

NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE  
APRIL 23, 2013

*IMPACT OF AGING:  
ORAL HEALTH*

---

Lillian M. Mitchell, DDS, FACP  
Director, Geriatric Dentistry  
UAB School of Dentistry  
Birmingham, Alabama

# OBJECTIVES

- Aging; demographics
- Why Geriatrics is important in curricula
- Fair Haven Oral Health Center
- Interprofessional Education



# THE IMPACT OF AGING

## *THE "SILVER TSUNAMI"*

- America needs 15,000 to 30,000 geriatricians to properly care for the **current** population of older adults

Only 8000 are working in the US now

By 2020 the country will require

**45,000 skilled geriatricians**

---

## TRENDS IN POPULATION:

- People are living longer
- Most older adults are community dwelling
- Between 2000 and 2050:
  - 65+ pop. grows from 12.43% to 20.65%
  - 85+ pop. grows from 1.51% to 4.9%

***One quarter of the population will be  
over the age of 65 by 2050!***

***(37 years from now)***



King and Queen of the Prom 2012

# DID YOU KNOW?

- By the year **2025**
- There **will be more older adults than** there are **children** under the age of 14
- **BUT CURRENTLY**  
**70%** of the elderly population  
(or 23.2 million older than 65 years)

**Live in the community**

and visit the dental office  
independently



Sweetheart Dance 2013

# ORAL HEALTH <> GENERAL HEALTH

Connected-cannot be separated





## COMMON FINDINGS IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE/DENTISTRY

- High prevalence of chronic disease
  - Frequent use of medications
- Difficulty in getting complete history
- Difficult to obtain appropriate consults

# UNIQUE ISSUES CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS

- Multiple comorbidities
- Polypharmacy
- Varied presentation and prognosis of different conditions common to older adults



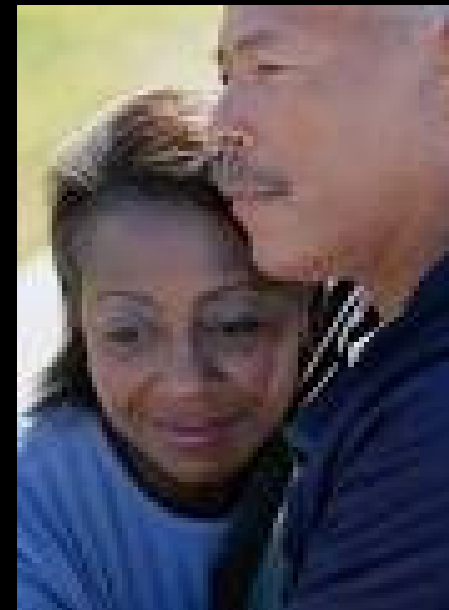




**"Each of them is named after one of my medications."**

# OLDER ADULTS ARE RETAINING THEIR TEETH LONGER

- Must evaluate the patient's oral health in context with
- Social, cultural, educational, economic, psychological, and dietary life experiences
- Quality of Life!

