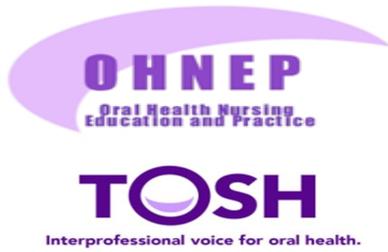


Oral Health Matters!

Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice *Newsletter*

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Hot off the Press! Oral Health In Pregnancy

Our OHNEP & TOSH teams and colleagues are proud to announce publication of the article, *Oral Health in Pregnancy*, in the July/August volume of the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing (JOGNN)!

The article describes the oral health issues that expectant mothers face both physiologically, as well as in terms of access to oral care. Recommendations for integrating oral health competencies in antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum care are highlighted for midwives,

nurse practitioners, nurses, obstetricians, and other clinicians caring for women during pregnancy.

Strategies are identified for integrating interprofessional oral health competencies into the education and practice of women's healthcare providers.

The article has been recently highlighted by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center with a significant amount of positive uptake. The open-source article is available [here](#).

A Long-Standing Partnership in Oral Health



Dr. Erin Hartnett, OHNEP Program Director, and Dr. Julia Lange Kessler, Georgetown University's Nurse-Midwifery/WHN Program Director, have a long history of oral health partnership dating back to when Dr. Lange Kessler was Director of the Nurse-Midwifery Program at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Following Dr. Lange Kessler's appointment at Georgetown University, they have continued collaborating on important interprofessional oral health projects, including annual oral health workshops at the American College of Nurse Midwives conference.

In June, the duo teamed up at the 2016 Colloquium for GUMC Educators in the Health Professions symposium at Georgetown University. Their presentation, "Preparing the Next Generation: Building an Interprofessional Oral Health Workforce," provided a blueprint for integrating interprofessional oral health competencies as an essential component of primary care practice. Dr. Harnett's poster, "Pediatric Oral Health Interprofessional Clerkship", showcased the significant findings from an innovative interprofessional clinical experience shared by nursing, medical and dental students designed to enhance competencies and attitudes towards interprofessional collaboration.

This colloquium provided interprofessional networking opportunities with peers and exploration of collaborative education and practice opportunities across the sciences, medicine, nursing and allied health professions.

Oral Health at the Chinle Reservation

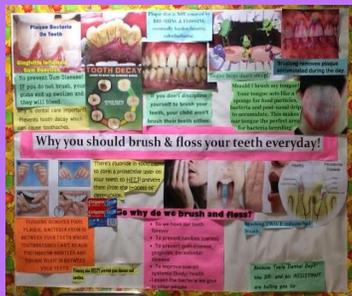
Residents of the Navajo Nation reservation account for part of the 45 million Americans who live in dental professional shortage areas, as defined in the White Paper, Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care, as communities in which there are 5,000 or more people for every one dentist.

In the Spring of 2015, Nina Maresca, FNP professor at Wagner College visited the Chinle Service Unit, a division of the Indian Health Service in the heart of the Navajo Nation Native American reservation in Northern Arizona to determine how Wagner nursing students and faculty could be of service to the residents of the reservation. She noted the prohibitively long wait times for patients to see medical providers in the primary care areas, especially the dental clinics. After hearing about Dr. Erin Hartnett's work, she decided to develop a basic oral health care and education program for the Chinle patients during times when they did not have access to a dentist.

Four Wagner College Family Nurse Practitioner students used the Smiles for Life modules to learn about the oral-systemic health connection and oral health assessment. The students used this information along with research on Navajo cultural practices to develop power point presentations on the relationship between diabetes and periodontal disease and improving oral hygiene.

In June of 2016, four FNP students visited to reservation for six days. While in Chinle, they had the opportunity to explore the reservation, tour all three of the Chinle Health Service facilities and meet with their nursing administrators and receive in-services on Native Navajo Medicine. The students also delivered their educational power point presentations to patients waiting to be seen by advanced practice staff, in the outpatient clinic waiting rooms. They distributed toothbrushes, tooth paste and dental floss, donated by The NYU College of Dentistry.

Faculty from both Wagner College and NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing plan to establish future clinical rotations for their students at the Chinle Health Service Unit.



