

AMERICAN DENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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### **ADEA Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill**

On April 8, ADEA hosted its annual Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, garnering the highest participation to date. More than 50 members from the nation's academic dental and research community attended the event, for which ADEA collaborated with the American Association for Dental Research (AADR). Notably, ADEA members had more than 75 meetings with both elected officials and their congressional staff to advocate for the training of today's oral health workforce, as well as investment in dental and craniofacial research.



Dr. Lily Garcia, Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors, opened and concluded the briefing by underscoring the importance of advocacy to augmenting dental education and improving good oral and systemic health in the U.S. Dr. Garcia also pointed out that previous ADEA advocacy efforts resulted in the successful adoption of pediatric dental benefits in the Affordable Care Act. As a result, pediatric oral health coverage is now one of 10 essential health benefits in the Affordable Care Act.

Prior to the Congressional meetings, Reps. Mike Simpson, DMD (R-ID), Paul Gosar, DDS (R-AZ) and G. K. Butterfield (D-NC), all members of the Oral Health Caucus, provided remarks. Erica Solway, a senior advisor to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), provided remarks on behalf of the senator.

ADEA and AADR constituents requested that Congress appropriate \$32.4 million in FY15 for primary care training in general, pediatric and public health dentistry under Title VII Health Professions programs, in addition to adequately funding the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at \$425 million.

### **Supreme Court Rules on States' Right to Prohibit Consideration of Race in Admissions**

On April 22, the United States Supreme Court issued an opinion in its ruling on *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*. The Court's decision upheld a constitutional amendment that Michigan voters approved to ban the consideration of race and gender in public education. The Michigan ballot initiative, known as Proposal 2, was passed in 2006 by 58 percent of voters. Proposal 2 created Section 26 of the Michigan Constitution, banning public universities and schools from using race as a factor in admissions decisions. The amendment was the outcome of a battle over race-conscious admissions policies in Michigan's public universities.

With the *Schuette* ruling, the Supreme Court did not end affirmative action but instead upheld the right of state voters to ban it. The ruling in this case was emblemized by Justice Kennedy:

“This case is not about how the debate about racial preferences should be resolved. It is about who may resolve it. There is no authority in the Constitution of the United States or in this Court’s precedents for the judiciary to set aside Michigan laws that commit this policy determination to the voters.”

In essence, the question in *Schuette* was in what manner voters in the states may choose to prohibit the consideration of racial preferences in admission standards. The ruling supports laws similar to Michigan’s ban in such states as California (banned in 1998), Florida (banned in 2001), Texas (banned in 1997), and Washington (banned in 1999), and solidifies the right of states to determine the usage of affirmative action.

The Supreme Court’s decision has no bearing on the legality of race-conscious admission policies, as Justice Kennedy states: “The constitutional validity of some of those choices regarding racial preferences is not at issue here.” ADEA prepared a [memorandum](#) which details the Court’s decision in the case.

### **Proposed Gainful Employment Rule Released**

On March 14, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released its proposed regulations for determining whether certain postsecondary education programs, including allied or advanced dental education programs that terminate with the awarding of a certificate but not a degree, prepare students for gainful employment. Since the Higher Education Act was first passed in 1965, it has included a version of the clause “prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” Federal student aid requirements mandate that career education programs abide by this provision to receive loan funds disbursed under Title IV of the act.

The current proposal would permit ED to remove advanced certificate dental education programs from federal student aid funding streams if they do not satisfactorily meet two standards on student loan debt. To meet the first standard, a program must graduate students whose estimated annual loan payments do not consume more than 20% of their discretionary income or 8% of their total income. Under the second metric, programs must keep their loan-default rates among former students who began repaying their loans in the past three years below 30%. Institutions that fail to meet one of the standards for at least two years would be removed from the federal student aid program.

Data provided by the department indicates that under the proposed rule, nearly one in five vocational programs would either fail outright or be at risk of doing so. According to the Obama Administration, the 13% of post-secondary students who are enrolled at for-profit colleges account for almost half of all federal student loan defaults.