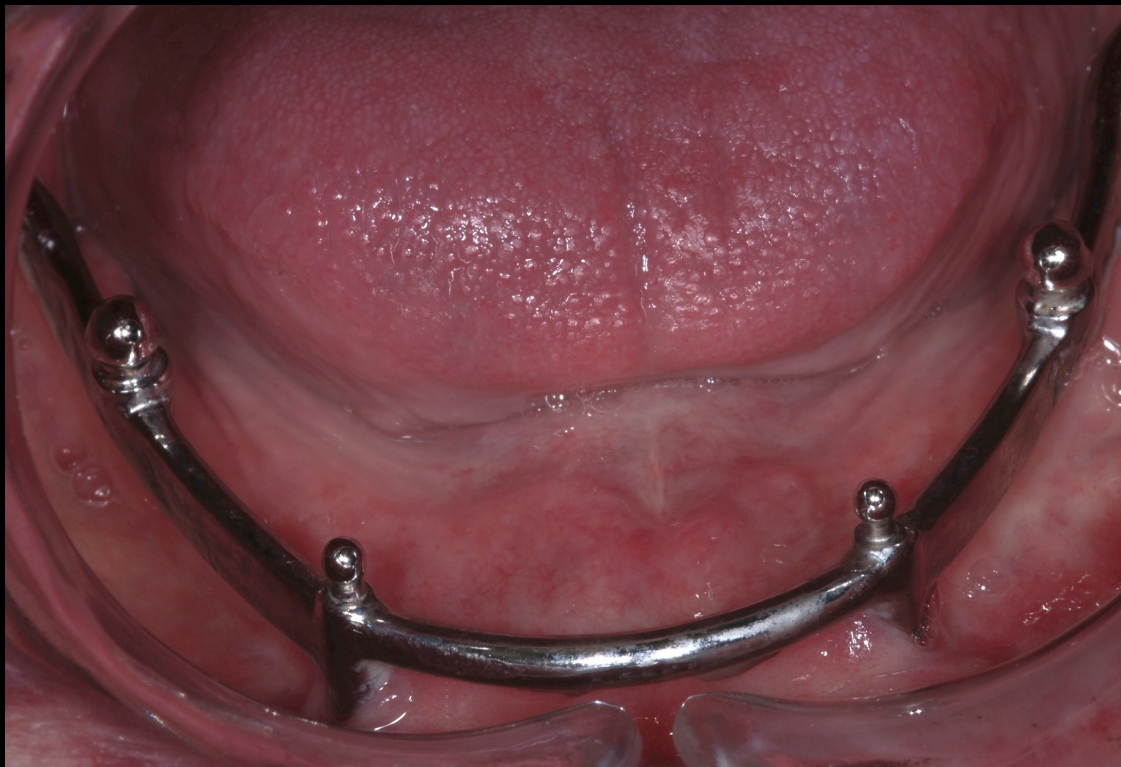


# WHY IS ORAL HEALTH IMPORTANT FOR THE OLDER ADULT?

- Affects the ability to consume and enjoy an adequate diet
- Can affect body weight
- Impacts nutritional and systemic health
- Links between Periodontal (gum) disease and Cardiac health; respiratory conditions; diabetes mellitus; stroke



# DENTAL CARE FOR THE COMPLEX OLDER ADULT IS NO LONGER “DENTURE CARE!”





Female 100 year old patient; gingival recession, abfraction lesions, few areas of deep pockets

# COMMON ORAL CONDITIONS IN THE ELDERLY

## “THE BIG THREE”



- Periodontal disease  
(gum disease)
  - Caries  
(tooth decay)
  - Xerostomia  
(dry mouth)
-

# INSTITUTIONALIZED ELDERLY

- At particular risk for poor oral health
- Nursing staff and others rated oral care as important, HOWEVER, *other activities were given priority over oral care*
- Oral care is not considered part of nursing care; omitted from care plans
- Frequently unclear as to responsibility

Vargas, Kramarow, Yellowitz, 2001      Wardh et al., 2000



## CODA ACCREDITATION STANDARD 2-19

- Graduates must be competent *in communicating and collaborating with other members of the health care team* to facilitate the provision of health care.
  - Intent:
  - Students *should understand the roles of members of the health care team and have educational experiences, particularly **clinical experiences**, that involve working with other healthcare professional students and practitioners.* Students should have educational experiences in which they coordinate patient care within the health care system relevant to dentistry.
-



# WHAT MAKES THE GERIATRIC ENVIRONMENT SO VALUABLE TO OUR TEACHING AND STUDENT LEARNING?

- Cultural diversity of patients, staff, other health professionals
- Health Literacy; communication challenges
- Opportunity for interprofessional learning and collaboration
- Clinical challenges – diagnostic, treatment planning, delivery of care



