Lots of Thanks for Our Celebration in Denver

Phillip Thompson, NNOHA Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the NNOHA members, friends, supporters, and sponsors who took time away from their normal duties to come to Denver for NNOHA’s 25th Anniversary celebration.

Some of you have been advocating for access to oral health for more than 25 years. Others of us are newer to this mission. We salute those of you who have done so much to promote oral health for the underserved, and we are grateful to be able to work alongside you and build on the foundation you have prepared.

From across the country we came to the Annual Conference to learn from each other, to share information, to explore promising practices, to consider new techniques, to refresh our skills, to renew old friendships and to begin new ones, and to recharge our spirits for the tasks ahead.

While the 2016 Conference might well have been the best one ever (I’ll defer to more experienced attendees), it was certainly the largest, by a lot. Over 820 individuals registered as speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, or attendees! NNOHA was very excited to welcome many first-time attendees, including representatives from clinics that recently were awarded oral health service expansion grants and are just beginning their oral health journey. We hope you found the Conference helpful. Welcome to the cause. We’ve come a long way from December 1991 when nine (9) dental directors chartered this organization!

During the three and a half days of the gathering, over 55 presenters contributed to more than 45 educational sessions. A special thanks to the faculty at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry, who provided excellent clinical updates and hands-on sessions. Thanks also to presenters from across the country who shared their respective research, expertise, and insights. Thanks to our many vendors for a beautiful and engaging exhibit area. We had two great parties with two terrific bands and wonderful food. Thanks again to Aseptico, the Delta Dental foundations from five states, and DentaQuest Institute for their generous sponsorship.

I extend special thanks to NNOHA organizational member Colorado Coalition for the
Homeless, who not only told us the story of their journey to integration, but opened the doors of their lovely new clinic to welcome a tour group from the Conference. We also appreciate their board member T.R. Reid for his insights into the national election, which concluded only a few hours earlier. Oh, that reminds me, we also had a third party—to watch the election returns. It was nice… but not as festive as I had expected.

Conference would not have been possible without the support of several valued sponsors. Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor, DentaQuest Institute.

Thanks to our Gold Sponsors, American Dental Association and Kuraray. To other sponsors, who helped us fund tote bags and name tags, the really cool new mobile app, and to those who helped us with special conference sessions. You made this conference one of the most affordable in the industry. We all thank you for that.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on the winners of NNOHA’s annual awards of excellence. Congratulations to all of them. Also congratulations to those six advocates for oral health who were elected to the NNOHA Board of Directors. Their photos are in this newsletter as well. We look forward to your leadership.

Thank you to our NNOHA Conference Planning Committee for their guidance, recommendations, wisdom, and insights. Special thanks go to their tireless leader, Dr. Huong Le.

Thank you to Luana Harris Scott and her associates with OnPar Productions for all the detail work of coordination with the hotel, our exhibitors, ordering food, audio/visual equipment, printing the program book, and a hundred other things, including sponsoring The Jakarta Band for our Gala. They were fabulous.

Finally, I want to thank the small but tenacious and creative NNOHA staff for their careful preparations, attention to detail, and long days. Thanks, team—Amy, Jodi, Jennifer, Debra, Kelcy, and Dr. Irene Hilton. You got ‘er done.
President’s Message

We Are United in Our Mission and Service

Janet Bozzone, DMD, MPH, FAGD
President, NNOHA Board of Directors

I’d like to take a moment to thank everyone who was able to attend our annual conference celebrating NNOHA’s 25th Anniversary. This was indeed our largest and most successful conference to date. We had over 800 registrants and we were able to welcome many first-time participants. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and greet so many new members.

In addition to providing a wide range of presentations and activities over three days, we were again able to offer several pre-conference sessions. These included our “Fundamentals of Leading a Health Center Oral Health Program” and “Digging Deeper” sessions, as well as an intensive learning session entitled “Bonding Agents and All-Ceramic Systems.” Thanks to a National Cooperative Agreement with HRSA, we again offered “Your Oral Health Program: Strategies for Success” to pre-conference attendees free of charge. This program, designed for community health center operational and financial leaders, was created through a partnership with DentaQuest Institute’s Safety Net Solutions program.

