

Contribution in Dental Science

In this issue, Dr. Sanger reported on the successful conference, Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, held at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in June, 1981. Funding was provided by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and speakers from many disciplines participated. The consensus of opinion of participants following the meeting was that pedodontics was probably the speciality that had the most insight, experience and interest in this particular topic. Also, that pedodontics has made significant contributions to the correct dental management of children. The other specialities noted this and looked to pedodontics to provide the leadership at this conference. Dr. Roger Sanger was conference coordinator, initiated the request for funding, and will be responsible for publication of the entire conference in the near future.

Only a short time ago, a conference on radiology was sponsored by the American Academy of Pedodontics with Dr. Arthur J. Nowak as project director. The project was funded by the Office of Maternal Child Health, Bureau of Community Health Services of the Department of Health and Human Services. The conference was a resounding success. It generated a large number of recommendations for changes in pedodontic radiology practices which every pedodontist and general dentist treating children should become aware of and implement as soon as possible. Again, this was a multi-specialty conference with participants from specialists in radiology, oral pathology, cariology, physics, medicine and other disciplines. Shortly after the radiology conference, a similar conference was scheduled in Arlington, Virginia and the results of this conference have been reported in the ADA news. The pedodontic radiology

conference was definitely one of the best conferences of its type and will have a significant impact on the field. Funds have been secured to publish the proceedings of this conference as a special issue of *Pediatric Dentistry* in 1981.

The March 1982 issue of *Pediatric Dentistry* will feature the use of pit and fissure sealants and composites in pediatric dentistry. There is no question that the acid etch restoration, whether it is a simple class III restoration, an anterior custom fabricated veneer, a posterior Class II acid etch composite, or an acid etch posterior bridge, represents a quiet evolution of the practice of dentistry in the 1980s. These changing concepts of restorative dentistry have so impacted every aspect of clinical practice that the Central Regional Dental Examination Board has now completely eliminated the requirement for gold foil restorations. Again, the pedodontic academician and practitioner have taken leadership roles in implementing the advancements of science into their clinical practice.

These are but a few sterling examples of the leadership that pedodontists are taking in the revolution in pedodontic and dental practice in this new decade. We can be justly proud of all the leadership roles we have made in dental practice. The challenge is to continue this innovative and creative leadership through sound and documented research efforts. The long-term evaluation of the results of these changes poses a formidable challenge for all.

