

**PULPDENT Corporation**

80 Oakland Street  
Watertown, MA 02472 USA

(617) 926-6666

(800) 343-4342

(617) 926-6262 (fax)

pulpdent@pulpdent.com

[www.pulpdent.com](http://www.pulpdent.com)

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2009 Harold Berk Award  
Recipients Honored

# Kathy Olson, RDH, Receives Special Care Award

Persons with disabilities often present unique challenges to dental professionals. Extreme cases and difficult to manage patients may be treated under general anesthesia in a hospital setting. A dedicated group of practitioners provides dental services to these patients.

At the American Society of Dentistry for Children meeting in Philadelphia in 1951, Dr. Manny Album approached Drs. Harold Berk and M. Michael Cohen and discussed forming an organization to promote dental care for the handicapped. The Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities was incorporated the following year.

In honor of this event, Pulpdent sponsors the Harold Berk Award, given each year by Special Care Dentistry and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities to an individual who has shown outstanding leadership in this important field.

Kathy Olson is the 2009 recipient of the Harold Berk Award in Special Care. Kathy has been serving patients with special needs for more than 20 years starting with hospital outreach programs and mobile dental hygiene services for forty nursing homes in Illinois.

In 1999, she piloted a program through a grant from the state of Illinois to provide dental services to individuals with disabilities. Kathy built the clinic from the ground up. Ten years later she is still the clinic administrator, and last year the clinic completed over 6400 patient visits and employed two full time dentists and two full time hygienists.

Kathy had the honor and privilege to be one of the first two dental hygienists to sit in the Illinois State Dental Society House of Delegates. Both hygienists have full voting privileges.

Kathy has served on the Board of the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) since 2005. She is the immediate past president of the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD) and has served on its board for twelve years. She has received numerous honors for her tireless commitment to public health and



the welfare of persons with disabilities and her exemplary efforts to improve access for underserved patients. We salute Kathy Olson, and we thank her.

# Timothy C Hardy, DDS Receives Tufts Research Award

Tufts University School of Dental Medicine awarded Dr. Timothy C Hardy the 2009 Harold Berk Prize for Excellence in Research.

Dr. Hardy graduated with a B.S. degree in Engineering from Tufts University in 2005, and he is proud of his double Jumbo status as a graduate of Tufts Dental (Jumbo being the school mascot).

At the dental school, TC performed research each year and received numerous honors and scholarships for his work, including the Dean's Research Scholarship. He will soon begin his residency at Lutheran Medical in Boston with a long-term goal of advanced education in orthodontics.

Dr. Hardy's major research project at Tufts was entitled "Influence of Patient Head Positioning on Measured Axial Tooth Inclination in Panoramic Radiography,"



which was published in the June 2009 issue of the *Journal of Orthodontics*. Radiographs are sensitive to minor deviations from standard head position that result in image distortions. In his study, TC measured and quantified changes in mesiodistal axial inclination of teeth (MDAI) in orthodontic treatment. Panoramic radiographs were captured digitally and the detailed results are now available in the published literature.