



# ABDPH News

## Your 2020-2021 Board

Christopher Okunseri, President

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Georgia Rogers, Secretary - Treasurer

Jennifer Holtzman, Director

Scott Tomar, Director

David Cappelli, Director Elect

Sharon M. Gordon, Immediate Past President

Ana-Karina Mascarenhas- Exec. Director

email: [Executive.Director@abdph.org](mailto:Executive.Director@abdph.org)

## XD Corner

AAPHD has sent reminders to complete your annual registration. The ABDPH Board elected to keep fees at the current level; the regular registration fee is \$250 with two voluntary fees at \$300 and \$350. To maintain your active status as a Diplomate, you must complete your registration. You are also encouraged to join AAPHD, our sponsoring organization. You can pay by credit card or check made payable to AAPHD. If you have problems please do not hesitate to contact me or Sandi Steil. Best regards,

Ana Karina

## Message from the Board

Following a Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (CO-STEP) experience the summer of my junior year in dental school I was given a book entitled “Plagues and Politics” signed by the Surgeon General Antonia C. Novello, MD, MPH. The book covers the events leading to the creation and evolution of the U.S. Public Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, and other agencies with the mission of population health. Stimulated by current events to re-read this book, it is notable that repeatedly over the years attempts to mitigate the impact of potentially catastrophic infectious diseases have had divisive results as paraphrased below:

“Quarantine became the battleground for contending the forces of federal public health expansion. . .” impacting on the economy, immigration, and state vs federal authority. The evolution of the health professions themselves has been shaped by these events.

Today history is again repeating itself, with mandated social distancing resulting in restrictions in travel, “stay at home” (quarantine) orders, masking mandates, and adamant debates on individual rights and state vs federal responsibilities.

The dental profession and our specialty of Dental Public Health have not been immune—dental clinics have been shuttered, and the impact on practicing dentists and those in training who have been unable to complete their educational programs face an uncertain future.

The Board had planned for the largest number of candidates in our history to challenge the examination. There were 34 candidates approved to take the written examination and 19 scheduled to challenge the oral portions of the exam. As with other facets of education, the pandemic is challenging our traditional approaches. The Board has been creative in exploring alternatives to in-person testing; 16 candidates have undergone the oral examination via videoconference. The Board also solicited quotes from several vendors offering online solutions for administering the written examination. It is the Board’s goal to serve our candidates while balancing their safety and maintaining the rigor of the certification process.

Thank you for your continued support as we exercise an abundance of caution in this current environment.

Sincerely, *Sharon*

# Board Business

## Mission Statement for the American Board of Dental Public Health

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In anticipation of the upcoming 10-year review of our specialty, the Board crafted a mission statement derived from a passage in the original articles of incorporation:

“The purpose of this corporation shall be to protect and improve the public’s health by the study and creation of standards for the practice of dental public health in all its aspects and relationships and to grant and issue to duly licensed dentists, certificates of special knowledge and ability in preventive dentistry and dental public health.”

The statement reads:

**“The mission of the American Board of Dental Public Health is to protect and improve the public’s health through the study and creation of standards for the practice of dental public health in all its aspects and relationships, and to grant and issue certificates of special knowledge and ability in dental public health to dentists.”**

We look forward to working with AAPHD to prepare the submission for the 10-year review of the specialty this coming year.

## Examination Changes

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The National Commission on Specialty Recognition approved two changes in the pathway to certification: the Alternate Pathway and the Qualifying Examination.

Both of these changes help align the ABDPH with other specialty organizations and are endorsed by the Commission.

**Watch for website updates providing further information on these two changes.**

## We Welcome Your Contributions

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We currently have 166 active Diplomates, not including 60 life members. We are a growing specialty with a developing international representation. Since 2014, the number of candidates who challenged the examination has doubled, resulting in a 25% increase in Diplomates during the past five years.

Since 2019, the Board has worked to increase the capacity to accommodate larger numbers of candidates seeking to challenge the examination. This increase was made possible by the generous gift of time from past presidents who served as guest examiners.

**If you are a past president and would like to be added to the pool of examiners, please contact the Executive Director.**

To formulate the Qualifying Examination newly approved by The National Commission on Specialty Recognition, we are developing a repository of examination questions designed to test critical thinking. You are invited to contribute potential questions for the qualifying examination.

**Please email the Executive Director to submit questions: [Executive.Director@abdph.org](mailto:Executive.Director@abdph.org)**

## Welcome Our New Director-elect

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. David Cappelli as our new Director-elect. Dr. Cappelli is Professor and Chair of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and is founder and Executive Director of the American Institute of Dental Public Health. He has been active in the leadership of AAPHD, previously serving as President, and is currently the Chair of the AAPHD Foundation Board. In addition, he brings to the Board his experience as previous director of the residency in Dental Public Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Congratulations Dr. Cappelli!

We also congratulate Dr. Scott Tomar, who just completed his term as Director-elect, on his new position at the University of Illinois at Chicago as Associate Dean for Prevention and Public Health Sciences. He has previously served as President of AAPHD, Chair of the Oral Health Section of APHA, and as President of the Behavioral, Epidemiologic and Health Services Research Group of the IADR. He has also been editor for the Journal of Evidence Based Dental Practice and the Journal of Public Health Dentistry. Congratulations Dr. Tomar!

## Life Membership

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The ABDPH continuously accepts applications for Life Membership. Criteria are posted in our Informational Brochure at the Board's website. This past year the following were approved for life membership:

*Dr. Jed Hand*

*Dr. Rebecca King*

*Dr. Raymond Kutby*

*Dr. James Lalumandier*

*Dr. Scott Presson*

## Welcome New Diplomates

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The following individuals successfully completed their examinations and are current Diplomates of the ABDPH. They were recognized during the 70th Annual Business Meeting held via webinar on Monday, May 4, 2020. They will be mailed pins that identify them as Diplomates and will be invited to be pinned by their residency directors at a future Diplomates' business meeting. Please join us in welcoming them!

*Dr. Abdulraheem Abdullah H. Alwafi*

*Dr. Solafa Diaaldin Ayoub*

*Dr. Siddardha G. Chandrupatla*

*Dr. Alexander Kailembo*

*Dr. Erinne Kennedy*

*Dr. Mark E. Moss*

*Dr. Reem Reda Jeries Oweis*

*Dr. Jennifer Kristina Romaszewski*

*Dr. Jayapriyaa Ranjini Shanmugham*

## Notes of Appreciation

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We express our profound gratitude to those who have assisted the Board during the past year in many capacities:

### *Director-elect Nominations*

Drs. Moncy Matthews, Mary Tavares, and Georgia Rogers led by Vice-President Dr. Chris Okunseri

### *Taskforce for Examination Development*

Drs. Victor Badner, Jaffer Sharrif, and Steve Levy led by Dr. Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Thanos Zavras

### *Recertification Committee*

Drs. Victor Badner (Chair), Michelle McQuistan, and Director Dr. Jennifer Holtzman

### *Guest Examiners*

Drs. Don Altman, Caswell Evans, Ray Kuthy, and Immediate Past President John Warren

### *Our Sponsoring Organization*

We thank AAPHD for their continued support and leadership, especially administrative assistance from Sandi Steil and Dr. Frances Kim.

## Send Your News!

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Share your good news with fellow Diplomates by sending it via email to the Executive Director for the next newsletter: [Executive.Director@abdph.org](mailto:Executive.Director@abdph.org).