

OHNEP
Oral Health Nursing
Education and Practice

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Important Dates:

2/26: Webinar Oral Health in Pregnancy and Early Childhood (via [NONPF](#))

3/4 Webinar: Oral Health of Older Adults in Acute Care Settings ([NICHE website](#))

4/10 Workshop: Interprofessional Oral Health Education and Collaborative Practice Using Simulation ([Interprofessional Healthcare Summit](#))

4/16 Paper Session: NYU College of Nursing Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH) Program Interprofessional Education Event ([ENRS Scientific Session](#))

4/24 Poster: Pediatric Oral Health Interprofessional Clerkship ([NONPF meeting](#))

4/25 Oral Presentation: Teaching Oral Systemic Health Interprofessional Simulation and Case Study Experience ([NONPF meeting](#))

6/27 OHNEP Program: Teeth for Two: Midwives as Frontline Providers of Oral Health care for Pregnant Women and Their Newborns

Putting the Mouth Back in the Head: HEENT to HEENOT

Oral health is all too often considered the arena of dentists and dental hygienists and is therefore often ignored by non-dental healthcare providers. However, with the increased understanding of the oral-systemic connection comes the urgent need for ALL healthcare providers to include the oral cavity as an intrinsic part of a patient's overall health management.

To raise awareness about oral health as a major public health issue and to provide an educational and clinical tool to increase oral health care access, our OHNEP and TOSH teams have published an article in the [American Journal of Public Health](#) (available online ahead of print), "Putting the Mouth Back in the Head: HEENT to HEENOT."

Transitioning the traditional HEENT exam to the HEENOT approach (head, eyes, ears, neck, oral cavity and throat) is a natural progression of the head-to-toe physical exam.

Using the HEENOT approach means that primary care educators and clinicians cannot omit oral health from the assessment, diagnosis, and management of their patients' overall health.



This important paper details the HEENOT approach and argues for its standardized place in the curriculum of all health professionals. The aim is to prepare the future healthcare workforce for patient-centered clinical practice that unites the body into one whole and builds oral health interprofessional workforce capacity to improve oral-systemic health across the lifespan.

The OHNEP Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit

There are over 196,000 nurse practitioners (NPs), 13,000 nurse-midwives (NMs) and 3 million registered nurses (RNs) in the U.S. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Projections 2012-2022 released in December 2013, the RN workforce is expected to grow from 2.71 million in 2012 to 3.24 million by 2022.

The projected dramatic increase in the nursing workforce, coupled with the gap in access to oral health care and the growing body of evidence showing that oral and systemic health are intrinsically linked, emphasizes the need for NPs, midwives and nurses to step up to the frontline of integrating oral health in primary care.

To equip nurses with interprofessional oral health competencies, OHNEP has developed the **Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit** for pediatric, adult-geriatric, women's health, family, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner and midwifery programs.

The **Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit** is based on the IPEC Competencies, the NONPF Core Competencies and the HRSA

Interprofessional Oral Health Core Competencies delineated in the 2014 report, Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice.

The Toolkit is an innovative, web-based, open source product intended to facilitate integration of oral-systemic health content and clinical competencies into nurse practitioner and midwifery curricula so that nursing students learn to assess, manage and refer patients for oral care within their scope of practice.

Nursing programs can use the "weave" approach to integrate evidence-based oral-systemic health content, teaching-learning strategies, and clinical experiences into existing programs, thus breaking down existing silos in healthcare and providing patients with a more integrated and team-based experience.

The Toolkit integrates oral health into courses in health assessment, health promotion and primary care. It includes readings, assignments and collaborative case studies, simulations and service learning as well as other important oral health resources.

The Toolkit will be available in early 2015 through the OHNEP website (www.ohnep.org).

Oral Health Matters!

Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice *Newsletter*



Healthy People 2020 Module on Oral Health

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identified oral health as one of the 10 leading health indicators. It is no surprise then that seventeen of the *Healthy People 2020* objectives relate directly to oral health and a number of others emphasize the connection between oral and chronic diseases.

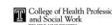
OHNEP in partnership with the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) and Temple University College of Public Health created the Oral Health Across the Lifespan Module, one of a 15-modules series. The module introduces learners to the Healthy People 2020 Oral Health goals and objectives as well as strategies for achieving them.

Easily integrated into existing curricula, the module includes PowerPoint slides, video lectures, transcripts, quiz questions, in-class activities, discussion questions, and resources. The multimedia learning modules are a new resource to facilitate the goals of integrating Healthy People 2020 concepts into the curriculum of public health and health professions programs and schools.

The module includes (1) Introduction and Oral-Systemic Health, (2) Oral Health For Pregnant Women and Their Newborns, (3) Oral Health in Childhood, (4) Oral Health and Older Adults, and (5) Oral Health Literacy.

The module is free and available to educators and students on the [APTR](http://www.aptrweb.org) website. Continuing Education Contact Hours are available in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy and public health.

Public Health Learning Modules
Using **Healthy People 2020** to Improve the Oral Health of Populations Across the Lifespan
http://www.aptrweb.org/?PHLM_I5



Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH)

The aim of the Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH) Program is to produce a workforce that is collaborative practice ready to integrate interprofessional oral health competencies into their clinical practice. TOSH accomplishes this aim by engaging future primary care providers in interprofessional, oral-systemic health clinical experiences.

Research continues to demonstrate a relationship between oral health and overall health. Because diabetes, celiac disease, heart and lung diseases, STIs and even some cancers can manifest orally, it is important for clinicians to use a team-based approach in order to (1) increase oral health access (2) reduce oral health disparities and (3) improve oral-systemic health outcomes.

TOSH
Interprofessional voice for oral health.

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TOSH TEAM

NEWS

The Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH) program, which is funded through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is a timely response to the 2011 Institute of Medicine Committee on an Oral Health Access to Services recommendation for innovations in workforce development to increase competence in oral health across professions and to develop interprofessional, team-based approaches to the prevention and treatment of oral diseases. [Read More...](#)

The TOSH website contains many resources for implementing interprofessional education (IPE) programs and facilitating team-based learning. It includes an IPE faculty toolkit, evaluation tools, ice breakers, and continuing education resources. Please visit us at www.TOSHteam.org to learn more.

Judith Haber, PhD, APRN-BC,
FAAN, Editor

Erin Hartnett, DNP, APRN-BC,
CPNP, Editor

Anna Vasilyeva, MPH,
Associate Editor

National *Interprofessional Initiative*
on Oral Health

Initiative activities are made possible as a result of funding from DentaQuest Foundation, Washington Dental Service Foundation and Connecticut Health Foundation.



All 4 Oral Health Blog

Join the conversation about important, timely oral health topics of interest and action on our new blog, [All 4 Oral Health](#), a joint effort by the OHNEP and TOSH programs. Expect pieces from expert guest bloggers, calls-for-action and posts advocating for improved oral health in special needs populations. We look forward to an exciting discussion!