

# The Next Crisis: Elder Oral Health Care

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# The N✕t Crisis: Elder Oral Health Care

## The NOW Crisis

## Some ADA history

- 2004 – Elder Care Task Force formed  
“explore the challenges in rendering comprehensive dental care to our aging populations...”
- 2006 – Elder Care Task Force Report:  
“shoring up the oral health care system and profession’s readiness for meeting the oral health needs of vulnerable elders”

# Resolution 5H-2006

## ADA House of Delegates 2006

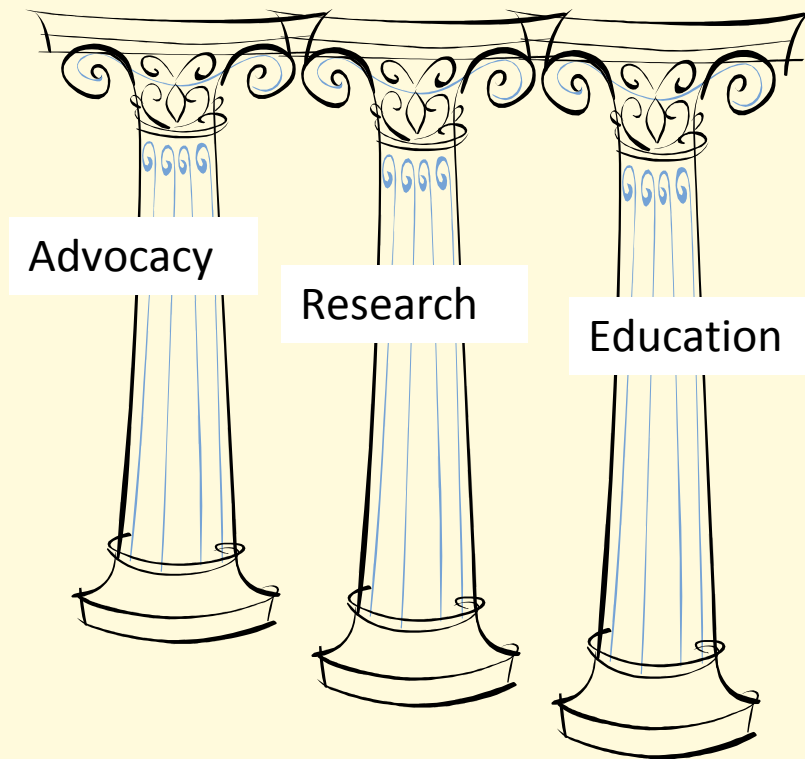
- multifaceted resolution (Resolution 5H)
- targeted at vulnerable elderly issues
- UNANIMOUS acceptance

# Vulnerable Elderly: a definition

- Vulnerable elderly patients are patients over age 65 who have any or all of the following:
  - limited mobility,
  - limited resources, or
  - complex health status

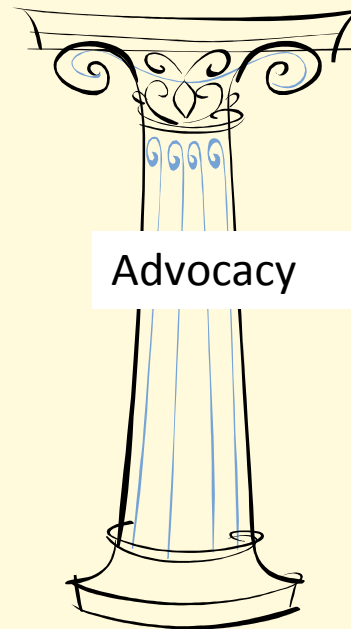
# Resolution 5H-2006 (Vulnerable Elderly Resolution)

## 5H-2006



## Advocacy Goal - Vulnerable Elderly Resolution (5H)

- Persuade legislators and regulators at all levels of government to make vulnerable elders' oral health a priority through increased funded legislation for:
  - Care
  - Education
  - Research



# Advocacy Strategy # 1

- Legislative initiatives to improve the oral health of vulnerable elders in collaboration with stakeholders in the aging network...

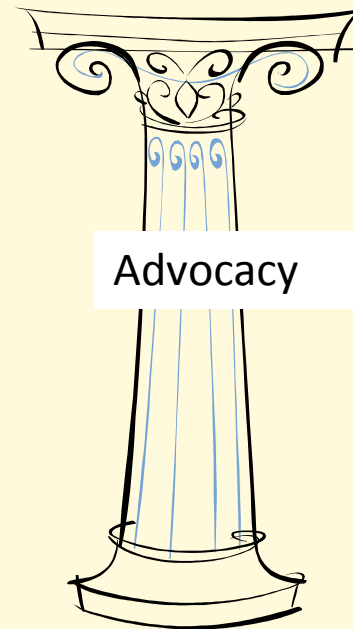


# Advocacy Strategy # 1 - Action

- Legislative initiatives to improve the oral health of vulnerable elders in collaboration with stakeholders in the aging network...
- *Special Care Dentistry Act*
  - *Mandates age, blind and disabled as covered populations under Medicaid*
  - *111<sup>th</sup> Congress*

