The Impact of Diversity and Mentoring On Interprofessional Studies
Moderator:

Dr. Mildred Arroyo McClain, Chair, ADEA Section on Minority Affairs

Speakers:

Ms. Rebecca S. Wilder, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry: Defining interprofessional studies and its benefits for academic dentistry

Dr. Lonnie Norris, Dean, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine: The role of the dean in developing interprofessional studies that benefit diversity and mentoring

Dr. Connie Drisko, Dean, Georgia Health Sciences University College of Dental Medicine: Implications of interprofessional studies on faculty development, promotion and tenure

Dr. Grishondra Branch-Mays, University of Maryland Dental School: The benefits of interprofessional team-based patient-centered care.

Call to Action:

Dr. Jeanne Sinkford, Associate Executive Director and Director, Center for Equity and Diversity, ADEA
THE ROLE OF THE DEAN IN DEVELOPING INTERPROFESSIONAL STUDIES THAT BENEFIT DIVERSITY AND MENTORING

DEAN LONNIE H. NORRIS
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
OBJECTIVE:

1. Understand a collaborative environment and how it supports interprofessional education
2. Understand interprofessional education enhances the core missions of the School/University
3. Dean’s role in supporting the development of interprofessional studies programs within and across disciplines
4. Opportunities in interprofessional education to advance diversity and mentoring
5. Develop mutual understanding and respect for the contributions of various disciplines in enhancing education, patient care and research.
6. Review collaborative programs in the School/University/Hospital and community that foster interprofessional education.
InterProfessional Education (IPE) – through interdisciplinary education, health care professionals learn collaboratively within and across their disciplines in order to gain the knowledge, skills and values required to work with other health care professionals*

Collaboration to promote optimum patient care and improved access to care for a diverse population

*Source: Interprofessional Education & Core Competencies, literature review. Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC)
Strategic development, planning and management of activities to advance mission of school/university – education, patient care, community service and research

Create a compelling vision

Facilitate faculty partnerships and foster collaborative relationships across campuses and institutions

Recruit and develop competent faculty members that understand the mission

- Then, let them be innovative!

Be a leader in setting priorities in creating an inclusive, diverse and mentoring environment.
Role of the Dean in Developing Interprofessional Studies – continued

- Promote a value-based, caring culture across the continuum of education and patient care
- Facilitate communication between individuals in the decision-making process, with patients’ overall health being at the center of the decision
- Maximize opportunities and support for diversity and mentoring
- Support programs that increase access to care provided by various types of health care professionals.
The Tufts Experience in Interprofessional Studies

- Predoctoral, comprehensive care dental clinic – patient-centered practices
- Medicine III course – hospital clerkship program
- Boston’s “Step-Up” program – public school outreach
- Sharewood project – comprehensive care to under-served populations
- Nutrition in dentistry program – nutrition students rotation
- Humanitarian trips – multi-discipline health care missions
- Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Dental Association – mentoring/outreach programs.
Full-time physician and nurse-practitioner on faculty
- Work with students in the evaluation of medical status
- Interprofessional relationships across disciplines in management of medically compromised patients
  - Medications reviewed and laboratory tests evaluated/ordered
  - Collaboration with patients’ physician(s) on treatment plan, as necessary
  - If unstable, patients triaged to other health care professionals.
Benefits

Dental students gain experience in evaluation and consultation with medical staff in decision-making for total patient care.
Dental students on rotations with medical, nursing, and public health professionals and students

- Domestic violence rotation
- ENT & tumor board rotation
- Anesthesia rotation
- Endocrine rotation
- GI clinic rotation
- Neurology clinic
- Cardiology rotation
- Emergency medicine clinic rotation
- Respiratory rotation

Benefits

- Students competently interact with other health care professionals in providing optimal patient care
- Some medical rotations and medical clinics now routinely refer their patients for dentistry
Boston’s “Step Up” Program – Public School Outreach

- Administered by the City of Boston in coordination with Tufts University and four other area Universities
- TUSDM and Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy
  - Healthy eating and physical activity
  - Oral health classroom education to students and families
  - Oral health assessment, prevention and restorative needs
BOSTON’S “STEP UP” PROGRAM – PUBLIC SCHOOL OUTREACH

FY08-FY11

Five days a week in urban schools
- 30 Boston public schools
- 3,546 screening examinations
- 3,246 received fluoride varnish
- 2,672 teeth were sealed
- 769 received on-site restorations
Benefits

- Opportunities to mentor/role model in diverse young population
- Dental students’ awareness of and responsibility for access to care
- Give presentations at health fairs and career days
- Interprofessional education – school nurse, dental assistants, dental hygienist, nutrition, dental allied health students and ophthalmologist at a few school clinics

Public school students invited to our School to practice placing sealants:
Sharewood Project –
Care to Underserved Populations

- Free, comprehensive health care clinic affiliated with Tufts University School of Medicine and with Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
- Staffed by volunteer physicians and dentists and health professions students, including dental, medical and optometry and translators.

Benefits

- Working in a collaborative health care setting to develop mutually beneficial professional awareness and interaction
- Recruitment of pre-dental students to have exposure in a mentoring environment
- Emphasizing the role of oral health in overall health.
Under the supervision of a PhD professor of nutrition and registered dietician on TUSD’s faculty

- Foster interdisciplinary training among dental students, nutritionist and students in combined dietetic internship program of Tufts Medical Center hospital and Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.
- Foundation knowledge about diet and nutrition and its relationship to health and disease
- Provide appropriate diet assessment and management of clinic patients.
In rotation at dental school, nutrition students better appreciate roles of diet and nutrition in oral health and disease.

Year 2 and 3 students participate in diet classes as part of prevention education for elementary students in Boston public schools.

Provides opportunities for mentoring/role modeling to diverse populations.
Volunteer interdisciplinary teams participate in providing health care services - Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, Zambia

Including dental and medical students, dentists and physicians and allied health professionals, the most comprehensive interdisciplinary teams have also included:

- Public health workers trained to teach prevention
- Nutritionist for diet assessment and crops evaluation
- Engineers to evaluate and advise on water supply
- Veterinarians to attend to the health of fowl and livestock
Benefits: comprehensive interprofessional team within and across disciplines to advance overall health of community
Student National Dental Association (SNDA) and
Student Hispanic Dental Association (SHDA)
Mentoring Outreach

- Under leadership of faculty advisors, students of SNDA and SHDA participate in numerous outreach programs in diverse communities, within discipline teams and sometimes coordinated across disciplines.

- Certificate and $500 gift award given to Senior student at two urban high schools – minority student, science major, attending college with the aspiration of a career in a health care profession.
Facilitate communication among disciplines in the decision-making process to formulate best overall health treatment plan – patient is at the center.

Expand knowledge, awareness and professional respect across disciplines

Provide culturally sensitive care to a diverse society

Provide opportunities for mentoring/role modeling in under-served areas
SUMMARY – INTERPROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Potential to improve access to health care for those with unmet health needs

Interprofessional studies support the overall mission of the School of Dental Medicine/Tufts University

Consistent with role of the Dean to advance education and health
Thank You!