

Editorial



International Year
of the Child 1979

It is gratifying and appropriate that our journal, *Pediatric Dentistry*, was born in the International Year of the Child, 1979. It signifies a new beginning of continued scholarly contributions by the Academy to the art and science of Pedodontics. Our membership, primarily from the United States, includes an international group of leaders from many countries.

The Academy is proud to dedicate a monograph and movie entitled "Changing Perspectives in Nutrition and Caries Research" to the International Year of the Child. The monograph and film included international authors from Sweden, England, and the United States. This is the 6th of a series of monographs and the third movie that we have produced on current topics of interest devoted to the practice of pedodontics and preventive dentistry, and we look forward to future contributions of this nature. The monograph will be mailed to members as soon as it is completed.

We are at the verge of a decade of major changes in national health standards and goals for this country. In a speech made to the International Association for Dental Research in March, 1979, Dr. John Greene, The Assistant Surgeon General, DHEW, emphasized the major emphasis placed on prevention by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. For example, Secretary Califano has declared a war on smoking; the surgeon general has proposed a prevention and health promotion program; President Carter has proposed a national health insurance plan to be phased in at the beginning of 1983; and the department

of Health, Education, and Welfare has developed a five-year research plan to formulate broad principles of research aimed at disease prevention. The details of this plan will be released this spring. This plan will be initiated beginning 1982.

A number of positive changes toward better child dental health are also on the horizon. For example, the revision of the child health assurance program, commonly referred to as the CHAP Bill, and the proposed increased funding for this program have been earmarked for preventive purposes. Further details of this plan were outlined in the April, 1979, "Newsletter."

The President's budget also proposed a "dental health initiative" including \$6.2 million for fluoridation in 1980, an increase of \$4.7 million or a 210% hike over past appropriations for this activity. Furthermore, the National Institute for Dental Research would receive \$1 million in additional funds, mostly designated for research on caries and periodontal disease.

Legislation is being enacted constantly that affects children's dental health. We are fortunate to have an active dental care committee, and President Kramer has been most enthusiastic in soliciting input from the membership and has made strong stands on national issues on behalf of the Academy. His statement at the FTC hearing on proposed banning of television advertising to children is a good example.

We need additional support from the grass root membership and would like to enlist your expertise so that legislators and the ADA would look to the Academy for official input and recognition whenever the dental health of children in this country is being considered. The officers, board of directors, and Dr. Bill Allen who is currently the Chairman of the Council on Legislation of the American Dental Association would welcome input so that they may speak on behalf of the Academy. The Academy should have an active legislative lobby and develop long range goals and objectives in order that we become a significant force on future legislation. We must provide strong, creative, visionary leadership in national policies leading to the betterment of the dental health of children in America.

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EDITOR