



# ABDPH NEWS

## Message from the President

Having lived in the Midwest for most of my life, I appreciate the seasons – even winter. Like Mother Nature, the Board has its own set of seasons, and since April, we have been in the “developing” or ‘quiescent’ season – revising documents and policies and methodically gearing up for another round of examinations. This season ended in mid-August as we began to review applications for certification, and shortly thereafter we will begin reviewing project reports and then, by the end of the year, begin reviewing applications for the written exam. All the while, we will be preparing for the April 2019 ABDPH examination, which represents the final, busy ‘season’ for the ABDPH. Hopefully, I will appreciate the ABDPH seasons as much as I do Mother Nature’s – feel free to ask me next April!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Jennifer Holtzman as our Director-elect. Dr. Holtzman is a Dental Officer in the Bureau of Health Workforce within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and was previously a faculty member at UCLA. While we are excited with Jennifer’s election to the Board, we will miss Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas who has rolled off the Board and is now our Immediate Past President. We appreciate her leadership and work over the past 6+ years!

I am happy to report that our specialty continues to grow, as we officially now have over 175 active Diplomates, including 10 who received their pins in Louisville, and 5 who successfully completed the certification process in April. In addition, 33 candidates took the written ABDPH examination in April, and 27 passed, so that we anticipate continued growth in the number of ABDPH Diplomates.

While the main focus of the Board is certifying new Dental Public Health specialists, we continue to monitor changes in recognition of dental specialties and requirements for certification. While the new National Commission on Dental Specialty Recognition is still in its infancy and it is unclear

### Your 2018-2019 Board

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Eugenio Beltrán - Exec. Director

email: [TheABDPH@icloud.com](mailto:TheABDPH@icloud.com)

### Upcoming Events

ABDPH Examination,  
April 11-13, 2019

ABDPH Business meeting and  
Dinner, April 15 (Monday), 2019

ABDPH Symposium, April 16  
(Tuesday), 2019

## The XD Corner

As per July 31, some Diplomates have not completed their 2018 annual registration; in consequence, they are not in good standing. If you are in this group, please contact Ms. Sandi Steil as soon as possible; she will be able to process your 2018 annual registration and add the corresponding late fees. For future reference, be mindful that the registration for year 2019 starts in October with an announcement from AAPHD, our sponsoring organization. Most Diplomates complete their registration by January 31 of the following year without accruing late fees. Please, do not wait until the last minute.

The ABDPD is currently evaluating eligibility of candidates to the full examination. The due date for evaluating applications for the written-only is December 1. Please, download application and supporting documentation from the website [www.aaphd.org/abdph](http://www.aaphd.org/abdph)

In this issue we are highlighting the activity of Dr. Grim, one of our Diplomates. If you want to do the same with a colleague or coworker who is also a Diplomate, please send your short contribution to [TheABDPH@icloud.com](mailto:TheABDPH@icloud.com)

As always,

Eugenio

what, if any, changes are forthcoming, they have established a \$9,500 annual fee for each specialty to support the Commission. We are fortunate that our sponsoring organization, AAPHD, has graciously agreed to split the cost of this fee with the Board (thank you AAPHD!), but as a smaller specialty, we don't have much 'wiggle room' in our budget, so in September, the ABDPH approved a \$25 increase to the annual registration fees to defray our contribution to the new National Commission.

Finally, the Board is committed to being inclusive and transparent, and while we are somewhat restrained by the CDEL requirements for specialty certification, we do value the input and contributions of our Diplomates. To that end, please see the request in this Newsletter asking for topics to be included in our certifying examination – this is your specialty, and we really do value your suggestions.

Whatever season it is in your corner of the world, we wish you the best for 2018-19.

## *ABDPH Diplomate is now Heading 2,400 Employee Health System*

Retired PHS Assistant Surgeon General Charles (Chuck) Grim has been named Director of Health Services by the Cherokee Nation. Grim, a member of the Cherokee Nation and a resident of Hubert, OK was appointed to the position by Principal Chief Bill John Baker. He oversees operations of the largest tribal health care system in the Nation, including 2,400 employees at W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah and eight tribal health centers. The Cherokee Nation has more than a million patient visits per year. Announcement of Dr. Grim's appointment



*Cherokee Nation citizen and executive director of Cherokee Nation Health Services Dr. Charles Grim.*

noted that he has a master's degree in health services administration from The University of Michigan, and that he is

board-certified in dental public health. He also served as Director of the Indian Health Service under President George W Bush, and is currently a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Health (Submitted by W. Maas)

### *Diplomates Invited to Submit Topics for ABDPH Exam*

The Directors of ABDPH request your help with identifying practical real-world dental public health topics to be included in the exam – these topics may be derived from experiences you have had, papers that you have read, problems that you’ve encountered during your DPH career or other knowledge or experience. The board is in the process of developing a ‘bank’ of questions for future exams and is also revising the examination to better match the new DPH competencies. The board will develop questions based on these topics, so we are not asking you to write the questions; however, we do ask that topics be well-defined and narrow in scope so as to allow for questions that have precise answers.

If you have ideas for topics to be included on the exam, please submit them by October 31, 2018, to Dr. Eugenio Beltrán, Executive Director of ABDPH. The board strives to make the ABDPH exam fully represent the specialty, and we appreciate your efforts to help us with these efforts.

### *Voluntary recertification—I did it and so can you!*

*By Sharon Gordon*

For diplomates certified in 2000 and later, recertification every ten years is required. For diplomates certified before 2000, the process for recertification is voluntary. Recertification is similar to re-credentialing at a hospital or to renewal of licensure in many states. Benefits of recertification are demonstration to yourself, your peers, and your employer of currency in the practice of Dental Public Health. The process includes a demonstration of 150 hours of continuation education related to Dental Public Health competencies over a ten-year period. There is no fee for voluntary recertification.

I made the decision to voluntarily recertify in 2017; since I keep records of CE for licensure anyway, the documentation for completing the form was not onerous. The CE Record form and applications are available on the ABDPH website: <http://www.aaphd.org/home>; go to the ABDPH tab and then “Recertification-Diplomates”. Save the CE Record in the event of audit, as ten percent of diplomats who recertify are audited. The reporting period is from January to December; details of the process are available on the website.

Note: Do not send electronic copies to the Executive Director, ABDPH, unless requested. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director by email ([TheABDPH@icloud.com](mailto:TheABDPH@icloud.com)). .

The ABDPH looks forward to seeing you in Memphis.

### *Welcome new Diplomates*

The following colleagues completed their examinations and are current Diplomates of the ABDPH. They will receive the pins that identify them as members of our great family at the meeting in Memphis, Tennessee.

Nixon Roberts  
Anneta Bitouni  
Jaffer Shariff  
Eman Bakhurji  
Eman Alsagob

### *Selected photographs of the 68th ABDPH Annual Meeting of Diplomates*



Breaking News: some UM members formed new law firm



Luna AlNasser with Thanos Zavras and Ana Karina Mascarenhas





Mert Aksu with Sena Narendran and Judith Jones



Sohini Dhar with David Cappelli and Ana Karina Mascarenhas



Nadia Laniado with Victor Badner



Enihomo Obadan-Udoh with Mary Tavares & Howard Pollick



Claudia Serna with Oscar Arévalo, Scott Tomar and Jay Balzer



Gina Thornton-Evans and Michele Junger with Stuart Lockwood



Ariel Greenblatt with Victor Badner