# Advocacy Strategy # 2

- Educate key senators and representatives on critical need for advanced education programs in geriatric dentistry

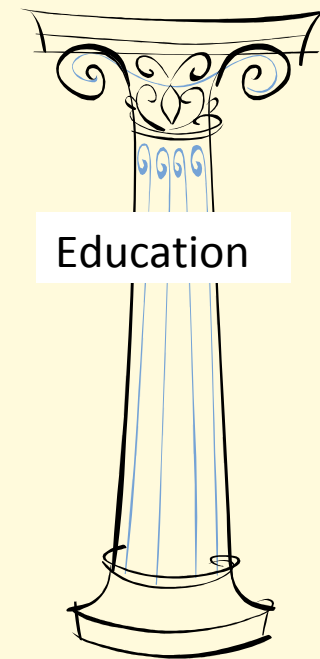


## Advocacy Strategy # 2 - Action

- Educate key senators and representatives on critical need for advanced education programs in geriatric dentistry
- *Advocate for dental programs in Title VII of the Public Health Service Act that provide training to enhance the oral health care of older adults and adults with disabilities..*
- Included in Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (health care reform bill)

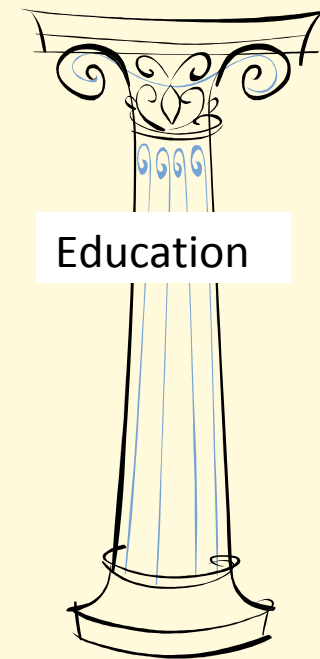
## Education Goals - Vulnerable Elderly Resolution (5H)

- Education of health care workers to support elders' oral health care
- Education of public and policymakers to enhance elders' oral health



# Education Strategy # 1

- Develop educational strategies: address geriatric dentistry training opportunities



# Education Strategy # 1: Accreditation

- Develop educational strategies: address geriatric dentistry training opportunities
- Work with Commission on Dental Accreditation
- Vulnerable elderly language added to Special Needs patient definition
- Provided language for accreditation guidelines for predoctoral and specialty training
- Clinical experience as well as didactic

# Education Strategy # 1 – Modified definition

- “Patients with special needs: Those patients whose medical, physical, psychological, *cognitive* or social situations make it necessary to modify normal dental routines in order to provide dental treatment for that individual. These individuals include, but are not limited to, people with developmental disabilities, *cognitive impairment*, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, *and older adults*.”

*Recommendations accepted July 2009 by  
Predoctoral Dental Education Review Committee and Commission  
In open hearing period until May 1, 2010*

## Education Strategy # 2

- Develop educational materials to increase oral health and Quality of Life awareness in elders and families



Educational DVD/Brochure(English/Spanish)  
distributed to **156,000+** ADA members with *JADA*  
& at 2007 Annual Session



# Education Strategy # 2: Media Campaign

- *AARP The Magazine*: OralLongevity ad in Sept-Oct 2008 issue
- **Circulation of 8+ million** Seniors, plus pass-along
- Online ad campaign Aug-Oct at **AARP.com**
- Health Channel, Games Channels, Webletters and “Webvertorial”
- **4+ million impressions**



## Education Strategy # 2 : OralLongevity™ Distribution

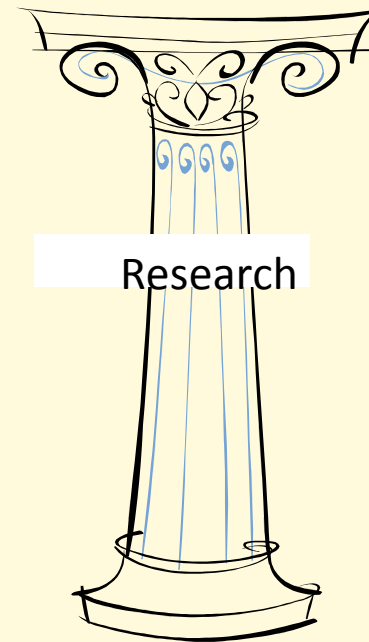
- Distribution to Dental Schools launched summer '09
- Arabic translation launched in Lebanon
- Other audiences
  - American Geriatrics Society (non-dental HCW)
  - Hispanic Dental Association (Spanish)

