OHNEP 2nd National Nursing Oral Health Summit


The Summit opened with introductory remarks by Judith Haber, Co-Executive Director of the OHNEP initiative, Ralph Fuccillo, Chief Mission Officer at the DentaQuest Foundation, and Tracy Garland, Director of the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH).

“The OHNEP 2 year outcomes are amazing in terms of building a critical mass of nursing oral health champions who nationwide are integrating oral-systemic health competencies in curriculum and practice venues,” said Judith Haber.

Keynote speakers, Brenda Zierler from the University of Washington, Renee W. Joscov, HRSA Senior Advisor for Oral Health, and Grace P. Landel from Touro University in California, presented innovative strategies on how to use interprofessional education and practice strategies to enhance oral health and overall health outcomes, integrate oral health into primary care, and use oral health to meet accreditation standards and criteria.

Break out group discussions helped to develop further strategies aiming at integrating interprofessional oral health competencies into nursing education and practice.

Sponsorship Breakfast at the 58th Annual ACNM Conference


The presentation reflected a truly interprofessional team. Judith Haber, OHNEP Co-Executive Director, emphasized the importance of the midwifery profession in promoting oral health for women and newborns. Jeanne A. Conry, President of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), spoke about strategies that could be used by obstetric providers in order to prevent oral health diseases of their patients.

Melinda B. Clark, Editor of the Smiles for Life National Oral Health Curriculum, introduced everyone to the online modules that could be used as a tool for learning about oral-systemic health. Jill B. Fernandez, Co-Principal Investigator on the Interdisciplinary Strategies to Reduce Risk of Early Childhood Caries and Establish a Dental Home in the First Year of Life project, spoke about an innovative intervention in a newborn nursery to improve oral health of mothers and infants.

Julia Lange-Kessler, Coordinator of the NYU Nurse-Midwifery Program, spoke about how to integrate oral-systemic health competencies in a midwifery education program.

A showcase poster session of oral-systemic health projects was presented by the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing, University of Louisville School of Nursing, Rush University College of Nursing, Wichita State University School of Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, and the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. Six out of the eight listed projects were funded by the OHNEP seed grant program.

The Summit wrapped up with panel led by Erin Hartnett, OHNEP Program Director, who spoke about implementation of a pediatric oral health program in a pediatric oncology center. Cynthia Darling-Fisher and Michelle Pardee from the University of Michigan School of Nursing presented an approach to meet interprofessional competencies for educating primary health care providers. Carol Savrin introduced the HRSA CHOMP (Collaborative Home for Oral Health Medical Review and Health Promotion) grant which was awarded to the Case Western Reserve University School of Nursing, and Dora Castillo and Susan Scibilia from NYU Langone Medical Center spoke about the effect of their Oral Health Council on decreasing complications of hospitalized patients.

“The panel demonstrated real world examples of how nurses have integrated oral health into their clinical practice,” stated Dr. Hartnett.
OHNEP Website - Interprofessional Knowledge Hub

The OHNEP website’s mission is to serve as an oral health interprofessional knowledge hub for health professionals. The Google Analytics report shows that almost 50% of the visits were made from mobile phones and tablets, which suggests the importance of using modern technology as one of the tools for communication and dissemination of oral health messages to our colleagues throughout the country.

In 2013 we opened our OHNEP Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts in order to share ideas and collaborate more effectively with our colleagues interested in oral health and its links to overall health. We encourage you to join our group on Facebook and LinkedIn, and follow us on Twitter (please find more information on the left).

Interprofessional Faculty Development Training - East or West, Collaboration is the Best

On July 15th and 17th, 2013, Dr. Mayumi Willgerodt, Associate Professor at the University of Washington, Department of Family and Child Nursing, presented an exciting two-day interprofessional faculty development program at the NYU College of Nursing. Training, focused on the IPEC Competencies and interprofessional teaching-learning strategies, was attended by faculty from NYU Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry, and NYU School of Medicine.

Dr. Willgerodt, a Macy Foundation Faculty Scholar, currently is leading an IPE assessment project funded by HRSA, The University of Washington’s Center for Health Sciences Interprofessional Education, Research and Practice provides a platform for collaboration between health professionals.

We would like to thank Dr. Willgerodt for coming to New York and conducting a great workshop for our NYU interprofessional team. It is always a pleasure to learn something new from our interprofessionally-minded colleagues throughout the country.

The faculty development workshop received very positive feedback: “Mayumi was fabulous - did an exceptional job engaging us”, “Great to work with other faculty from other disciplines”, “It was great to be around so many bright and committed professionals with a common interest. The enthusiasm and energy was infectious”.

As per Google Analytics data, the OHNEP website (www.OHNEP.org) was visited 2,527 times by 1,158 unique visitors since its launch on March 1st, 2013. 95% of all visits (2,400 visits) were made from the 47 states, leaving behind only Wyoming, South Dakota, Iowa, and Oklahoma (please refer to the image on the left).

The most active states were New York, California, Maryland, Illinois, Massachusetts, Kansas, New Jersey, Virginia, Texas, Kentucky, Washington, and Ohio.

Five percent of the visits were made from 41 other countries, including Canada, India, Australia, and China (please refer to the image above).