ALLEVIATING TURF WARS IN THE UNDERGRADUATE IMPLANT PROGRAM

“Ensuring that everyone plays well in the sandbox often requires that one thinks outside the sandbox”

Amy L. Ridall, DDS, PhD
Department of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics
OPTIMAL

• Ample patients/implant procedures

• Equivalent costs across the disciplines

• Equally well-trained faculty

• Coordination and teamwork between all disciplines
DIFFICULTIES

• Competition for limited patients/ procedures

• Variations in programs (rotations vs. 3 year programs)

• Variations in operating costs for departments (AEGD vs. school departments).

• Difficulty of patient cases/ length of time for treatment/continuity of care

• Variations in faculty coverage: who is present during treatment planning?
SOLUTIONS

1. Provide clear delineation of tasks/roles: designating which procedures are assigned to specific departments, based on the programs/faculty strengths/weaknesses.

2. Design team-taught pre-clinical didactic courses: OMFS, Periodontics and Prosthodontics

3. Provide CE curriculum for all faculty: updates and “school” procedures.
Clear delineations of tasks

OMFS, Perio, Prosth, AEGD
Restoration: Perio, Prosth, AEGD, UG

OMFS, Perio
Restoration: Perio, Prosth, AEGD, UG

OMFS, Perio
Restoration: Prosth, AEGD

OMFS, Perio
Restoration: Prosth, AEGD, UG
OMFS, Perio
Restoration: Prosth
Didactic

- Basic concepts
  Spring 2nd year

- Surgical concepts
  Spring 3rd year

Clinical Experience

- 3rd and 4th year
  Prosth/GP

- Perio surgery assists

- OMFS socket preservation

- Other courses
  3rd year
FACULTY CE

- Training on the “school procedures” and the “school systems”
- Ensuring that ALL faculty can discuss implants as an option. Credentialing system
- Support of the Administration
SUMMARY

• Raise level of awareness of implant therapy, from Faculty down to students. “Changing paradigm of implants as a treatment of choice, rather than a treatment of no other choice”

• Oversight/coordination of multidisciplinary program. “sandbox referee”

• Equitable division of cases. “Everyone gets a piece of the pie”

• Multidisciplinary taught courses. “Emphasize teamwork”
“Thank You”