ADEA Section or SIG Name: Temporomandibular Disorders

Mission and Goals:
The primary mission of the TMD Special Interest Group is to effectively administer and facilitate the growth and development of this Special Interest Group into a stand-alone Section within the ADEA Council of Sections. Additionally, it is the mission of this group to establish and nurture educational, clinical and research alliances within and outside of ADEA so as to create a stronger blend of cooperation and camaraderie while accomplishing our listed goals. The Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD) Special Interest Group of ADEA consists of academicians sharing a common interest in the educational, clinical and research components of TMD as it is represented at the predoctoral and postdoctoral levels in dental education. A “special interest” of this group is the development of standardized, evidence-based TMD curriculum guidelines within dental education that correlate well with curricula in the basic sciences, clinically related disciplines and research. Currently, a gap exists between how and what most dental students are being taught about TMDs and what is clearly defined as being evidence-based information. Therefore, it is the common interest and a primary goal of this SIG to first establish a consensus on what information is pertinent for acceptable TMD curriculum guidelines and how that information can be best provided in the dental school setting. Secondary goals include the fostering of a “translational” curriculum; that is, one in which basic sciences, clinical practices and research are intertwined, and mutually facilitate one another relative to TMDs. An additional goal of this group is to provide a format for consensus and cooperation between the various dental and medical entities that are involved in the educational, clinical and research elements of TMDs both within a structured educational setting as well as within the community. To summarize, our overriding goal is to create a bridge between “evidence-based teaching” and “evidence-based clinical practice” with the former guiding and directing the latter while both are driven by and dependent upon research generated evidence.

To conclude, we will continue working towards the formulation and adoption of standardized, evidence-based TMD curriculum guidelines which we feel will readily translate into evidence-based patient care, a goal worthy of our effort.

Submitted by:
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SIG Activities:

This past year has been one of “rebuilding, restoring and reconnecting” in terms of the ADEA TMD Special Interest Group membership. Dr. Sharon Siegel (Chair, ADEA Council of Sections) appointed Dr. John W. Stockstill of the ECU School of Dental Medicine as Chair of the group in June 2012, and requested that the group be resurrected and reorganized as a functional entity within the ADEA Council of Sections. Since that time, we’ve made a very strong effort to contact current members of the TMD SIG and encourage other ADEA members and academicians to join our group in this rebuilding effort. This membership “push” is driven by a common passion and interest that we all share regarding this discipline. Our efforts have been quite successful in raising the interest level of members within ADEA as well as those academicians and clinicians making up the membership of other TMD/Orofacial Pain interest groups.

Since our recent meeting at the ADEA Annual Session in Seattle in March, we have

1. elected a new slate of officers for the 2013-2014 academic year (see below)
2. created a Steering Committee consisting of academicians/clinicians, TMD/Orofacial Pain program directors and ADEA members belonging to other closely related sections such as the American Association of Orofacial Pain
3. created a working model for updating the membership list for the TMD SIG, and
4. formed a working collaborative alliance with members of the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Section of ADEA and submitted a program application for review and eventual presentation at the 2014 ADEA Annual Session.

Membership and Attendance:

In reviewing activities of the TMD SIG over the past few years, very little information is available regarding group membership, attendance at the annual session and activities representative of the group’s Mission Statement. With the initiation of new leadership within the TMD SIG has come a resurgence in interest from academicians representing many of the teaching and research facilities within U.S. dental schools, governmental research facilities and military training programs. Specifically, our members represent a significant number of predoctoral and postdoctoral dental training programs, NIDCR research programs and the Armed Forces postdoctoral Orofacial Pain programs.

The TMD SIG has approximately 450 academicians and clinicians registered as members within this group. It is reported that previous Members’ Forum meetings have been poorly attended, and this should be duly noted as a yardstick for future interest assessment at the Annual Session. There were eleven members present at the March 18, 2013 Members’ Forum held at 7:15AM, and a very productive meeting was held. Specifically, Dr. John Stockstill, chairman of the TMD SIG, and Dr. Heidi Crow, Program Director of the Orofacial Pain Residency Program at University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, presented a program entitled “Temporomandibular Disorders and Orofacial Pain: Past, Present and Future Educational Opportunities at the Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Levels”. Special emphasis was placed upon the importance of there being evidence-based, standardized educational TMD/Orofacial pain curriculum guidelines within the predoctoral and postdoctoral programs in U.S. dental schools, and
how that could be best created and implemented utilizing the wealth of interest and academic/clinical input from the various groups represented at our meeting. A robust discussion followed the presentation in which all attendees voiced a strong desire to move the section ahead relative to improved participation and scholarly activity. In terms of finances, Dr. Stockstill noted that, according to the most recent audit for Fiscal Year 2013, as of March 1, 2013, the TMD SIG recorded a positive balance of $138.25. A final matter of business was the election of Dr. Stockstill as Chair for the 2013-2014 academic year. Nominations were made for the offices of Chair-elect and Secretary, and those nominations were later qualified and accepted by the nominees involved when contacted by Dr. Stockstill and members of the newly formed Steering Committee.

The meeting was concluded with the group agreeing upon the need for improved communications within the SIG and a desire to have future proceedings attended by a broader spectrum of colleagues sharing similar ideas about the growth and development of this SIG. A call for adjournment was made and seconded at 8:15AM, and those in attendance affirmed their willingness to attend the 2014 Annual Session Members’ Forum.

The new slate of officers for the 2013-2014 academic year was finalized through e-mail and conference calls and consists of the following:

2013-2014 ADEA TMD SIG administration:
Chair – John W. Stockstill (East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine)
Chair-Elect – Gary Klasser (LSUHSC School of Dentistry)
Secretary – Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker (University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine)

As mentioned above, a Steering Committee was created in order for the TMD SIG to have a working administrative body that will oversee and offer advice regarding group related projects, annual changes in leadership and the long term growth and development that is essential for maintaining the vitality of this discipline and its membership. Most importantly, this Steering Committee membership strongly represents essentially all of the academic, clinical and research components of this discipline, thus strengthening the evidence-based focus of our group and allowing for more consensus-derived recommendations being offered to the Chair, Chair-elect and Secretary of the SIG.

Steering Committee:
Ed Wright – (UTHSCSA School of Dentistry - representing AAOP)
Heidi Crow - (University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine – representing postdoctoral educational programs)
Joao Ferreira - (NIDCR Clinical Research Fellow, National Institute of Health Clinical Center – representing AUTOPP and IADR/AADR)
Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker - (University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine – representing predoctoral educational programs)
Istvan (Steve) Hargitai - (Naval Postgraduate Dental School – representing Armed Forces postdoctoral programs)

Next year’s meeting is March 15-15, 2014 in San Antonio, Texas and the theme of the
meeting is The Science of Learning.

Respectfully submitted – John W. Stockstill D.D.S., M.S., Chair – TMD SIG