



# The American Board of Dental Public Health

## E-Newsletter – March 2016

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## ABDPH President's Message!



President

Don Altman, DDS, MPH, MBA, MA, DHSc

Friends and Colleagues:

The Directors of the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH) are putting the final touches on the materials for the 2016 board examination. Eleven (11) applicants will be challenging the board examination in Cincinnati this coming April. There are twenty-four (24) individuals who are challenging the written-only portion of the examination that will be given from 8:00 am – noon on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

The Board met in late January 2016 for their mid-year meeting. At that meeting the issue of *alternative pathways to board certification* was discussed. The alternative pathways discussion started over three years ago and was put on hold due to pressing matters with CDEL. I have appointed a task force (Dr. Christopher Okunseri, chair; Dr. Ana-Karina Mascarenhas, Dr. Steve Levy, and Dr. Scott Tomar) to consider the issue. The task force is charged with evaluating the current process and any alternatives. A recommendation for the Board is due no later than July 2016.

This is my last article as President of ABDPH, and I wanted to thank Dr. Joe Alderman who will be retiring after ten (10) years as Executive Director. Joe has worked tirelessly and his hard work and dedication to the Board will be missed. Joe officially retires at the end of April 2016. Please join the Board in thanking him for his service at our business meeting and dinner in Cincinnati.

Dr. Eugenio Beltran is the new Executive Director for the Board. Dr. Beltran started in January and has been working with Dr. Alderman on a smooth transition.

All the best,  
Don Altman



**Judith A. Jones, DDS, MPH, DScD**  
**Vice President-Auditor**  
**AAPHD-Foundation Committee Chair-Elect,**  
**AAPHD Foundation Committee-**

**Lotzkar and Horowitz Fund Update:**

A big THANK YOU! to all the Diplomates who donated to both the Lotzkar and Horowitz Funds of the AAPHD Foundation. Of all the AAPHD Foundation Funds, the Lotzkar and Horowitz Funds directly focus on advancing the Specialty of Dental Public Health. The \$4,450 in donations this year brings the Lotzkar Fund to a total of \$43,301. Some of this fund will be used next year to disseminate the results of the DPH Specialty Competency Review, led by Drs. Mascarenhas and Altman. We also received \$9,541 for the Horowitz Fund, including a generous donation of \$5,000 from Alice Horowitz. As you recall, the Horowitz Fund is designed to fund a \$10,000 Scholarship for a dentist to pursue specialty training in Dental Public Health.

Please join me in contributing to both of these important funds. If you haven't completed your pledge, finish it. If you have completed your pledge, renew it. If we don't support the causes near and dear to us, who will?

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**John J. Warren DDS, MS;**  
Past SRC Board Representative



**Sharon M. Gordon, DDS, MPH, PhD**  
SRC-Board Representative 2016-17

**ABDPH Ten-Year Recertification Update:**

The American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH), upon the recommendation of ABDPH's Diplomate Recertification Committee, voted unanimously to increase the number of continuing education credit hours from 100 per 10-year period, to 150, beginning with the 2017 re-certification cycle. That is, diplomates who were initially certified in 2007 or later will be required to complete 150 hours of continuing education in dental public health in order to be re-certified as a diplomate in 2017 and in subsequent years. (Those due to be re-certified in 2016 are still governed by the old guidelines, and need only demonstrate

completion of 100 hours of continuing education). The board also considered a recommendation made by the Recertification Committee to make re-certification mandatory for all ABDPH diplomates, but decided that since less than half of all active diplomates were certified prior 2000 and this proportion would only decrease with time, that such a step was not necessary. The board is exploring ways of making voluntary re-certification easier and will undertake a pilot project to assess a streamlined means of voluntary re-certification. An ABDPH Standards and Recertification Committee (SRC) audits Diplomates. The SRC members 5-Diplomates: Georgia G. Rogers, Chair, E. Ernest Guile, Athanasios (Thanos) I. Zavras, Board Director, ABDPH: Sharon M. Gordon, Executive Director, ABDPH: Eugenio Beltrán