The regulations contain two other requirements of note:

- Institutions must certify that all gainful employment programs meet applicable accreditation requirements and state or federal licensure standards.
- Institutions must disclose both to the ED and publicly, information about the program costs, debt and performance of all gainful employment programs so that students can make informed decisions about matriculating in such programs.

ADEA recently prepared a [memorandum](#) detailing the proposed regulation underscoring the unsuitability of applying gainful employment standards to specialized dentistry certificate

programs. The ED will continue to accept public comment on the proposed rule until May 26, 2014.

### **Congress Reauthorizes Children's Hospitals GME Payment Program**

The president's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget proposed eliminating the appropriations for the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program because the authorization for the program had expired. The FY14 appropriation for CHGME is \$265 million. CHGME includes residencies for dentistry.

The new budget proposes replacing the CHGME program with a new Targeted Support for Graduate Medical Education Program funded from the Medicare Trust Fund at \$530 million in FY15 with \$100 million set aside for Children's Hospital programs. This proposed new program does not include dentistry.

ADEA has been concerned about the lack of dentistry's inclusion in the proposed new program and made inquiries among legislative leaders about the prospects of authorizing the new program. No one was aware of any proposal.

Then on April 1, 2014, the House took up a Senate-passed bill, S. 1557, to extend the authorization of the CHGME program and passed it by voice vote; the measure was signed by the president on April 7 (Public Law 113-98). The new law extends the authorization through FY18 at \$300 million per year. In turn, the dental residency program in the CHGME will continue through FY18 in much the same programmatic fashion as it has to date.

### **HRSA Promotes Oral Health Competencies for Primary Care Providers**

In February, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a new report titled *Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice*. In addition to delineating a set of oral health core clinical competencies for nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physicians and physician assistants who provide primary care in safety net settings, the report makes the following recommendations:

1. Develop infrastructure that is interoperable, accessible across clinical settings, and that enhances the adoption of the oral health core clinical competencies. The defined, essential elements of the oral health core clinical competencies should be used to inform decision-making and measure health outcomes.
2. Modify payment policies to efficiently address costs of implementing oral health competencies and provide incentives to health care systems and practitioners.
3. Execute programs to develop and evaluate implementation strategies of the oral health core clinical competencies into primary care practice.

The agency hopes that the report and its recommendations will "serve as guiding principles and provide a framework for the design of a competency-based, interprofessional practice model to integrate oral health and primary care." HRSA developed the Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice initiative in response to the Institute of Medicine's 2011 call for the agency to improve access to oral health care through the development of oral health competencies for health professionals practicing outside the dental arena.

The intent of the HRSA report is to underscore, and begin remedying, the fact that millions of Americans lack access to basic oral health care, including one of out every 16 children in the US because their families are unable to afford it. HRSA anticipates the report to improve access to early detection and preventive interventions by expanding oral health clinical competency of primary care clinicians, leading to improved oral health. The report's findings prioritize the identification and cultivation of shared points of opportunity to leverage collaboration and synergy between the provision of oral and primary care.

### **Primary Care Bill Would Expand Access to Dental Services**

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has introduced a bill that would expand access to primary care through workforce initiatives, enhanced reimbursements and increased accountability for Graduate Medical Education (GME) funds.

Provisions of the bill that would benefit community health centers, encompassing those that offer dental services, include:

- Creation of a mandatory appropriation of \$4.9 billion through FY20 for the National Health Services Corps;
- Creation of a mandatory appropriation of \$25 billion for Federally Qualified Health Centers during FY16-FY20; and
- Expansion of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program, which funds both medical and dental residencies in community-based ambulatory care settings, at \$800 million through FY20.

The bill would also require hospitals receiving federal funds for residency programs to report information to increase transparency of and accountability for GME funds.

### **Congress Shows Bipartisan Support for Title VII Programs**

Elected officials on both sides of the aisle have signaled their support for federal health care workforce programs as their colleagues on Capitol Hill gear up to begin work on appropriations bills for FY15.

