April 2014 Newsletter

Shenandoah University Empowers Future Providers through Interprofessional Learning

Coordinated, team-based health care can enhance the capacity of health professionals and lead to homogenous, comprehensive health care for the patient, especially those living in medically underserved areas. Shenandoah University (SU) in Winchester is incorporating team-based care into their clinical curriculum by providing interprofessional (IP) learning events for a diverse mix of student disciplines, with encouraging results.

At the learning events, students from nursing, mental health, dentistry, pharmacy and other fields work together as a care team to assess and evaluate a patient actor presenting with multiple chronic conditions. Because SU does not offer dental education programs, the Virginia Oral Health Coalition connected SU with the dental hygiene program at nearby Lord Fairfax Community College to ensure that oral health was represented on the care team at the event. The student participants reported they are better able to see how other professionals interact with patients and share knowledge among providers. One hygiene student commented, "Our care setting is a lot different, but I was still able to relate to things such as the importance of a thorough patient assessment."

If you are interested in learning how to provide an IP learning event or networking opportunity, contact Katherine Libby at 804.269.8723 or klibby@vaoralhealth.org.
Dr. Bhavik Desai

Sponsor/exhibit opportunities still available. Contact Esther Wong Hershman for details.

Back to top

Dine Out with VaOHC on Monday, June 2!

Add this event to your calendar

Join VaOHC staff at Toast restaurant in Richmond on Monday, June 2! A portion of all food sales (including carry out!) from 11am to 11pm will be donated to VaOHC.

Make your mouth happy!

Toast
7007 Three Chopt Rd
Richmond, VA 23226
Visit Toast’s website

Back to top

Please take a moment to support the Coalition’s work.

Donate

Read about the Coalition’s accomplishments

Please check with your HR department to find out if your gift can be matched.

Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health
Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health is connected to overall health and well-being.

- Mother’s Saliva Predicts Early Childhood Caries
- Periodontal Disease and Cardiovascular Disease Risk

Study: Dental-related Emergency Department Visits Cost Nearly $1B a Year

A recent study has found that patients are resorting to the emergency department in record numbers to treat dental issues, at a huge cost to the health care system. The study recommends better referral relationships between hospitals and safety net dental providers as well as an increase in funding for routine preventive care.

Read a summary article Dr. Bicuspid

All Veterans Now Eligible for VA Dental Coverage
The Federal Government has authorized a national dental insurance program for veterans who are enrolled in Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and individuals enrolled in the VA's CHAMPVA program. Individuals must enroll through the VA but can receive care through any dentist who is signed up for the program.

View more information at [http://deltadentalvadip.org](http://deltadentalvadip.org).

**Upcoming Events**

- **May 9 & 10**: Dental Access Days (DAD), Chesapeake, VA. Volunteers needed! [View volunteer info](#).
- **June 4 & 5**: 2014 Virginia Health Care Conference and Health Innovation Showcase, Richmond, VA. [View event info](#) and [nominate a Game-Changer in Employee Health](#).
- **June 7**: Special Olympics MOM, Richmond, VA. [View volunteer info](#).

Please visit our website for more oral health information [www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org).

[Subscribe Me](#)