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**Christopher Okunseri, BDS, MSc, MLS, DDPHRCSE, FFDRCSI  
Director**

**ABDPH Taskforce on "Alternative Pathways" to ABDPH Certification:**

Don Altman, ABDPH President appointed a task force to consider the issue and to report back to the Board with a recommendation. Dr. Christopher Okunseri has agreed to lead the task force - and I am asking if you would be willing to be a part of the committee. A report is due in no six months and the task force will meet via conference call(s). The report may suggest alternative pathways or that no change to the current residency requirements are necessary. Totally up to the Task Force to evaluate the current process and any alternatives - and then make a recommendation.

Our charge is to suggest alternative pathways or that no change be made to the current residency requirements for taking the board examination.

I would like to recommend that we proceed as follows:

1. Schedule at least 2 conference calls in March to gather information about previous attempts to address this issue,
  2. Schedule a face-to-face meeting at the 2016 NOHC to review a draft report or continue our conversation on possible alternatives,
  3. Schedule 1-2 conference call in May to complete the process and,
  4. Get approval from everyone to submit a report to the board in late May or Early June.
- Please feel free to suggest changes to by tentative plan above. In the meantime, please send me a couple of dates and times that you are available for a conference call in March in the next week to enable me send a doddle poll out. I am not available on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons due to clinical commitments and my best meeting day is Friday or Monday. Please be aware that I am open to weekend meetings as well, if required.
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**Ana Karina Mascarenhas BDS, MPH, DrPH  
Secretary- Treasurer**

**Dental Public Health Competencies Update:**

The ABDPH, and its partners is pleased to report substantial progress on the project that is updating the specialty competencies. The current 10 dental public health competencies were last updated almost 20 years ago. The Expert Panel worked diligently to develop the draft competencies. These were then circulated for input to the Advisory Panel, Diplomates and other communities of interest. In January 2016, the Expert Panel met again in Chapel Hill, NC to finalize the competencies.

A new format for the updated competency statements was developed based upon feedback on clarity, format and overlap in the lists of knowledge, skills and values attached to the 1998 competencies. The format proposed in this report parallels that used by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), and consists of a brief and behaviorally stated description of a competency supported by a “statement of intent” that explain the rationale, meaning and significance of the competency.

The proposed competencies are still 10 in number, with merging of several of the previous competencies. Each competency domain now describes a core task or role performed by Dental Public Health Specialist.

Next steps are adoption of the competencies by both ABDPH and AAPHD by Spring 2016 followed by submission to the Summer CODA meeting for incorporation in to the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Dental Public Health. The ABDPH will start testing candidates using new competencies during the 2018 exam, thus allowing our training programs substantial time to train residents using the new competencies.

ABDPH would like to thank all those that participated in the process, and DentaQuest Foundation for their generous support of this project.

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**New Director-Elect-2016**  
**Athanasios (Thanos) I. Zavras, DMD, DDS, MS, DrMedSc**

Dr. Don Altman, President, ABDPH is pleased to announce the Diplomates of the ABDPH have elected Dr. Athanasios (Thanos) Zavras as Director-Elect-2016. Congratulations Thanos!

Thanos is Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at Boston University and with Dr. Woosung Sohn, co-directs the combined training program in Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health focused on innovations in preventive and curative care for vulnerable underserved children.

Thanos' public health training includes a Master's of Science degree in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health (1994), and a Doctorate of Medical Science in Biology/Epidemiology from Harvard Dental School (1999) and the Harvard School of Public Health. His clinical training includes a D.M.D degree from the University of Athens, Greece; D.D.S degree from Columbia University; specialty training in Pediatric Dentistry (Tufts University); and specialty training in Dental Public Health (Harvard University). In 2003, he received his Certificate as Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

Thanos will be attending the NOHC in Cincinnati. Please, give him a warm thank you for his commitment to serve our Specialty for the next six-years.

