

# Oral Health Matters!

Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Newsletter  
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## Spotlight on: Dr. Rita Jablonski



Professor Rita Jablonski, PhD, CRNP, FGSA, FAAN recently embarked on a three-year study "Brushing Away Infections" which aims to provide training for nursing home staff in Birmingham, Alabama nursing homes. The training will cover how to address oral health and mouth care for older adults with cognitive impairments, as well as coaching in behavioral approaches to addressing care-resistant behaviors commonly found in this group. The project is funded through a \$1.7 million grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded to Dr. Jablonski and builds on her previous work, Managing Oral Hygiene Using a Threat Reduction (MOUTH) Protocol, utilizing behavioral approaches in older adult patients with dementia. Click [here](#) to view article and learn more about this project. For the UAB School of Nursing Spring 2018 newsletter, click [here](#).

## Dr. Erin Hartnett Receives 2018 ONS Outstanding Achievement for Oncology Nursing Education or Patient/Family Education Award

The OHNEP team would like to congratulate Dr. Erin Hartnett, OHNEP Program Director, for receiving the 2018 ONS Outstanding Achievement for Oncology Nursing Education or Patient/Family Education Award. Dr. Hartnett received this award for her article "Preventive Dental Care: An Educational Program to Integrate Oral Care into Pediatric Oncology" which was recently published in the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. The article overviews an educational program for pediatric oncology providers which integrated preventive oral care into pediatric oncology care. To read about the program and its major outcomes, please click [here](#).



## "Interprofessional Education in the Classroom: A Collaborative Care Plan Between Nursing and Dental Hygiene Students"

Emerging as a leading instruction tool, interprofessional education (IPE) has been reported in multiple studies to improve educational and practice outcomes in many healthcare professions. IPE provides students from a variety of healthcare backgrounds - primary care, nursing, midwifery, and dental, to name a few - the opportunity to learn how to communicate and collaborate with other disciplines to further reach the same goal of providing optimal patient-centered care. Faculty, Colleen Caruana and Sherri Kurtz, report the successes of implementing an interdisciplinary oral-systemic health care plan activity with students from Monroe Community College's nursing and dental hygiene programs. The authors describe the purpose of this IPE activity and the roles the students were expected to assume. They report positive outcomes for the collaborative activity described by the participating students, such as greater awareness and appreciation for other professions.



## "The Role of the Midwife in Promoting the Oral Health of Women and Children"

"The Role of the Midwife in Promoting the Oral Health of Women and Children" was presented at the ACNM 63rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Savannah, Georgia in May 2018 by Dr. Erin Hartnett, Dr. Susan Altman and Abigail Bella, MPH (pictured below). For the fifth year in a row, OHNEP has presented innovative work on the importance of integrating oral health competencies into nursing and midwifery, and further demonstrating the effectiveness of interprofessional education and practice.



## "Teeth for Two: Oral Health in Pregnancy and Early Childhood"

Erin Hartnett, DNP, APRN-BC, CPNP and April Hille, RN, MSN, DNP presented their findings launching the Teeth for Two pilot program at National Oral Health Conference in Louisville, KY in April of 2018. The program aims are to 1) develop an evidence-based, standardized oral health curriculum for Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) nurses to integrate oral health in home visits to high-risk first-time pregnant women and their children and, 2) promote oral health in this population. Statistical analysis of baseline and post-program assessments from nurses showed a significant increase in knowledge and inclusion of oral health practices in home visits. These results demonstrate how incorporating oral health education into continuing education for nurses can increase nurses' knowledge and practice behaviors and improve patient outcomes.

## "Models for Integrating Interprofessional Oral Health Competencies in NP Education and Practice"

On April 18th, Professor Judith Haber, OHNEP Executive Director, and Maria Dolce, Stony Brook School of Nursing Associate Professor, presented "Models for Integrating Interprofessional Oral Health Competencies in NP Education and Practice" to 400 nursing faculty at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Conference in Indianapolis, IN. The presentation highlighted the findings reported in the CIPCOH national survey about the importance of integrating oral health competencies in nurse practitioner programs as a means of preparing the nurse practitioner workforce for collaborative practice in a transformed health system. Drs. Haber and Dolce also shared models for integrating interprofessional oral health competencies in primary and acute care nurse practitioner education and practice.



## Common Health Problems: Adult and Primary Oral Health Interprofessional Simulation

Students from nurse practitioner and dentistry programs at NYU had the opportunity to participate in an oral health simulation exploring interprofessional roles related to management of complex older adult patients. The simulation is a part of the Interprofessional Senior Oral Health grant project with the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, who partnered with the NYU School of Dentistry to provide interprofessional programming to graduate students in the Common Health Problems across the Lifespan course led by the Assistant Director of Graduate Simulation Charles Tilley ANP-BC, ACHPN, CWOCN. The photos below show students working with standardized patients (SP) as part of the simulation.



Nurse Practitioner students Nicole Varuzza and Scarlett Rizzo and Dental student Deborah Sedaghatzandi exam standardized patient (SP) Debbie Miller, who plays a patient with Parkinson's disease and Lewy Body Dementia with oral health complaints. Patrick Shea, playing her son, looks on.



Dental student Danielle Niciper performs an oral exam on standardized patient (SP) Joanne Maumo who plays a patient with Parkinson's disease and Lewy Body Dementia with oral pain. Nursing student Qian Chen looks on after completing a detailed health history.



## Upcoming Events

*"The Role of the Midwife in Providing Oral Healthcare to Women in Pregnancy and Throughout the Lifespan"*  
[MANA 2018 Midwives Conference](#)  
October 11-14, 2018

Keynote Speaker Judi Haber:  
*"Impact of Nursing on Oral Health Across the Lifespan"*  
[Berks Regional Nursing Research Alliance](#)  
November 7, 2018

*"Linking Oral Health with Overall Health: A Population Health Vision for the Future"*  
[OADN Convention](#)  
November 9-11, 2018

*"An Interprofessional Oral Health Teaching and Learning Community Experience"*  
[AACN Faculty Development Conference](#)  
November 15-17, 2018

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Check out our blog  
All 4 Oral Health--  
New Content!

[Eating, Chatting, Laughing: Oral Health Improves Social Support and Quality of Life of Older Adults](#)

[Rising Rates of HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancers: A Challenge For Interprofessional Education and Practice](#)

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