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Dear Colleague:

We're anticipating another banner year for **Give Kids A Smile®**, slated for Feb. 4. More than 10,000 dentists and 27,500 others already have registered on [ADA.org](#) to take part in the third annual event. Olympic gold-medal gymnast Carly Patterson will serve as celebrity spokesperson for 2005. She'll meet with members of Congress and their staff Jan. 26 to highlight the program and the need for better access to oral health care and also appear at Columbia University dental school on Feb. 4 with ADA and other dental officials and representatives from the city health department. We're hopeful that event will draw significant media attention.

The ADA also has partnered with SmartPractice this year to offer **dental scrubs imprinted with the Give Kids A Smile logo**. Ten percent of all proceeds from sales of the scrubs will be donated to the ADA Foundation to promote access to care. Visit the [SmartScrubs Web site](#) for ordering information.

Efforts to improve access to care for older Americans got a \$250,000 boost recently, thanks to a **grant from GlaxoSmithKline** Consumer Healthcare to our Foundation. We've issued an RFP, "Initiative on Older Adult Access to Oral Health Care," to spur development of pilot programs to help semi-dependent older adults who live at home and face barriers in accessing oral health care. The Foundation will award competitive grants up to \$50,000 to applicants whose programs are designed to improve and maintain older Americans' oral health through effective preventive education, care and treatment. According to a CDC report, only about half of adults 65 and over visited a dentist in 2001, compared with nearly 75 percent of children. See the RFP on [ADA.org](#). Proposals must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 2005. For more information, call the Foundation (312-440-2547).

Dr. Michael Glick is the new JADA editor. JADA's associate editor for Dentistry and Medicine since 1998, he assumed his new role Jan. 1. A general dentist, renowned dental practitioner, researcher and educator with strong ties to the ADA, Dr. Glick is professor and chair, Dept. of Diagnostic Sciences, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Born in Sweden where his father was

a general dentist, the new editor received his dental degree from the Hebrew University School of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem and graduate training in oral medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. There were 33 candidates and five finalists for the job. See ADA.org for more.

Very good news from the Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO), a private company, in its NIDCR-funded report, **Review and Analysis of the Literature on the Potential Adverse Health Effects of Dental Amalgam**. The report concludes that peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature published since 1996 reveals little evidence of a link between dental amalgam and health problems, except in rare instances of allergic reactions. The report's authors considered some 950 scientific and medical studies, 300 of which met criteria for scientific merit and study design and were used to construct the final document.

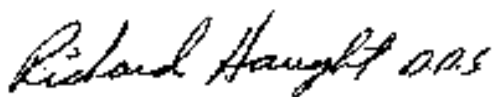
The ADA has received several calls about a recent mass mailing from Stericycle, a **medical waste management** company. Stericycle's letter encourages dentists not to place waste amalgam in infectious waste "red bags," a goal we strongly support. Unfortunately, Stericycle also makes the blanket statement that waste amalgam is hazardous waste. Although state laws vary, under federal regulations waste amalgam is hazardous only if it fails a particular test (called the TCLP test by EPA). We conducted studies demonstrating that waste amalgam doesn't fail the TCLP test. But there have been some other studies with conflicting results. We're working with Stericycle to revise subsequent mailings on this point.

Some of you received an **ad for amalgam separators** that Sullivan-Schein e-mailed to customers in November. The ad makes several inaccurate scientific statements about mercury in the environment, implies that separators will soon be mandated and positions separators as the amalgam waste "solution." We've been in touch with the company and expressed our concerns, and they've assured us that future promotions for separators will reflect those concerns.

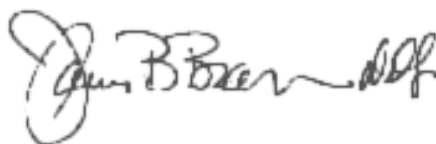
We're making some improvements to the **ADA.org infrastructure** to increase security and enable future site enhancements. These changes will affect the way you log on to Member Only content on ADA.org. When you visit the site for the first time, you'll be prompted with a gray box asking you to enter your User Name (i.e., member ID) and Password.

- Enter your member number without dashes.
- Check the box to save your User Name and Password information if you'd like them automatically filled the next time you visit.
- Forgot your user name or password? Call 800-621-8099 x3700, weekdays 8:30am-5pm CST.
- First-time visitors will need to call the above number to set up a password.

Sincerely,



Richard Haught, DDS,
president



James B. Bramson, DDS, executive director



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