focusing on minimal invasive dentistry, silver fluoride, glass ionomer, and Caries Management by Risk Assessment.