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.



Questions? Please contact us at OHNEP@nyu.edu

Upcoming Events

National Center for Interprofessional Education NEXUS Fair:
OHNEP: [The Nursing Voice for Interprofessional Oral Health Education and Practice](#)

August 23

TOSH 3.0

September 6-8

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

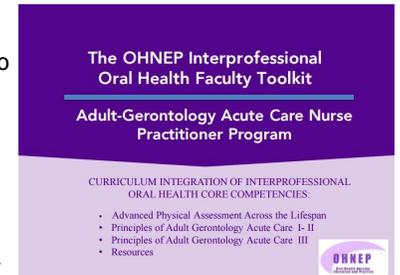
Erin Hartnett, DNP, APRN-BC,
CPNP, Editor

Anna Vasilyeva, MPH,
Associate Editor

New Addition to OHNEP Interprofessional Oral Health Toolkit

The OHNEP program announces the launch of the new [Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit](#) for Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) programs to facilitate integration of oral-systemic health content and clinical competencies into existing AGACNP curricula. This Toolkit is a new addition to the existing roster of PNP, FNP, AGNP, AGACNP, PMHNP and Midwifery Interprofessional Oral Health Toolkits.

The Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit series provide the most current guidelines, teaching-learning activities and publications to support nurse practitioner faculty, clinicians, and organizations as they work to weave oral health competencies into the NP scope of practice to play a leadership role in improving oral health access, decreasing oral health disparities, meeting interprofessional (IP) accreditation standards, while enhancing the oral and overall health of the communities they serve.



Advocacy Alert! Medicare & Medically Necessary Dental Care

The OHNEP oral health team and interprofessional NYU colleagues were invited by the Dental Lifeline Network to discuss a coordinated approach to urge the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) to exempt "medically necessary dental care" from Medicare's statutory exclusion of dental therapies. Dental Lifeline Network is a non-profit organization working with the Center for Medicare Advocacy and the Medicare Rights Center to develop this plan of action.

Dental Lifeline Network has developed the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program as a national humanitarian initiative through which 110,000 disabled, elderly, and medically compromised individuals have received in excess of \$345 million of comprehensive pro bono dental therapies from 15,000 volunteer dentists assisted by 3,700 laboratories. Priority is given to people in need of medically-essential dental care based on guidance provided by several national medical specialty organizations.

The meeting, led by Dr. Larry Coffee, CEO of the Dental Lifeline Network, stressed that a humanitarian program, while providing exemplary services, is not a solution to a compelling population health problem. Dr. Coffee called upon our NYU colleagues to provide expert input about why patients with medical problems, such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, need medically necessary dental care. The goal is to have a Medicare benefit that pays for medically necessary dental care when it impacts medical treatment. The exclusion of dental benefits in Medicare and, in many states, for adult Medicaid are significant factors contributing the need to advance interprofessional advocacy to inform an evidence-based plan to address with CMS leaders about a benefit for medically necessary dental care.

OHNEP Spotlight: University of Michigan School of Nursing

[Cynthia Darling-Fisher, PhD, FNP-BC](#), Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, gave an invited presentation at the 2016 American Association of Nurse Practitioner (AANP) National Conference, June 24, 2016 San Antonio, TX titled: Oral Health: An Untapped Resource in Managing Glycemic Control in Diabetes and Promoting Overall Health in Primary Care.

Her presentation emphasized that primary care providers, including nurse practitioners, can positively impact glycemic control in patients with diabetes by increasing recognition of the under-emphasized connection between diabetes and gum disease (periodontitis) and applying simple, efficient, additions to their practice. In her presentation she described ways to enhance inclusion of oral health in the history and physical examination, educating diabetes patients about their oral health needs and proper preventative care, including promoting collaborative relationships with dentists during routine diabetes care. Taking such a proactive approach promotes early identification of those at risk for diabetes, improve glycemic control, as well as, help delay or prevent diabetic complications. The presentation was based on her [recent publication](#) in the October 2015 issue of *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners* co-authored with dental colleagues. This was selected as a Continuing Education course by American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Dr. Darling-Fisher is a member of the OHNEP National Nursing Oral Health Workgroup, a group of nurses that lead interprofessional oral health programs across the country.