

OHNEP

Oral Health Nursing
Education and Practice

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Welcome to OHNEP Initiative Newsletter!

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of *Oral Health Matters*, a quarterly newsletter designed to connect you to New York University College of Nursing's *Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice* (OHNEP) national initiative, a part of the [National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health](#), funded by DentaQuest Foundation, Washington Dental Service Foundation, and Connecticut Health Foundation. This important initiative strives to enhance nursing's role in reducing the burden of oral disease in America. Our aim is to create an infrastructure for the nursing profession that advances our contribution to reducing oral health disparities across the lifespan.

For more about our developments, please read on and consider how nurses can make a difference in improving oral health outcomes and access to care especially for vulnerable and underserved populations.

OHNEP Aims:

- **Create** an action plan for policy recommendations that will support oral health nursing education and clinical practice.
- **Generate** a strategy for developing oral health competencies and curricula in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, including the *Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum*.
- **Develop** a strategy for implementing best practices in oral health care in registered nurse and advanced practice clinical settings.
- **Disseminate** these strategies nationally including nursing programs, healthcare organizations, nurse managed primary care settings, and professional nursing or-

National Summit

The NYU College of Nursing's Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice National Summit was convened on May 26, 2011 at The Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC.



Summit participants represented over 35 key stakeholder organizations responsible for licensure, accreditation, certification, education, practice, and policy in nursing.

Participants were engaged in the development of a national nursing action plan strategically aligned with the recent Institute of Medicine's reports, [Advancing Oral Health in America](#) (2011) and [Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations](#) (2011).

Spotlight

Donna Hallas, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, CPNP, PMHS, FAANP, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Mental Health Specialist at NYU College of Nursing, has been appointed as a Subject Matter Expert on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee, Education in Quality Improvement for Pediatric Practice (EQIPP). This program is an innovative Web-based continuing medical education (CME) Quality Improvement program that enables pediatric health care providers to assess and improve quality of care.

The goal of EQIPP is to help physicians collect and analyze practice data over time, and document improved quality of care.

Oral Health Matters!

Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice *Newsletter*



For information on
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National *Interprofessional Initiative*
on Oral Health

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

NYU **Nursing**

Oral Health Nursing Education and Best Practices: Enhancing Faculty Capacities

This faculty/professional development train-the-trainer workshop is specially tailored for nurse faculty, professional development specialists, and practicing nurses.

Program learning outcomes:

- Articulate the importance of oral-systemic health and nursing's call to action.
- Discuss interprofessional education and collaborative practice as a framework for improving oral-systemic health.
- Implement a variety of teaching-learning strategies that facilitate the development of nurses' oral health competencies and implementation for best practices in oral health across the lifespan.

Forthcoming

We are convening a National Oral Health Nursing Workgroup to shape nursing's role in advancing a national oral health agenda. The National Oral Health Nursing Workgroup will serve as an expert advisory committee providing input related to nursing's role in improving oral-systemic health outcomes, as well as, expanding access to and reducing disparities in oral health.

Fast Facts

- 3.1 million RNs
 - Over 150,000 APRNs
- Source: 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered

“Oral health has not been a high nursing priority in the past” (Clemmens & Kerr, 2008)

Education and training of nurses in oral health is highly variable and often inadequate (Jablonski, 2010)

Smiles For Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum

Smiles for Life (SFL) is the nation's only comprehensive oral health curriculum. Developed by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health and now in its third edition, this inter-professional curriculum is designed to enhance the role of primary care clinicians in the promotion of oral health across the lifespan.

NYU College of Nursing Center for Continuing Education in Nursing is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Each SFL course is approved for 1.0 contact hour and is available free to individual users. The contact hours are valid for two years from the issuing date.

A special thank you to Leslie Taub, DNSc, ANP-C, GNP-BC, CDE, C. BSM, Clinical Associate Professor, Coordinator, Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Program at NYU College of Nursing, who was an external reviewer for the SFL course on oral health and older adults.

SFL curriculum is recognized by the Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (AFPNP) and National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP).

Click [here](#) to access Smiles for Life.

Use the QR Scanner on your smartphone to view our video [Expanding Access to Oral Health Care Nurses Make a Difference](#)