But the success of a conference is not based solely on its educational content. What makes our conference so great is all of YOU, our participants. We are safety-net dentists and staff from across the country who are united in bringing oral health care services to the underinsured and the underserved. Our conference provides a unique experience, unlike most other dental meetings, because it focuses on the challenges we all face every day.

I would also like to thank Dr. Huong Le, her committee, and our wonderful NNOHA staff, who all worked so hard to put together a fabulous meeting, and express my gratitude to all of our vendors and sponsors, without whom Conference would not have been nearly as successful. Please take the time to mention to your own vendors that you saw them at the NNOHA conference.

I hope all of you who were able to make it to Denver enjoyed the meeting and the opportunity to network with your colleagues by renewing old acquaintances and making some new friends. Please remember to fill out your CDE and conference evaluation. We appreciate your feedback and use it to develop content for subsequent years. We anticipate that the next NNOHA conference will be even bigger and better… so mark your calendar now to join us next year in San Diego, November 12-15, 2017.

Thank you for all you do every day.

Dr. Janet Bozzone
Conference Photo Gallery

With so many Conference attendees present, so many sessions offered, and such a milestone anniversary to celebrate, you can bet a lot of wonderful photographs were taken! A small sampling are shared with you here, which capture the essence of the Conference and showcase the many rich educational and networking opportunities that were enjoyed.

Henry Schein’s Andrea Hight and Kathleen Titus, co-chairs of NNOHA’s Corporate Advisory Committee, and other exhibitors showcased the latest oral health care products and services throughout the Conference.

It was a packed house at the pre-conference “Fundamentals of Leading a Health Center Oral Health Program” session.

NNOHA Board Member Steve Geiermann talked about HRSA operational site visits.

NNOHA Executive Director Phillip Thompson welcomed everyone to the Mile High City.

Reconnecting with colleagues is always a highlight of the NNOHA Conference.

Most Conference photos courtesy of Joseph Powell, Champa Street Productions, Denver CO.
Dr. Jack Dillenberg presented the Opening Plenary session: “25 Years of Advocating for Oral Health Access is Only the Beginning”

NNOHA’s 25th Anniversary Gala offered many ways to celebrate: with a toast, on the dance floor, in animated conversation, even taking selfies

Examples from Minnesota about the use of Dental Therapists gave attendees much to consider

ADA President Dr. Gary Roberts presented special recognition to Dr. John McFarland...

...and later that evening, Dr. McFarland (far right) played keyboards with the band
Dr. Vy Nguyen shared HRSA’s priorities for oral health

Dr. Irene Hilton discussed the Health Center Dental Dashboard, and how to leverage data

Social events and breaks between sessions gave attendees plenty of time for networking

Dr. Huong Le (center), NNOHA Immediate Past President, is flanked by several longtime NNOHA members

See you next year in San Diego!

Save the Date: November 12–15, 2017
Plenary speaker T.R. Reid shared his perspective on the impact of the presidential election results on community health centers.

An enthusiastic group of NNOHA members toured the Stout Street Health Center and Champa Dental Clinic of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, which treats both adult and pediatric patients.

Nancy Adrianse of the Iowa Primary Care Association discussed Medicaid audits in her state.

Congratulations to all these 2016 Passport to Prizes winners!

**Beats Headphones**
Charlene Thomas
Terry Reilly Health Services
Boise, ID

**Echo Dot Prize Pack**
Alynn Vienot
Neighborhood Health Center
Oregon City, OR

**Amazon Gift Card & Mug**
Taimy Rosales
La Clinica de la Raza
Oakland, CA

**Amazon Prime Prize Pack**
Sarah Salsbury
Columbia Basin Health Association
Othello, WA

**Blue Apron Prize Pack**
Cecilia Silva Rivas
La Clinica de la Raza
Oakland, CA

**American Express Gift Card & Water Bottle**
Jan Brooks
Davis Street Community Center
San Leandro, CA

**Amazon Gift Card & Mug**
Taimy Rosales
La Clinica de la Raza
Oakland, CA

**Amazon Prime Prize Pack**
Sarah Salsbury
Columbia Basin Health Association
Othello, WA

**Grand Prize: Vacation Package**
Cecilia Mitchell
Queens Care Health Center
Los Angeles, CA

Grand Prize winner Cecilia Mitchell, pictured with Tina Sopiwnik, NNOHA Board member and Chair of the Membership Committee.
The annual NNOHA Outstanding Contribution Awards were presented during a dinner banquet on Monday, November 7. NNOHA extends hearty congratulations to each of these award winners and applauds their contributions to oral health care.

