

**David J. Brueggemann, MS, CCC-A, FAAA
CAPT, USPHS**

CAPT David Brueggemann will be retiring after thirty years of dedicated service to the United States Public Health Service. CAPT Brueggemann received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech and Hearing from Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA in 1976. In 1978 he earned a Master of Science in Communication Disorders (Audiology) from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

CAPT Brueggemann began his career in 1978 with the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), assigned to the Dade County Health Department in Miami, FL. He then transferred to the Bureau of Hospitals and Clinics in Staten Island, NY. Reassigned back to NHSC in 1981, he worked for six years in Kingsport, TN with the Mountain Region Speech and Hearing Center. Since 1988, he has been with the Indian Health Service at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC). While primarily based in Anchorage, he has been responsible for audiology service provision in communities throughout the state, including Barrow, Nome, Kotzebue, Fairbanks, Dillingham and Kodiak.

During his tenure with ANMC, CAPT Brueggemann successfully completed a move into a new hospital as well as a transition from federal management to tribal control. For his efforts at improving appointment access, CAPT Brueggemann was recognized with the Outstanding Teamwork Award in 2002 by the Southcentral Foundation. Under his direction the wait for routine appointments in Audiology was reduced from over two weeks to less than three days.

Promoted to Audiology Department Chief in 1992, he has seen the program expand from only two audiologists to a staff of four audiologists, two audiometric technicians, and an administrative assistant. Services were expanded as well to include auditory brainstem response, universal newborn hearing screening, digital hearing aid fittings and follow-up with real ear verification, cochlear implant assessment/remediation as well as telemedicine.

CAPT Brueggemann served on TPAC for six years, during which time he edited the USPHS Therapist News. He also served on the Task Force on Clarification of the Mission and Use of the USPHS Commissioned Corps. At the local level he served on the Health Board for Southcentral Foundation (SCF) Headstart, as well as in several positions with the Alaska Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (AKSHA). During his time as President of AKSHA, he aggressively worked with the community as well as with fellow practitioners to minimize the effects of Medicaid budget cuts on service provision. Facing total elimination of coverage for hearing aids, he secured funding and set up the Restore Hearing Project, which has provided hearing aids for close to one thousand beneficiaries throughout the state.

The Therapist Category extends its sincere gratitude for the thirty years of audiology services provided by this officer to American Indian and Alaska Natives. His accomplishments have truly made a difference and have honored his profession and the US Public Health Service.