Acknowledgements

Professor Cynthia Pine BDS MBA PhD FDSRCS(Edin) FDSRCS(Eng)

Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Oral Health in Deprived Communities, The Dental School, University of Liverpool, UK

As the Principal Investigator of this project, it is very important that I take this time to acknowledge those who have supported this work, kindly given advice and encouragement and the many who have given their time.

This study was made possible through an initiative begun by the International Office of the National Institute of Dental and Cranio-facial Research (NIDCR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the United States. Therefore, first thanks are due to NIDCR and the Institute’s support of international work. It is evident that this enlightened approach has given new insights to an important health problem both within the US and globally.

The International Office is led by Dr Lois Cohen, very ably assisted by Dr Kevin Hardwick. Both of these colleagues have given encouragement and advice and I would like to thank them. When this work was commissioned, Dr David Barmes was the Advisor to this Office and his insight of the benefits of conducting research beyond geographic boundaries has had many fruitful outcomes for the Institute. The staff at NIDCR has at various times given advice and support and I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank Dr Dushanka Kleinman and Dr Norm Braveman, Dr Pat Bryant and Dr Ruth Nowjack-Raymer.

This work commenced at the University of Dundee, where I am an Honorary Professor and was completed at the University of Liverpool. Thanks are due to the staff at both these institutions. I am personally grateful to the hard work of the large team of researchers and their colleagues that were brought together by their interest and expertise in early childhood caries and who worked so hard to deliver this research project. Their names are given as authors and others involved are individually named at the end of each paper as are a number of groups and institutions that provided additional financial support. Dr Christiane Spiegelhalder and GABA International are thanked for their interest in this research project and for contributing to the costs of printing the papers.

On behalf of each collaborator in this research consortium, I would like to thank the many families, children and dentists who participated in the studies undertaken.

Finally, I am grateful for the experience gained in leading a large, multi-disciplinary research team and conducting research across international boundaries. This challenging work has given new perspectives on childhood caries and a foundation for future work in this important international area.

Cynthia Pine