**Oral Health Champion**

Nancy J. Stern  
Chief Executive Officer  
Eastern Shore Rural Health System  
Onancock, VA

Ms. Nancy Stern was recognized for her 30-year career in the community health center movement. Nominated by Dr. Scott Wolpin, Chief Dental Officer for Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Ms. Stern delivered countless speeches and formal presentations to city councils, county boards, and multiple community organizations on the eastern shore of Virginia. Her efforts were a driving force to raise awareness for the need for healthcare reform. She currently serves on several state and local healthcare boards and has also served on two governors’ healthcare commissions and committees.

Also a contributing author to several health education guidebooks and publications, in 2010 Ms. Stern received the Soroptimist Ruby Award from Soroptimist International of the Americas, which honors women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work. More recently, she was presented with the John Gilbert Award for Excellence in the Community Health Care Field by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC).

**Outstanding Clinician**

Nathan Suter, DDS  
Oral Health Director  
COMTREA Comprehensive Health Center  
Festus, MO

Dr. Nathan Suter is committed to helping the underserved in Missouri and eliminating barriers to dental care. He has developed both comprehensive school-based health centers in the poorest of school districts and a mobile clinic that travels to underserved rural areas. Dr. Suter also created a partnership with the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry to provide payment vouchers, redeemable at COMTREA, to emergency rooms, urgent care centers, churches, and physician offices that could be distributed to individuals with dental pain and limited or no financial means to pay for treatment.

In the last three years, Dr. Suter has successfully secured grants for over $1.5 million to further COMTREA’s clinical efforts. The latest grant from HRSA will greatly improve access to dental care for the underserved by integrating primary medical care and oral health. Services will include screenings, risk assessments, patient education, and care coordination. Dr. Suter was nominated for this award by Nicole Bollinger, COMTREA’s Dental Clinic Operations Manager.

**John McFarland Leadership Award**

Bob Russell, DDS, MPH  
Public Health Dental Director  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Des Moines, IA

Dr. Bob Russell received the John McFarland Leadership Award for exemplary leadership in improving the oral health of underserved populations and for his advocacy and support to oral health providers in safety net systems. He is the Public Health Director for the Iowa Department of Public Health and serves as an adjunct faculty member with the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

Appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Training
in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (ACTPCMD), Dr. Russell advises HRSA and Congress on how to best utilize Title VII program funding to increase access to primary health care services. His other contributions include serving as a Safety Net Advisor with the DentaQuest Institute’s Safety Net Solutions program, as a member of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) External Scientific Committee (ESC) for the Multidisciplinary and Collaborative Research Consortium to Reduce Oral Health Disparities in Children, and on the Board of Directors for the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation and Free Clinics of Iowa.

Lifetime Achievement
Jack Dillenberg, DDS, MPH
Dean
Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health
Mesa, AZ

Dr. Jack Dillenberg has spent his career in service to community dentistry and as a teacher of countless dental students. He has been a mentor, supporter, advocate, and friend to NNOHA since before its inception. Dr. Dillenberg recently announced his retirement as Dean of A.T. Still University’s Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ASDOH), where he was the inaugural dean since beginning his career at ATSU in 2001. He has held several leadership positions at academic institutions such as the California Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, and the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Dr. Dillenberg’s work has been recognized by the Harvard School of Public Health through its Alumni Award of Merit, and by the U.S. Public Health Service Chief Dental Officer’s Service Award. His experience and accomplishments have positioned him to be a much sought-after expert in the area of public health leadership and health program development by local, state, and national organizations.

