



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

## In This Issue

[VIOHA Wants Your Feedback](#)

[Medicaid's Youngest Face Dental Crisis](#)

[Oral Health and Your Heart](#)

[Oral Cancers Costliest in US](#)

[Coalition Board Member Honored](#)

[Of Interest](#)

## VIOHA Wants Your Feedback



On April 20, over 100 representatives from medical and dental provider groups, insurance, health IT and academics gathered as part of the its newly formed [Virginia Interprofessional Oral Health Alliance](#) (VIOHA) to share expertise and begin to draft a plan to increase access to preventative oral health services through collaboration among medical and dental providers. The plan's focus will

# April-May 2012 Bulletin

## Oral Health and Your Heart



The American Heart Association (AHA) recently released a [review](#) of current literature which validated an association between periodontal disease and atherosclerotic vascular disease (ASVD). While the article did not find evidence of a causal relationship, the acknowledgement of an association between oral health and heart disease is a major step toward understanding this important public health issue.

As the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) [notes](#), even though the AHA review did not prove a causal relationship, it does highlight significant gaps in our understanding of the interaction of oral health and ASVD. Though some research exists, such as a recent Taiwanese [study](#) that found a relationship between tooth scaling and a reduction in heart attacks and strokes, the association between periodontal and cardiovascular diseases needs further study. AADR president Rena D'Souza concurs, adding, "Further research on the association of oral health and cardiovascular disease is critical."

The AHA review is timely, given the Coalition's growing medical and dental collaboration efforts and our newly formed [Virginia Interprofessional Oral Health Alliance](#) (VIOHA). While no one knows for sure if visiting a dentist can directly prevent a future heart attack, it is known that high levels of oral bacteria can lead to blood clots, blood vessel thickening and inflammation, all of which may adversely affect the heart and are associated with other health problems such as diabetes and stroke.

For more information on oral health and your heart, visit our webpage on [heart disease and stroke](#). To learn more about the VIOHA, [click here](#).

[Back to top](#)

## Oral Cancers Costliest to Treat in U.S.

A recent [study](#) has found that head and neck cancers, including oral cavity, oral pharyngeal and salivary gland cancers, may be the most

include objectives related to practice environment, provider training and education, with the ultimate goal of better health outcomes for all Virginians through improved oral health.

In June, the Coalition will hold two **stakeholder feedback webinars** to share a draft of the goals and recommendations for interprofessional collaboration and ask for your feedback.

**To register for a feedback webinar, [click here.](#)**

To learn more about VIOHA, [click here.](#)

[Back to top](#)

## ABCNews: Medicaid's Youngest Face Dental Crisis (Video)



ABCNews recently featured a "Hidden America" piece about the under-utilization of dental care among Medicaid-eligible children in the U.S.

To view the article and video, [click here.](#)

[Back to top](#)

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costly to treat in the U.S. The study, published in the April edition of *Head and Neck Oncology*, found that the cost of care was highest for those with commercial insurance and those receiving all three types of treatment (surgery, radiation and chemotherapy). Considering that oral cancers have a high morbidity rate, are expensive to treat and many survivors do not return to work, the results of the study support early identification techniques to reduce mortality and healthcare costs.

[Read the entire article from Dr. Bicuspid](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Coalition Board Member Honored



Coalition Board member and CHIP of Roanoke Valley CEO, **Robin Haldiman**, was recently named Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow by the Salem Rotary "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world."

Congratulations, Robin! We are proud to have such a strong, dedicated Board of Directors.

[Back to top](#)

## 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 affects other conditions in the body, including:

- [Hip/knee joint failures and oral bacteria](#)
- [Hospitalization and oral health](#)
- [Heart disease and gum disease](#) (Taiwanese study)



### Teledentistry Helps to Improve Outcomes for ECC



Several recent studies have shown an improvement in treatment for early childhood caries (ECC) (or cavities) through teledentistry programs. Read more about these studies by following the links below.

- [Teledentistry Program Helped Increase Kids' Dental Treatment Rates](#)
- [Home Visits and Telephone Contacts Reduced ECC in a Low Socio-economic Area](#)

### Gum Disease Treatment Lowers Medical Costs, Study Says



A recent study shows that diabetics who receive treatment and ongoing care for periodontal disease experience significantly lower medical costs. In addition, these patients had 33% fewer hospitalizations and 13% less physician visits when their gum disease was treated and managed.



[Read the entire article from Industry Reports](#)

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### **Nationwide Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages**

A new study predicts that a nationwide tax on sugar-sweetened beverages would prevent thousands of heart attacks, strokes and cases of diabetes.



[Read the entire article from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

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### **CDC National Fluoridation Statistics (2010) - Now Available**



The CDC has released the latest national statistics regarding water fluoridation with data from 2010. Virginia currently ranks #6 in the U.S. with **95.6%** of our citizens receiving fluoridated water.

[View the CDC statistics](#)

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[Back to top](#)

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

