Focal Point
Advanced Dental Therapy
Metropolitan State University, College of Health, Community and Professional Studies

St. Paul Dental Connect

On August 7, 2013, volunteers consisting of Metropolitan State University’s Master of Science in Advanced Dental Therapy (MSADT) students, dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants provided team-based oral health care services to over 100 dental patients through St. Paul Dental Connect. This event was hosted by the St. Paul Union Gospel Mission under the leadership of Dental Director, Jessica Floterrud, DA, RDH and provided homeless adults, adolescents, and children with free dental services consisting of preventive and therapeutic treatment on a walk-in basis. Community partners for this event included Apple Tree Dental, Children’s Dental Services, and St. Paul District Dental Society.

Team-based dental services included dental examinations, radiographs, restorative care, extractions, dental prophylaxis, and oral hygiene education. The Advanced Dental Therapy students provided assessments and triage services for the clients. Working in conjunction with faculty member, Dr. Jayne Cernohous, the MSADT students addressed patients’ urgent oral health care concerns by collecting, assessing and evaluating pertinent data related to their dental needs and informing patients of the findings.

When Jessica Floterrud was asked to give her reaction to the St. Paul Dental Connect event, she remarked, “I am excited to report that this initial event was a success! With little cost going into advertising, we were able to reach over 100 patients. Due to the success we experienced, we do plan on holding another event possibly in the winter.” Jessica also leads the dental services provided by Ramsey County’s Project Homeless Connect. Metropolitan State University’s Advanced Dental Therapy students and faculty plan to participate in future events which provide valuable oral services to underserved clients in the community.

Did You Know?

- Two more MSADT alumni successfully certified as advanced dental therapists, bringing the total number to three. Minnesota Board of Dentistry’s advanced dental therapy certification is a rigorous three part process.
- Join us at Lake Nokomis for Oral Cancer Awareness walk on Saturday, October 26: www.tcoralcanerwalk.com
- The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) is accepting written comments regarding their draft dental therapy accreditation standards through December 1st, 2013. If you are interested in providing CODA with comment and would like assistance please contact MSADT Program Director, Dr. Suzanne Beatty, at Suzanne.beatty@metrostate.edu

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Dental Hygiene

The profession of dental hygiene celebrated its 100th anniversary in June during the American Dental Hygienists’ Association’s 90th Annual Session meeting. This event is the nation’s largest meeting dedicated to dental hygiene and was held in Boston. Dental hygienists from across the United States and fifteen other countries participated in the event.

Among the Annual Session’s most highlighted and well-attended continuing education courses was the presentation and panel discussion, Minnesota Breaks Ground: A Dental Hygiene Career Ladder is Born. This course represented Metropolitan State University’s Advanced Dental Therapy (ADT) graduate program which is designed to provide a transformative approach to oral health care by educating dental hygienists for the new role of advanced dental therapists. The panel was composed of four Dental Hygiene Department ADT program alumni – Colleen Brickle, EdD, RDH, from partnering institution Normandale Community College, presented the legislative background and collaborative institutional partnership that produced Minnesota’s new dual-licensed workforce member. An informational video featuring MSADT alumni employer interviews was also featured. The audience was highly engaged and receptive. Many attendees represented states moving toward legislation similar to Minnesota’s dental therapy workforce models.

Drs. Jayne Cernohous and Suzanne Beatty, resident MSADT faculty members, presented a poster session entitled Interprofessional Collaboration: Assessing and Caring for the Oral Health Needs of the Homeless. Also presenting a poster was dual licensed MSADT cohort two alumni, Jennifer Berge from Rochester, Minnesota. Her poster session was entitled The Dental and Mental Health Connection: Integrating New Dental Workforce Strategies in Minnesota. Jennifer’s poster represented work from her master’s capstone project researching the interconnection of oral and mental health issues in advanced dental therapy practice.

Also of note during the Annual Session was the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) open hearing to draft dental therapy standards. MSADT alumni, current cohort 3 students, program faculty, and partnering liaison, Colleen Brickle, gave testimony at this hearing. Numerous other stakeholders in support of a dental hygiene-based new workforce model also provided testimony to the Commission.

Louann Goodnough, BSDH, RDH, Metropolitan State University’s Advanced Dental Therapy Clinic Coordinator and ADHA treasurer, stated “although this was a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the dental hygiene profession, the MSADT program was very much a topic of conversation during the week. The program’s presence was evident during the panel presentation, the poster sessions, and the CODA hearing. To top off the celebration of the first 100 years of dental hygiene, the program can proudly claim the first dental hygiene based, certified advanced dental therapist in the country. That is something to be very proud of!”