

Byrne receives 1996 Shepard Award

Congratulations to John J. Byrne who received the 1996 Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award at the MSO meeting in Milwaukee. This award is given annually to an MSO member who has made exceptional contributions to the art and science of orthodontics.

John earned his dental degree at Marquette University and received his orthodontic training at Saint Louis University. Over the past forty years, his offices have produced thousands of grateful smiles! John and his wife Barbara have shared a wonderful family experience as well. However, it is his “extras” that have set him apart, both in the professional and community spheres.

Serving in academics, John has taught at Saint Louis University, the University of Chicago and the University of Washington in Seattle. Always an innovator, he was the Dean of Curriculum Development and has been a consultant to numerous state and national testing services, most recently the Dental Assistants' National Board. John was a founding member and president of the Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation, helped develop criteria and procedures for quality assessment of dental care and was a prime leader in integrating quality orthodontic health care into government-assisted dental health care programs.

During his eight years as Chairman of the AAO's Council on Orthodontic Health Care, John became the nationally recognized expert in coding, nomenclature and quality of care criteria. This led to his appointment as the AAO's liaison to CHAMPUS, the American Medical Association, and work with the American Dental Association. John was a founding member and president of the Illinois Society of Orthodontists as well as its director on the MSO board. As president of MSO in 1988, John worked to improve the organization's strength on the national level where he also served in the AAO House of Delegates.

Service to community also has been a distinction for John. Long active in church and child welfare functions, he and his wife have adopted seven children, all with special needs. Over the past twenty-five years, they have served as foster parents to dozens of “at-risk” children of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. Indeed, as the problems of society have affected even its youngest members, John and Barbara have helped meet the needs of “challenged” infants.

What distinguishes a colleague? Look to Dr. John Byrne, our 1996 recipient of the MSO Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award.