In the House, 96 members signed on to a Dear Colleague Letter urging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to include \$280 million for health professions programs authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. In the Senate, 25 members signed a separate letter requesting support for Title VII programs at the same level. This represents an increase of \$35 million over the FY14 appropriation.

Both letters emphasized the need to demonstrate a strong commitment to these programs in the face of health provider shortages. Title VII programs that specifically benefit ADEA members include Oral Health Training, Faculty Loan Repayment and the Health Careers Opportunity Program.

ADEA submitted testimony for the record to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies., requesting \$32.4 million for Oral Health Training Programs, \$18 million for Part F of the Ryan White Program, \$425 million

for NIDCR, and \$19 million for the Division of Oral Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### **Bills to Expand Biomedical Research Funding**

Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has introduced a bill that would increase U.S. investments in biomedical research. The Helping Encourage Advancements in Lifesaving Science or America HEALS Act would create a mandatory trust fund dedicated to supporting research at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program and the Veterans Medical & Prosthetics Research Program. The legislation would increase funding for these agencies and programs at a rate of GDP-indexed inflation plus 5% every year.

“More than half of basic research funding in the U.S. comes from the federal government,” Eshoo said, “yet we spend two-thirds less on research and development than we did in 1965. A trust fund for our biomedical research agencies can reverse this dangerous trend and ensure that the United States is the leader in scientific discovery.”

Senate Majority Whip and Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL) has introduced a companion bill, the America Cures Act, in the Senate.

### **New Leadership at HHS**

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced her resignation in April, shortly after the official close of the nation’s first enrollment period for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. When the federally developed online insurance marketplace healthcare.gov first launched in October 2013, Sebelius was roundly criticized for what she herself called “a miserably frustrating experience” for many Americans who attempted to purchase coverage through the exchange. Nevertheless, she was able to testify that enrollment had hit 7.5 million, surpassing the administration’s target, when she appeared before the Senate Finance Committee earlier last month.

President Obama nominated Sylvia Mathews Burwell, who currently serves as director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to replace Sebelius. Obama characterized the nominee as “a proven manager who’s demonstrated her ability to field great teams, forge strong relationships, and deliver excellent results at the highest levels.” When Burwell was nominated for the OMB position a year ago, she was confirmed by a vote of 96-0. She previously served in policy positions in the Clinton Administration and was a Rhodes Scholar.

### **Nominations to HRSA Advisory Committee Due May 30**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is seeking individuals in general dentistry, pediatric dentistry and dental hygiene to serve on the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry. The committee was established in 1998 to advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy, program development and other matters concerning programs at the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions.



Nominations of individuals are due no later than May 30. Additional information and an application form are available on the HRSA website.

### **ADEA/Sunstar Americas, Inc./Harry W. Bruce, Jr. Legislative Fellowship**

**Dental school faculty members or administrators** who want to interface with members of Congress on issues of importance to oral health are encouraged to apply for the ***ADEA/Sunstar Americas, Inc./Harry W. Bruce, Jr. Legislative Fellowship***. The fellow selected spends three months in Washington, D.C., working on issues and policies that could make a difference in the life of every American.

This public policy fellowship coincides with congressional consideration of the federal budget and other legislative and regulatory activities important to dental education and research. The fellow functions as an ADEA Policy Center staff member who works within the **Advocacy and Governmental Relations** (ADEA AGR) portfolio on ADEA's specific legislative priorities. The fellow's responsibilities may include drafting policy, legislative language, position papers and testimony; educating members of Congress and other decision-makers on matters of importance to dental education; and participating in gatherings of various national coalitions. The fellow receives a taxable stipend of \$15,000 to cover travel and expenses for approximately three months (cumulative) in Washington, D.C. (ADEA is flexible in the arrangement of time away from the fellow's institution.) The fellow's institution continues to provide salary support for the duration of the experience. Since its inception in 1985, the ADEA/Sunstar Americas, Inc./Harry W. Bruce, Jr. Legislative Fellowship has been generously underwritten by Sunstar Americas, Inc. **Interested candidates should apply as soon as possible.**

