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Date: May 13, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: May 16, 2005

Local dentists recognized for outstanding community service

DENVER, Colo. — On Thursday, May 12, 2005 the Metropolitan Denver Dental Society (MDDS) honored local dentists who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer efforts and/or charitable services to those in need, as identified through the **MDDS Community Service Recognition Awards Program**. The 2005 awards program recognized four individuals for making major contributions to children, patients with special needs and the under served in both the Denver and world communities and one individual for making major contributions to the dental profession. All award recipients were selected by a panel of dentists. The awards were presented to the following dentists at a special ceremony held during the MDDS Annual Meeting at the Wildlife Experience in Parker.

Randy L. Kluender, DDS, MS, a pediatric dentist and faculty member of the University of Colorado's School of Dentistry, received the **2005 Outstanding Service to Children**. Dr. Kluender's vision and personal devotion resulted in the opening the Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Aurora, which today provides pediatric dental care to over 40 children per day. He was instrumental in creating a new statewide program to be known as Colorado SmileMakers, a three-year, \$2,000,000 grant to treat the teeth of Colorado's under served children.

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Morton O. Sperling, DDS a Denver-based general dentist, received the **2005 Outstanding Service to Patients with Special Needs Award**. A volunteer for the Colorado Foundation of Dentistry's Donated Dental Services program since 1998, Dr. Sperling has donated over \$62,000 in treatment to 15 elderly and disabled people, many of whom are very difficult for most dentists to treat. He has been treating developmentally challenged individuals released from Ridge Home for 39 years and additionally treats patients from Opportunities In Living, the Carron Center and the Colorado Epilepsy Foundation.

Karl L. Bernklau, DDS, a retired general dentist residing in Littleton, was presented with the **2005 Outstanding Service to the Under Served Award**. Dr. Bernklau has been providing dental services to the under served for more than 35 years to low-income and uninsured families through Kids In Need of Dentistry and Inner City Health Center.

Richard T. O'Day, DDS, MS, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon practicing in Arvada, received the **2005 Outstanding Service to the World Community Award**. In addition to contributing his expertise as a surgeon on an annual basis to Uplift Internationale (UI), a Colorado-based organization focused on providing care to indigent children with facial deformities in the Philippines, he serves as UI's vice-president of health services.

Gerald F. Wallace, DDS, a Denver-based general dentist, received the **2005 Outstanding Service to the Dental Profession Award** in honor of his commitment to organized dentistry and to quality patient care. Dr. Wallace's service includes leadership roles on the Colorado State Board of Dental Examiners and the Dentists Professional Liability Trust.

The Metropolitan Denver Dental Society is a 108-year-old organization committed to improving the standard of dental care for the Denver community. The Society, a component of the American Dental Association, acts as the unified voice to advance public awareness and dental education for the benefit of its members and the public.