OHNEP Initiative Expands Its Horizons

We’ve been on the road for the past six months, collaborating with colleagues from across the country, and disseminating the interprofessional competencies in oral-systemic health in nursing education and practice. So much more to come, stay tuned!

Interprofessional Oral-Systemic Health Curricular Innovation Awards

On July 13th, 2012 NYU College of Nursing’s OHNEP initiative, in partnership with National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH), announced a call for proposals for the development of instructional resources to support interprofessional education and collaborative practice in oral-systemic health.

Curricular innovation development awards are considered either for the (a) development of a new oral-systemic health instructional resource for interprofessional education and/or collaborative practice in a clinical setting; or (b) refinement of an existing oral-systemic health instructional resource for interprofessional education and/or collaborative practice in a clinical setting.

The purpose of the call for proposals is to prepare health professionals with core competencies in oral-systemic health - recognize oral-systemic health risk through competent oral health history and examination; implement oral-systemic health promotion and disease prevention strategies into a team-based approach to patient-centered care; refer to dental and other health professionals for treatment and preventive services, and interprofessional collaborative practice* (Values/Ethics for IP Practice; Roles/Responsibilities; Interprofessional Communication; Teams and Teamwork).

We were thrilled to receive an overwhelming response from across the country. Seven grants were awarded to interprofessional teams that included nurse clinicians, educators, and dental, dental hygiene, and physician colleagues. We wish good luck to our awardees, and look forward to receiving their final oral-systemic health instructional resource submissions on December 31st, 2012!

* Report of an Expert Panel: Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice

Presentations at the National Conferences

Judith Haber and Maria Dolce, NYU College of Nursing, and Erin Hartnett, NYU Langone Medical Center, conducted a pre-conference workshop at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) 38th Annual Conference in Charleston, SC on April 12, 2012. The presentation, Oral Health Education and Best Practices: Enhancing NPF Capacities to Improve Outcome and Access, was very well received by NP faculty from across the country. Strategies for integrating oral health in NP programs were highlighted using the web-based Smiles for Life curriculum modules as a major curriculum resource. The rich array of teaching-learning resources, located on the OHNEP website, were shared with faculty, attending the workshop.

Judith Haber and Donna Hallas, NYU College of Nursing, presented an oral health workshop, Advancing a National Oral Health Agenda, at the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) 27th National Conference in Orlando, FL on June 21, 2012. Warm weather along with the friendly atmosphere at the session helped to develop the discussion, and to share an innovative action plan for integrating oral health in NP programs and in clinical practice, using a life span approach.

Maria Dolce and Caroline Dorsen, NYU College of Nursing, presented an oral health workshop, Oral Health Curricular Innovation: Improving Curricular Resources for Inclusion in Interprofessional Education, at the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) 44th Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA on June 22, 2012. We received very positive feedback from school nurses who attended the session.
Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum

There has been exponential growth in terms of “discrete site visitors” to the SFL curriculum website. More than 140,000 discrete visitors have used the site since the launch of the 3rd edition in June 2010. The total 2012 visits (109,566) already totals more than four times the visits in all of 2011.

For the nursing profession (RN & NP) utilization of the Smiles for Life curriculum doubled from 2011 to 2012. Nurses (RN & NP) completed 13% of all courses in 2012 and represent 20% of all registered users.

More than 51% of all registered users are students and their faculty. Users in clinical practice represent an increasing proportion of total users.

Each course module is made available free to educators registering on the site. There have been already 2,869 downloads in 2012 and if this trend holds, it will exceed 2011 by nearly 20%.

The total number of courses completed for CE is 4,418 in 2012. Course 2 (Child Oral Health) and Course 6 (Fluoride Varnish) represent 37% of all courses combined.

Oral Health in Nursing Fundamentals Textbooks

*Oral Health and Hygiene Content in Nursing Fundamentals Textbooks* article by Rita A. Jablonski, PhD, RN, ANP, a member of the National Nursing Workgroup on Oral Health, was published in the April 2012 issue of the *Nursing Research and Practice* journal.

Rita did a great job by examining seven textbooks with the aim of describing the quantity and quality of oral hygiene content in a representative sample of pre-licensure nursing fundamentals textbooks.

The article revealed that content devoted to oral health and hygiene averaged 0.6%. Also nearly every textbook contained some erroneous or outdated information. The most common areas of inaccuracy included the use of foam sponges for mouth care in dentate persons instead of soft toothbrushes and improper denture removal… certainly identifying a need to increase oral health content in undergraduate programs!

Spotlight

Judith Haber, OHNEP Co-Executive Director, was appointed an IP Expert Panel Member for the *Interprofessional Oral Health Core Competencies (IPOHCC)* Oral Health Group, sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The specific focus of this group is developing a standardized set of interprofessional core oral health clinical competencies for primary care providers to enhance oral health primary care team approaches to patient care.

Donna Hallas, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Mental Health Specialist at NYUCN, was appointed an Expert Panel Member for the Systematic Screening and Assessment of Workforce Interventions Designed to Promote Oral Health and Prevent Dental Disease Project, funded by a R. W. Johnson Grant.

Maria Dolce, OHNEP Director, was appointed a Nursing Profession Representative on the Smiles for Life a National Oral Health Curriculum Steering Committee.