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**Eugenio D. Beltrán, DMD, MPH, MS, DrPH  
New Executive Director, ABDPH-2016**

## **ABDPH New Executive Director's Comments:**

It is an honor to serve as your new Executive Director. Joe's laborious and diligent work as our Executive Director has allowed us a smooth sailing over the last ten years with a record number of candidates! We will never have adequate words to express our gratitude for Joe's generous dedication to our specialty. As my nieces and nephews would say, "Joe, you are awesome!"

It will be impossible for me to reach Joe's high standards in the next months but I will do my best. I am currently enrolled in the Joe Alderman University (quite different from the one in the political news) and hopefully this will allow continuity in the business aspects of our specialty with the least amount of disruption. At the meantime, please, I have a couple of favors to ask you. First, do not hesitate to contact me at anytime using the new email address (TheABDPH@icloud.com). My personal email (e.beltran@mac.com) is always available for non-business issues. Please, send me a reminder if I do not reply within three-days time. Second, be aware that because of my lack of experience, I may change my mind more frequently than expected. Please, do not hesitate to ask me for an additional explanation. There will always be at least one, I promise.

As your new "XD," I would like to remind you that our specialty needs more than ever your support in terms of volunteering, participating and, yes, paying your Annual Registration Fees. Most Diplomates have completed their 2016 registration and some have volunteered their names as candidates for Director-Elect selection next year, thanks. Being a Director is a unique 6+ year commitment that maintains alive the spirit, science, and art of our specialty. As you probably heard, there is a lot of work involved but on the brighter side, you will meet new people, rekindle old friendships and learn in the process. In addition, there is no more rewarding experience than certifying the next generation of Diplomates who, in due time, will replace us in the process. And, of course, your Registration Fees helps to maintain the business part of our specialty. In the upcoming weeks, I will be contacting Diplomates who have not renewed their annual registration. My goal is to have full registration before the NOHC, and, of course, to see you at the Dinner and annual business meeting in Cincinnati.

As always, peace.



**E. Joseph (Joe) Alderman, DMD, MPH**  
**Executive Director, ABDPH-2006-2016**

## **ABDPH Executive Director's Corner:**

### **THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL TEN YEARS!**

There have been major changes in the ten years I have been Executive Director. The ABDPH is almost completely computerized. AAPHD has been providing many of the clerical services such as maintaining the ABDPH database, Annual Registration Fees, Verification of Diplomate's Requests, sending the eNewsletters and a recent email survey for Diplomates to vote on new Director-elect.

The rewards have been numerous and I have the opportunity to work with some of the best and most dedicated dental public health specialists on the ABDPH Board of Directors. The Executive Director participates in many of the Board's discussions, but the Board makes the final decisions. ABDPH's Budget has improved significantly and we have a reasonable reserve. ABDPH has increased the number of candidates who take the ABDPH examinations. In the last couple of years we have had around 12 taking a part or all of the ABDPH Full Certifying Examination. We have increased the candidates taking the ABDPH Written Examination significantly- 2016 we have 25 taking the written. Only one of the candidates taking the Full Examination needed to take the Written Examination in 2016.

I have been privileged to work and strategize with AAPHD leadership past and present, a diverse and thoughtful public health group. During the extremely challenging times of changing our sponsoring organization to satisfy the requirements for continuing accreditation by the ADA some of our strongest leaders have been the dedicated dental hygienists who have sacrificed to ensure our continued accreditation. I am optimistic that AAPHD and ABDPH will continue to work together to continue to support both organizations. The last NOHC was well attended and AAPHD should continue to strengthen and improve the new structure. I am fortunate that I will still continue to be the AAPHD Historian and on the AAPHD Foundation Committee.

I am pleased that Eugenio Beltrán has been appointed as the new Executive Director. We have been close friends and public health colleagues for many years. We look forward to a smooth transition.

**ABDPH 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Diplomates Meeting-2016 National Oral Health Conference**  
Make plans to attend the ABDPH 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Diplomates' Meeting and Banquet- April 18, 2016 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. Join us for the 2015 National Oral Health Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio April 18-20, 2016.