Transforming Whole Person Care Symposium

On September 16 and 17, Rory Meyers College of Nursing, the Colleges of Dentistry and Global Public Health, and the School of Medicine hosted a national symposium entitled Transforming Whole Person Care Through Interprofessional Medical-Dental Collaboration. The conference was generously supported by DentaQuest, the Josiah Macy Jr., Henry Schein Cares, Edward B. Shils, and Pacific Dental Services Foundations, as well as the Colgate-Palmolive Company, National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, and the New York Academy of Medicine.

Held in the Health Science Corridor and organized and chaired by Judith Haber, the OHNEP executive director, and Daniel Malamud, professor of basic science at the College of Dentistry, the interactive conference hosted 150 thought leaders from diverse health policy, research, education, and clinical practice systems, in a series of engaging keynotes, plenaries, and presentations. The event’s primary goal was to provide a forum for disseminating effective evidence-based national initiatives and models that advance integration of oral health and overall health into emerging person-centered care models.

Over the two-day symposium, attendees discussed proposals surrounding education, practice, policy, and guidelines to reach the goal of integrated whole person care. In addition, they examined barriers for advancing this type of interprofessional oral health as a standardized component of clinical education and practice, evaluated research to assess the impact of this kind of integration, and addressed quality and costs models that promote collaboration.

Interprofessional Oral Health Education at U Penn

The Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Pennsylvania has recently collaborated with the School of Dental Medicine in an Interprofessional Educational initiative. The nurse practitioner students have clinical rotations with the dental students and faculty at the Penn Pediatric Dental Clinic to learn thorough oral assessment. In addition, the dental students have clinical rotations at the day care sites where nurse practitioner students perform physical and development assessments on the children. Nurse practitioner students and nursing faculty mentor the dental students in engaging children in a physical exam and provide demonstrations on calming apprehensive and agitated children. The nurse practitioner students and dental students evaluated the experience very highly and it will be expanded next year.
Nurse Family Partnership Oral Health Integration

OHNEP is continuing its work with the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) nurses to integrate oral health in home visits to high-risk, first time pregnant women and their children. OHNEP and Washington Dental Services Foundation (WDSF) partnered to launch an oral health NFP pilot program in both Florida and Washington State that aims to integrate oral health into this national evidence-based program for high risk moms, newborns and young children. Nurses and clients completed surveys (baseline, 30 and 90 days) to measure changes in oral health knowledge and practices following an oral health education session for NFP nurses using Cavity Free Kids (CFK), an evidence-based toolkit for integrating oral health into home visits.

The results of both pilot projects indicate that there was a significant increase in the number of nurses including oral health content in their home visits after the intervention. There was also a statistically significant increase in the number of clients reporting that they have received oral health education, referral, and improved oral hygiene practices, such as cleaning their infant’s mouth at least twice a day. The OHNEP program also conducted a follow-up study of the clients who completed the NFP program at age two. The ten children who completed the program after the intervention had no signs of early childhood caries on their primary teeth. OHNEP and WDSF now plan to propose a scalable national oral health program for NFP, in which all states with NFP programs would require their home visiting nurses to provide oral health promotion and education to their patients.

Oral Health and Nursing at the Greater New York Dental Meeting

Under the guidance of Profs. Judi Haber, Erin Hartnett, and Noreen Nelson, 25 NYU Meyers nursing students participated in an interprofessional community-based learning event as part of the Greater NY Dental Meeting in November at the Javits Center in NYC. The program, "Oral Health and Nursing: A Team Approach to Population Health," was sponsored by the National Dental Association Health Now Project and provided oral health screening, referrals, and education to hundreds of school children and oral cancer and blood pressure screening for many adults.

Questions? Please contact us at OHNEP@nyu.edu