Go to: [www.orallongevity.ada.org](http://www.orallongevity.ada.org)

for downloadable educational materials and  
resources

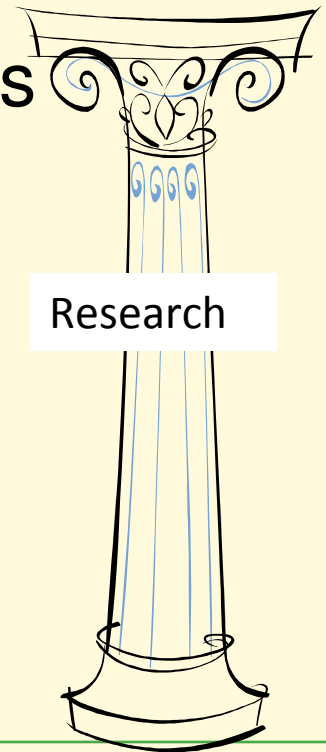
## Research Goal - Vulnerable Elderly Resolution (5H)

- Build and transfer the knowledge base needed to improve the oral health of vulnerable elders by generating, funding and supporting studies



# 5H Research Goals: a specific initiative

- Oral Health Care of Vulnerable Elderly Patients survey
  - Published February 2009
  - 1,582 dentists in U.S. practice settings
  - Available on [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)



## Oral Health Care of Vulnerable Elderly survey (Highlights)

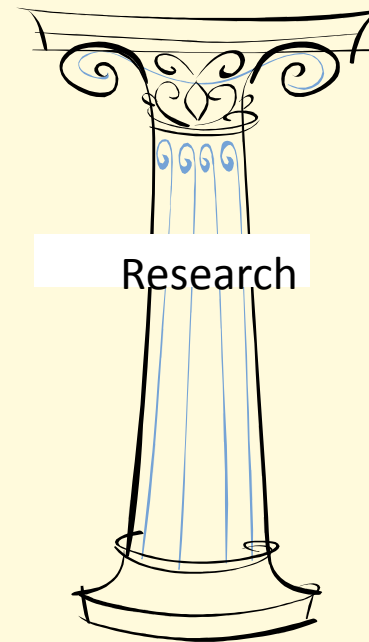
- 92.6% dentists in private practice provided oral health care to vulnerable elderly patients in 2007.
- 33.5% indicated that vulnerable elderly patients had a problem obtaining dental care in their community.
- 38.6% of established dentists and 25.3% of new dentists were 'very comfortable' treating vulnerable elderly patients.

## Oral Health Care of Vulnerable Elderly survey (Highlights)

- For those dentists not providing dental services to vulnerable elders, the main reason was because “they preferred not to”
- Over half of VE patients (56.6%) were not covered by insurance
- Dentists felt the biggest barrier to VE patients receiving dental care was “inability to pay for services”

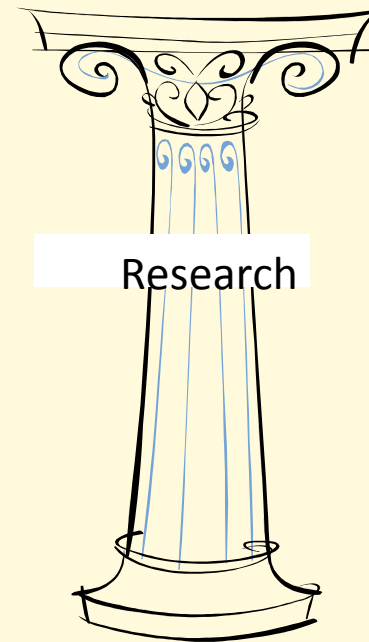
# Research strategy

- Design mechanisms to ensure consistent and comprehensive data generation on the oral health of vulnerable elderly populations through regular gap analyses of existing research.



# Research strategy: Research reviews

- Review of current published data:
  - Caries/Prevention
  - Elder Abuse/Neglect
  - Oral Hygiene in LTC
  - Aspiration Pneumonia
  - Oral-Systemic
  - Access
  - Salivary Dysfunction





# Research strategy: Current topics

1. Xerostomia and salivary gland dysfunction:  
Implications for elders' oral health
2. Prevention of root caries in vulnerable elders: Multimodal approaches
3. Treatment of root caries
4. Access to dental care for vulnerable elderly:  
Problems and solutions

# National Elder Care Advisory Committee

- Standing Committee to CAPIR
- Met April 8-9, 2010
- Composition
  - Dentists with geriatric/special needs focus
  - Long-term care industry
  - Geriatrician
  - Others

# National Elder Care Advisory Committee Goals

- Equip dentists with the funding, education and delivery systems necessary to meet the needs of the elderly
- Enable elders and/or their caregivers to be good stewards and advocates for their own health, including managing disease
- Improve elder oral health outcomes by building national coalitions and promoting legislative and regulatory reform
- Build and transfer the knowledge base needed to improve the oral health of elders

# Oral Health of Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

- **National Coalition Consensus Conference**
- **November 2010**
- **Washington DC**

# Oral Health of Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

- Goal: “To establish a broad and sustainable coalition of stakeholders committed to improving oral health of older adults and persons with disabilities.”

# National Venues: Educational Opportunities

- Dental meetings
- Long-term Care, e.g. Am. Health Care Ass'n
- National Rural Health Ass'n
- American Geriatrics Society

# American Dental Association

- Aware
- Engaged
- Committed