



SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY ASSOCIATION

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SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2011 AWARD WINNERS

CHICAGO, IL – During the 23rd Annual Meeting on Special Care Dentistry, held April 1-3 in Chicago, IL, the Special Care Dentistry Association announced the 2011 winners of the Saul Kamen and the Harold Berk Awards.

Established in 2008, the Saul Kamen Award honors those individuals demonstrating exemplary leadership and contributions to the advancement of oral healthcare for persons with special needs. This award is named after Dr. Saul Kamen, a dentist who devoted his career to improving oral healthcare for individuals of all ages with special needs. He inspired many dentists around the world to care for special needs patients and as a result, improved the life of countless individuals. This annual award is the highest honor bestowed by the Special Care Dentistry Association in memory of one of its founding fathers.

The recipient of the 2011 Saul Kamen Award is Dr. Michael Helgeson. After graduating from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 1984, Dr. Helgeson chose special care dentistry as his career path. Dr. Helgeson received two years of post-graduate training in geriatric dentistry. He was a National Health Services Corps scholarship recipient, and served as a United States Public Health Service dentist in St. Louis, Missouri (1986-1990). Dr. Helgeson was a Minnesota Area Geriatric Education Center Fellow from 1992 to 1993, and contributed to dental student education through part-time teaching at his alma mater. Committed to life-long learning, Dr. Helgeson recently completed a comprehensive course in sedation dentistry.

Dr. Helgeson served both the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry and the Special Care Dentistry Association on their respective Boards of Directors for several years culminating in his service as president of ASGD (2001-2002) and president of SCDA (2004 -2006). His compassionate and visionary leadership resulted in a distinguished position as SCDA president during a transitional phase in SCDA's history. Dr. Helgeson lectures nationally and remains active in national and state oral health policy development, providing expert testimony and advocacy for people with special needs.

Dr. Helgeson is the CEO of Apple Tree Dental which he cofounded in 1985. Apple Tree's mission is to improve oral health in the lives of people with special access needs. Apple Tree's non-profit model has received recognition from the Surgeon General, the American Dental Association, Oral Health America and the Robert Wood Johnson and Kellogg Foundation under his creative and visionary leadership over 25 years.

Dr. Helgeson is a nurturing mentor to anyone with a shared passion for treating special needs patients, including those whose passion he ignites. His irrepressible sense of humor and genuine caring and compassion are perfect attributes in his roles as advocate and health care provider for persons with special needs. Like Dr. Kamen, his dedication to persons with special needs crosses all age levels. His substantial and sustained contributions to SCDA make him the ideal recipient of the 2011 Saul Kamen Award.

In 1992 the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities, along with Dr. Berk's sons Kenneth, Fredrick, Donald and the Pulpdent Corporation established the Harold Berk award. Dr. Harold Berk was one of the original founders of the Academy and has had an extremely distinguished career in the treatment of special needs patients. This award is given annually for demonstrated excellence in the field of oral health care for the disabled.

The recipient of the 2011 Harold Berk Award is Dr. Clive Freidman. Dr. Friedman was born in Johannesburg and has trained and worked in South Africa, Israel, England, USA and Canada. He obtained his specialty in pediatric dentistry in New Orleans and has a special interest in persons with special needs, behavior, prevention, education and wellness. He teaches at both the

University of Toronto and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. He has been president of the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disability (ADPD) and the International Association of Disability and Oral Health. Currently he sits on the Canadian Dental Association committee for scientific and clinical affairs, the International Association of Pediatric Dentistry finance committee and is special consultant to the Ontario Dental Association social Services committee. He is also on the editorial board for the British Society for Disability and Oral Health Journal and is consultant to the Special Olympics Oral Health Program. In all of his interactions, Dr. Friedman is an innovator and works outside of normally established roles. Dr. Friedman's colleagues note his unique ability to reach his very complicated patients at their level and therefore better serve their needs. He has served as a mentor and teacher for a generation of SCDA members who treasure his guidance and his friendship.

Special Care Dentistry Association is an international organization of oral health professionals and other individuals devoted to promoting oral health and well-being for patients with special needs. SCDA advocates quality oral care for persons with special needs and promotes improving access to oral care. It publishes the leading academic and research journal for professionals and institutions providing services for people with special needs.