



The Dr. Samuel D. Harris  
**NATIONAL  
MUSEUM of  
DENTISTRY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ELZA DUNNING NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY**

**BALTIMORE, MD** (June 25, 2009)—Elza Dunning has been appointed interim director of the National Museum of Dentistry, effective July 1, 2009. Ms. Dunning succeeds Rosemary Fetter, who has served as Executive Director since 1999 and has announced her retirement.

“Elza Dunning brings dedication to the Museum and great experience in the dental world to her role as interim director,” said Michael Sudzina, Immediate Past Chair of the Museum’s Board of Visitors and chair of the search committee. “The Museum also has a very accomplished and dedicated staff and an outstanding Board chaired by Dr. Les Seldin, who will work together to move the museum forward in a very positive way during this transition.”



Elza Dunning joined the museum as Director of Operations in 2005 after decades of experience as a lobbyist and chief executive in Maryland. She served as Executive Director of the Maryland State Dental Association for 17 years, where she was chief staff executive, lobbyist and spokesperson. She was also president of the Center for Oral Health Studies, a subsidiary of the Maryland State Dental association, from 2003-2005, where she coordinated operations and worked with a voluntary board. She also served a yearlong term as acting executive director of the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, where she was a lobbyist and communications director for more than a decade.

Ms. Dunning graduated from the University of Akron, Ohio and is a Certified Association Executive. She is currently Secretary of the Board of the Maryland Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

A search has begun for a new executive director, and a search committee has been formed with representatives from the University of Maryland, the Board of Visitors of the Museum and the Smithsonian Institution. It is hoped that a new director will be in place by the fall.

During Rosemary Fetter’s tenure as Executive Director, the National Museum of Dentistry became an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and was designated by Congress as the official museum of the

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dental profession in the United States. She launched a popular traveling exhibition program and led the development of the MouthPower oral health education program that helps kids learn about good oral health on site, online, and across the country. She has engaged the dental community nationwide to help extend the Museum's educational outreach across the country, complementing the outstanding permanent collection and special exhibitions in Baltimore and fulfilling the Museum's mission to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health to a healthy life.

#### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY**

The National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a lively national center where visitors learn the importance of a healthy smile and the rich history of dentistry. Recognized for its innovative exhibits and programs that educate the public about the importance of oral health in a healthy life, the museum is designated by Congress as the official museum of the dental profession in the United States. This one-of-a-kind museum is located at 31 S. Greene Street on the campus of the University of Maryland Baltimore—home of the world's first dental school. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for youths, seniors, and students with ID, and free for children age 6 & under and NMD members. Open Wednesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Sunday 1–4 p.m. Call 410/706-0600 or visit [www.smile-experience.org](http://www.smile-experience.org).

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