About A New Integrated Oral Health and Primary Care Education in the Dental Student Clinic
Sang E. Park, D.D.S., Associate Dean for Dental Education, HSDM

Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) implemented a new program that brings primary care medical education into the predoctoral dental curriculum in September 2015. The new primary care clinic rotation called the Foundational Continuity Clinic (FCC) as part of the Practice of Medicine course for the first-year dental students and Leadership in Oral Health and Primary Care (LOHPC) for the fourth-year dental students began in HSDM's Student Teaching Practice clinic. An article about the program was recently published in the Winter 2016 Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society. See "A New Integrated Oral Health and Primary Care Education Program in the Dental Student Clinic" by Sang Park, MMSc01, PDO1, Fidencio Saldana, MD01, MPH05, and Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73. The aims of this article are to include the perspectives of other dental school Deans on the need for primary care medicine in dental education and describe the development and implementation process of a new integrated oral health and primary care education model in the dental student clinic for change in our approach to patient care.

The HSDM Office for Dental Education conducted a survey of sixty-five accredited dental school Deans in the U.S. to gauge whether the incorporation of primary care into dental education was perceived as important to, as well as appropriate for, dental curricula in other schools.

A majority of dental schools already had interprofessional collaborative practices at their schools, with collaborations with physicians and nurse practitioners being most common. Ninety-six percent of responders were supportive of integrating oral health and primary care to improve patient care and regarded primary care training for dental students as a potential method of improving patient care in dental education.

Points of interest included comments in favor of the inclusion of primary care in student dental clinics, including one opinion that "medical students should be better trained in dental diagnosis". One commenter expressed wariness that "we seem to be training our colleagues much better than they are training our..."
students", one mentioned a wellness clinic being established in the dental school for risk assessment and overall health screening, and one clarified that their Neutral or Disagreeing responses reflected current conditions, but could be more on the Strongly or Somewhat Agree side if more primary care collaboration programs existed.

The future direction for this program involves further developing the oral health and primary care topics throughout the curriculum and an increase in the collaborative learning experience. Expanding the integrated teaching clinic to include social workers, nurses, and other health professionals are in the works. This project could have a significant effect on overall patient care outcomes and appropriate assessment measures will be incorporated as a follow up study. A dental professional who is aware of the link between oral and systemic health and mindful of the societal and biological consequences of poor oral health can provide a higher level of care to patients.

An integrated oral health and primary care education program is an important initiative to further develop educational collaboration between health professions, and incorporate curricular content on the interaction of oral and systemic conditions. Programs that integrate primary care medicine into the dental curricula will most likely expand as the dental educators more widely accept a need to link the oral health and overall health in dental education.

The Academy at Harvard Medical School
SAVE THE DATE AND REQUEST FOR ABSTRACTS

HMS Medical Education Day 2016
Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Photo Credit: Steve Lipofsky
12:00 -6:00 pm

The Academy at Harvard Medical School and the Program in Medical Education are sponsoring the annual Harvard Medical Education Day on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 in the Tosteson Medical Education Center, 11am-6:00pm with lunch and registration from 11AM-noon and programming beginning at noon. All HMS faculty are invited to attend and are eligible to participate. The day will feature poster and technology presentations of both completed projects and works-in-progress related to the education of medical students, house staff, or faculty in the areas of curriculum development, assessment, faculty development, education research, or use of technology to enhance education. The afternoon will also feature workshops/seminars, a plenary session and a keynote address.

Abstracts for poster presentations and computer demonstrations are due on Monday, August 29, 2016 by 5pm.

For more information regarding the abstract submission process please click here.

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**Who's Who in the Harvard Medical School Academy**

**Lena E. Dohlman, MD, MPH** is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Her areas of interest are regional anesthesia, education and global health.

Dr. Dohlman completed anesthesia residency at Beth Israel Hospital (BIDMC), after two years of surgical residency at the same hospital. She joined the BIH staff as Instructor in Anesthesia, HMS, in 1981 where she remained on staff until 1999 when she joined the MGH. During her time at BIH she held appointments as Director of Ambulatory Surgery, Associate Director of the Pain Clinic, and Co-Director of Regional Anesthesia. She was Coordinator of the Ambulatory Anesthesia, Healthcare Policy and Finance, and Regional Anesthesia Teaching Blocks as well as Director of the Regional Anesthesia Fair for several years. On staff at the MGH, Dr Dohlman has served as Co-Cordinator of the Ultrasound Regional Anesthesia Fair, Director of Continuing Education for the Department of Anesthesia, Cambridge Health Alliance and Director of the CA-1 Simulator Course for the anesthesia residents.

Dr. Dohlman has been actively and continuously involved in education, both locally, and internationally. She has taught in several HMS courses including Clinical Anesthesia, Course 501M.1, Tutor in Medical Sciences, Introduction to the Profession, and Classroom to Clerkship. She has served as a Faculty Examiner for the 2nd and 4th year OSCE at HMS since 2003. Dr Dohlman has also served as a mentor to international students at the Harvard School of Public Health as part of the Alumni Mentoring Program and to anesthesia residents interested in regional anesthesia, education and global health.

After graduating from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1993, Dr. Dohlman became increasingly interested in International Health Care and Public Health Issues. She has since held several leadership and committee positions related to global health, including Chair of Anesthesia Overseas for Health Volunteers Overseas, a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C., and Chair of the Global Outreach Committee for the Society for Education in Anesthesia. Dr Dohlman founded the SEA HVO Traveling Fellowship in 2001, a nationally competitive, privately funded, one-month elective for 8-9 senior anesthesia residents to spend a month teaching anesthesia in a low resource country. She is also Co-Founder of the Harvard Global Anesthesia Initiative, a group dedicated to preparing anesthesia residents in the Harvard system to be better global health leaders.
Dr. Dohlman has lectured on global health locally and nationally at society meetings and has lectured internationally on anesthesia topics in Indonesia, Vietnam, Malawi and South Africa. She has trained as an instructor in Primary Trauma Care (PTC), a course similar to ATLS but geared towards developing countries. Working with an international team of instructors, she organized the first PTC courses in Vietnam. She arranged for translation of the manual and teaching slides to Vietnamese and the donation of teaching materials. She is currently working on further improving anesthesia education in Vietnam through workshops and consultation with education leaders.

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Carol K. Bates, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School

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May 06, 2016

Barbara Cockrill, MD
Harold Amos Academy Associate Professor, Director of Faculty Development, The Academy at Harvard Medical School

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