

For Immediate Release—

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Colgate's Shearer joins board of oral health policy institute; new chair is elected

WASHINGTON – The Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP), a nonprofit that advances innovative solutions to improve the oral health of children and families, is pleased to announce that Dr. Barbara Shearer has joined its board of directors. Dr. Shearer is the Director of Scientific Affairs for Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals—a part of Colgate-Palmolive—working in the company's New York office. In this role, she is responsible for academic programs, professional associations, professional education and public health in North America.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Shearer to our board,” said Meg Booth, CDHP's executive director. “In addition to her scientific knowledge, she brings a lot passion for the need to expand equity in oral health, which is perfectly aligned with our mission.”

Originally from Dunedin, New Zealand, Dr. Shearer graduated from the University of Otago with a BDS (1986), a PhD in Oral Pathology (1993) and an MDS in Prosthodontics (1995). After serving as a dental house surgeon for the Auckland Area Health Board, she served on the faculty of the University of Otago School of Dentistry and worked briefly in private practice.

Dr. Shearer's introduction to the industry was with Unilever Research in Port Sunlight, England. During her six and a half years with Unilever (1996-2002), her roles included designing and managing clinical trials, global outreach programs and professional relations. In 2004, Dr. Shearer joined Colgate. Two years later, she moved to Sydney, Australia to manage scientific affairs in the South Pacific region.

CDHP thanked three departing members who just completed their tenure on the board. These individuals include:

- Dr. Fotinos Panagakos, board chair
- Michael S. Labson, board vice-chair
- Dr. Caswell A. Evans, Jr.

“We are sorry to say goodbye to all three of them,” said Booth. “They provided important insights and diverse perspectives to CDHP's work. We look forward to engaging them outside of the board.”

At last week's meeting, CDHP's board members elected Kevin Thomas as the new chair. He is a managing partner at Elevate Oral Care. Thomas serves on the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Foundation Board of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, as well as on the Dental Trade Alliance Foundation Board. “I am really excited about leading the board and supporting CDHP's ongoing work to improve the oral health of children and families,” said Thomas.

CDHP's newly elected board vice-chair is Laura Smith, former president and CEO of Washington Dental Service Foundation. Under her helm, the organization—now known as Arcora Foundation—invested in strategies to produce major, long-lasting oral health improvements. The Foundation was known for innovative initiatives, including its leadership of the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program, which has increased access to dental care for children in low-income families.

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