President’s Award
Mark Doherty, DMD, MPH, CCHP
Executive Director, Safety Net Solutions
DentaQuest Institute
Westborough, MA

Dr. Mark Doherty was presented with the President’s Award for his generous support of NNOHA and shared commitment to safety net systems and the underserved of our country. Dr. Doherty is the Executive Director and founder of the DentaQuest Institute’s Safety Net Solutions program. Under his direction, the program has grown from a local pilot in three Massachusetts health centers in 2005 to a national program serving nearly 400 safety net dental programs in over 44 states.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Doherty served as the Director of Oral Health Services at Dorchester House Multi-Service Center in Boston, where he built an FQHC safety net dental program that included several treatment sites, innovative service delivery models including specialty services, an integrated care network, and also assumed responsibility for other Boston community health center dental programs. For his outstanding work locally and nationally, and in recognition of his great vision, NNOHA is pleased to honor Dr. Doherty with its highest award.
Welcome to six newly elected NNOHA Board members, whose two-year terms began at Conference:

Jay Anderson, DMD, MHSA
Assistant Professor, Director
Russell Street Dental Clinic
Oregon Health Science University School of Dentistry
Portland, OR

Mark Doherty, DMD, MPH, CCHP
Executive Director, Safety
Net Solutions
DentaQuest Institute
Westborough, MA

Andrea Hight
Director, Managed Group Practice/Community Health
Henry Schein Special Markets
Morgan, UT

Kecia Leary, DDS, MS
Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry
Director of Dental Outreach, Dept. of Pediatric Dentistry
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

Ernest Meshack-Hart, DDS, FAGD
Dental Director
Terry Reilly Health services
Meridian, ID

Tena Springer, RDH, MA
Director of Program Operations
Primary Health Care, Inc.
Des Moines, IA

A big “Thank You” to the NNOHA Corporate Advisory Committee for their ongoing support
The End is Just the Beginning

NOHLI Celebrates and Advances

*National Oral Health Learning Institute (NOHLI) graduated its 4th Cohort of scholars in Denver at the NNOHA Annual Conference. A special reception for NOHLI scholars past and present, along with NOHLI faculty and sponsors, was hosted by NNOHA as a featured Conference event. Congratulations to Cohort 4, pictured below.*

![Image of Cohort 4](image_url)

Maria Bartoletti, DMD, MPH  
Southwest Montana Community Health Center  
Butte, MT

Ross Bowen, DDS  
Raphaelf Health Center  
Indianapolis, IN

Jami Cokley, DMD  
ReGenesis Health Care  
Spartanburg, SC

Heather Crockett-Washington, DDS, MPH  
Community Health Center Inc  
Middletown, CT

Nicholas Eilertson, DDS  
Peoples Community Health Clinic  
Waterloo, IA

Michael Fox, DDS, MS  
Fairfax Medical Facilities  
Hominy, OK

Tanya Gayley, PHDHP  
Keystone Rural Health Consortium  
Johnsonburg, PA

Nancy Harmon, RDH  
St. Vincent de Paul Detroit Dental Clinic  
Detroit, MI

Jeremy Johnson, DDS  
Sunrise Community Health  
Greeley, CO

Dane Lenaker, DMD, MPH  
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp.  
Bethel, AK

Marcus Neff, DDS  
Health West Community Dental Care  
Chubbuck, ID

Kelly Perry, DMD  
Mid-State Health Center  
Bristol, NH

Glenda Reynolds, DDS  
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc.  
Littleton, NH

Nancy Harmon, RDH  
St. Vincent de Paul Detroit Dental Clinic  
Detroit, MI

Jeremy Johnson, DDS  
Sunrise Community Health  
Greeley, CO

Dane Lenaker, DMD, MPH  
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp.  
Bethel, AK

Marcus Neff, DDS  
Health West Community Dental Care  
Chubbuck, ID

Kelly Perry, DMD  
Mid-State Health Center  
Bristol, NH

Glenda Reynolds, DDS  
Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc.  
Littleton, NH

Judith Rosenbloom, DMD  
Total Health Care  
Baltimore, MD

Kaiyra Salcido, DDS  
Hidalgo Medical Services  
Silver City, NM

Kristi Thomas, DDS  
Deliver Dental Solutions/Detroit Dental Institute  
Detroit, MI

Kenneth Tjeerdsma, DDS  
Promise Community Health Center  
Sioux Center, IA

Sarah Usher, DMD, MPH  
La Casa Family Health Center  
Roswell, NM