

## ABSTRACT: 2017 ELAM Institutional Action Project Symposium

**Project Title:** An Interprofessional Interface to Improve Oral Health among Children with Neurological Disorders

**Name and Institution:** Roberta Pileggi, University of Florida College of Dentistry (UFCD)

**Collaborators and Mentors:** UF Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Santa Fe Community College. Dr. A. Isabel Garcia, Dr. Leda Mugayar and Dr. Cesar Migliorati.

### Background, Significance of project:

Oral health is an indispensable element of overall health. Despite many efforts across the U.S., recent reports document persistent oral health disparities between children and teenagers with neurological disorders and their healthy counterparts. These patients require diligent prevention due to gastroesophageal problems; motor skill deficiencies and changes in their salivary pH, often lead to higher prevalence of dental caries, abscesses and infections. Currently, hundreds of patients with neurological disorders are seen across UFCD care centers; they often present with rampant decay or dental trauma, requiring root canal therapy. Our college is one of very few Medicaid providers of root canal therapy in Florida. Thus if we cannot accommodate these patients, they will go without care and risk developing serious systemic problems. Currently we lack a comprehensive, coordinated approach for management of these patients. Further, lack of operating room time for high-risk patients and limited options for care under intravenous sedation for lower risk patients (ASA I and II), means that we cannot adequately keep up with their dental needs.

**Purpose/Objectives:** This project seeks address the dental needs of children and adolescents with diverse neurological problems within an interprofessional framework that brings together the expertise needed to address their clinical needs comprehensively – from didactic to clinic. The objective is to design and implement a clinical program with a team of health professionals to manage the oral health needs of these patients with coordinated treatment planning and care.

**Methods/Approach:** UFCD has many ongoing relationships and collaborations across the UF Health Science Center that support this project. Dental specialists within the UF School of Advanced Dental Sciences will come together with a team of pediatric medical anesthesiologists, residents from nursing school, dental hygienists and nutritionists. Working across these disciplines will ensure that both medical concerns and broader determinants of health such as education and nutrition are addressed. The concept has been approved by the top administrators of our college, a campaign for philanthropy has been launched, and meetings with the professionals of other health science centers and the team of providers are being scheduled.



### Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy:

Our outcomes and evaluation methods will be based on: Quality Assessment survey distributed to the parents/care givers; chair utilization, case completion, and analysis of procedures from the electronic health record (aXium); exit surveys of dental residents which will include questions related to their perception of their interprofessional education.

**Conclusion with Statement of impact/potential impact:** The potential is to improve the health of these patients that were unable to receive care, as well as to enhance interprofessional education among the colleges of the UF Health Science Center.

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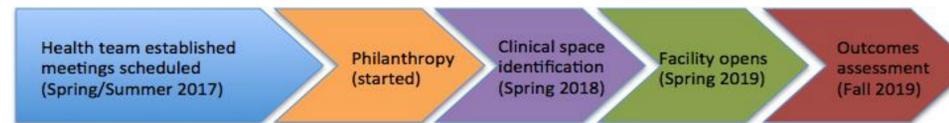
Collaborators: Dr. Leda Mugayar and Dr. Cesar Migliorati, UF Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Santa Fe College

**BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE**

- Oral health is an indispensable element of overall health
- Despite many efforts across the U.S persistent oral health disparities between children and teenagers with neurological disorders due to overall health condition:
  - motor skills deficiencies
  - low salivary pH
  - gastroesophageal problems
- Clinical findings: rampant decay or dental trauma, requiring extensive dental care
- Deficiency of care:
  - Leads to risk of abscess, serious infections and systemic problems
- Our college is one of very few Medicaid providers of root canal therapy in Florida
- Currently, there is a lack of:
  - Timely, comprehensive, coordinated approach to care
  - Dedicated facility for better management of these patients under intravenous sedation

**METHODS/APPROACH**

- Engaged and created cohesiveness across the Health Science Center  
Addressing overall health, nutrition, and prevention
- Leveraged the availability of nine dental specialties and dental hygiene program
- Obtained approval by top administrators
- Launched philanthropy approach
- Initiated meetings with team providers



**CONCLUSION**

- Interprofessional framework is well-suited and feasible to achieve the program's purpose
- Both interest and ready engagement among all the collaborators
- Strong philanthropic support is anticipated

**IMPACT**

- Create an integrated approach for management of special needs population
- Improve the health of special needs patients previously unable to receive care
- Enhance IPE among the colleges of the UF Health Science Center
- Maintain financial sustainability: Increase in patient referrals

**PURPOSE**

- To address the dental needs of children and adolescents with diverse neurological problems within an interprofessional framework, and
- To design and implement a new clinical program with a team of health professionals that would manage the patient's overall health under IV sedation

**OUTCOMES & EVALUATION STRATEGY**

- Quality Assessment survey distributed to the parents/caregivers
- Assess chair utilization, case completion, and analysis of procedures from the electronic health record (aXium)
- Analyze residents' exit surveys: perception of their interprofessional education
- Determine financial sustainability (UF Foundation and Medicaid)

**FUTURE IMPACT**

- New educational map - Contemporary curriculum
- IPE education and research collaboration
- Expansion to other "special needs patients"

*"Presented at the 2017 ELAM® Leaders Forum"*