### **ADEA/Sunstar Americas, Inc./Jack Bresch Student Legislative Internship**

The ***ADEA/Sunstar Americas, Inc./Jack Bresch Student Legislative Internship*** is a six-week, stipend-supported internship in the **Advocacy and Governmental Relations** (ADEA AGR) portfolio of the **ADEA Policy Center** in Washington, D.C. This student legislative internship provides a unique learning experience for predoctoral, allied and advanced dental students, residents and fellows. It is designed to encourage students to learn about and eventually to become involved—as dental professionals—in the federal legislative process and the formulation of public policy as it relates to academic dentistry. The fellowship is open to any predoctoral, allied or advanced dental student, resident or fellow who is interested in learning about and contributing to the formulation of federal public policy with regard to dental education, dental research and the oral health of the nation. Funded through the generous support of Sunstar Americas, Inc., the student intern will be a member of the ADEA AGR staff and will participate in congressional meetings on Capitol Hill, coalition meetings and policy discussions among the ADEA Legislative Advisory Committee and ADEA AGR staff.

An applicant must be a full-time predoctoral, allied or advanced dental student, resident or fellow whose institution is willing to work with the student to identify an appropriate time, consisting of six weeks during the school year, to pursue the internship. For additional information, please email Yvonne Knight, J.D., ADEA Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Governmental Relations, at [KnightY@ADEA.org](mailto:KnightY@ADEA.org). Applications are accepted on a year-round basis.

## **Congressional Resources**

For those interested in following the congressional proceedings, please access the U.S. House or Senate by way of the following links:

- U.S. House of Representatives: [House website](#)
- U.S. Senate: [Senate website](#)
- ADEA-AGR Twitter Account: [ADEAAGR](#)  
For the latest information on issues affecting dental education and dental and craniofacial research in Washington and the state legislatures, please follow us on Twitter at ADEAAGR. There is much to “tweet” about.

## **Funding Opportunities**

Below are selected funding opportunities that might be of interest. You can search for additional federal government funding opportunities at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

RFA-HG-14-004

Predoctoral Training in Biomedical Big Data Science (T32)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

[Grant Information](#)

PA-14-150

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD or Other Dual-Doctoral Degree Fellowship (Parent F30)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

[Grant Information](#)

PA-14-147

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

[Grant Information](#)

PA-14-148

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31 - Diversity)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

[Grant Information](#)

PA-14-149

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (Parent F32)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

[Grant Information](#)

PA-14-151

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Senior Fellowship (Parent F33)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services



Grant Information

PAR-14-143

Establishing Behavioral and Social Measures for Causal Pathway Research in Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Health (R01)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

PAR-14-144

Establishing Behavioral and Social Measures for Causal Pathway Research in Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Health (R21)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

PA-14-042

NIH Pathway to Independence Award (Parent K99/R00)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

RFA-HG-14-007

Mentored Career Development Award in Biomedical Big Data Science for Clinicians and Doctorally Prepared Scientists (K01)

Grant Information

PAR-14-039

Short-term Mentored Career Enhancement Award in Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Research for Mid-Career and Senior Investigators (K18)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

PA-14-016

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grant (Parent T35)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

PAR-13-348

NIDCR Small Grant Program for New Investigators (R03)

National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

PA-13-313

Academic Research Enhancement Award (Parents R15)

National Institutes of Health, National Center Institute, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research—Department of Health and Human Services

Grant Information

PA-13-347

NIH Support for Conference and Scientific Meetings (Parents R13/U13)

National Institutes of Health, National Center Institute, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research—Department of Health and Human Services  
Grant Information

PA-13-378

Research on Malignancies in the Context of HIV/AIDS (R21)  
National Institutes of Health, National Center Institute, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research—Department of Health and Human Services  
Grant Information

PA-13-303

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21)  
National Institutes of Health—Department of Health and Human Services  
Grant Information

**Quotable**

***“To live for a time close to great minds is the best kind of education.”***

***John Buchan***

The ***ADEA Washington Update*** is published monthly by the ADEA Policy Center when Congress is in session. Its purpose is to keep ADEA members abreast of federal issues and events of interest to the academic dental and research communities.

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