# UAB GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER FACULTY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Multiple disciplines campus wide
- Certificate program to train leaders in geriatric interprofessional education
- Relationship building
- Original Collaborators  
dentistry, medicine,  
occupational therapy



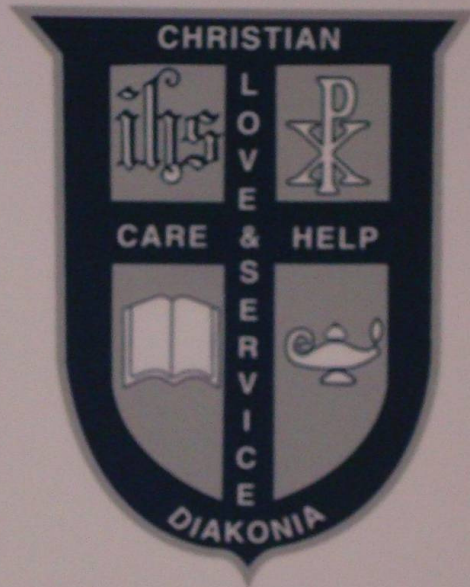


---

First day at Fair Haven! January 15, 2010

# Fair Haven

## Retirement Community



A Community Collaboration

**UAB** DENTISTRY

Largest Retirement community in the state  
Alabama-six levels of care

The ONLY retirement community in the  
state with a full-service dental clinic

UAB physicians are medical directors

D3 and D4 required rotation as part of  
community learning program

Two D3, two D4 each week

D1 students rotate as part of early clinical  
exposure

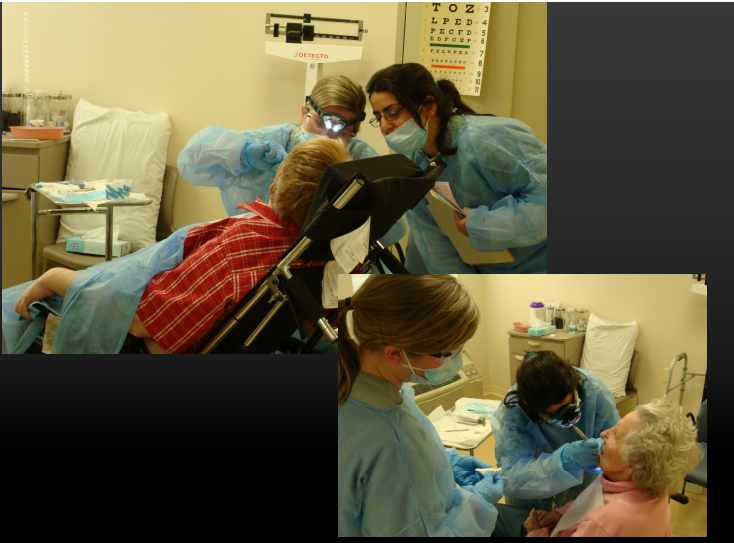
Medical interns rotate with dental students  
half day a week

# PILOT PROGRAM



- Oral Hygiene program at Fair Haven Retirement Center
- D2 students, existing medical clinic
- Inception of medical interns rotating with dental students
- First formal interprofessional program for UAB Dentistry January 2010

O  
L  
D  
M  
E  
D  
I  
C  
A  
L  
C  
L  
I  
N  
I  
C



# BUILDING THE ORAL HEALTH CENTER

SPRING, SUMMER, FALL 2011



- Grant support

Greater Birmingham  
Community Foundation

- Institutional support

Fair Haven

Retirement Center

- Gifts in Kind

Henry Schein Dental











# INTERPROFESSIONAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE (ICE)

- **Learning Objectives**

1 practice communicating

2 work effectively in IP  
team

3 appreciate differing  
perspectives

4 develop care plans

- **Program Goals**

Provide students in  
dentistry, medicine,  
nursing, nutrition,  
occupational therapy,  
optometry, & social work  
opportunity for IP clinical  
training

---

# ICE

## INTERPROFESSIONAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE TEAM TRAINING



# ICE

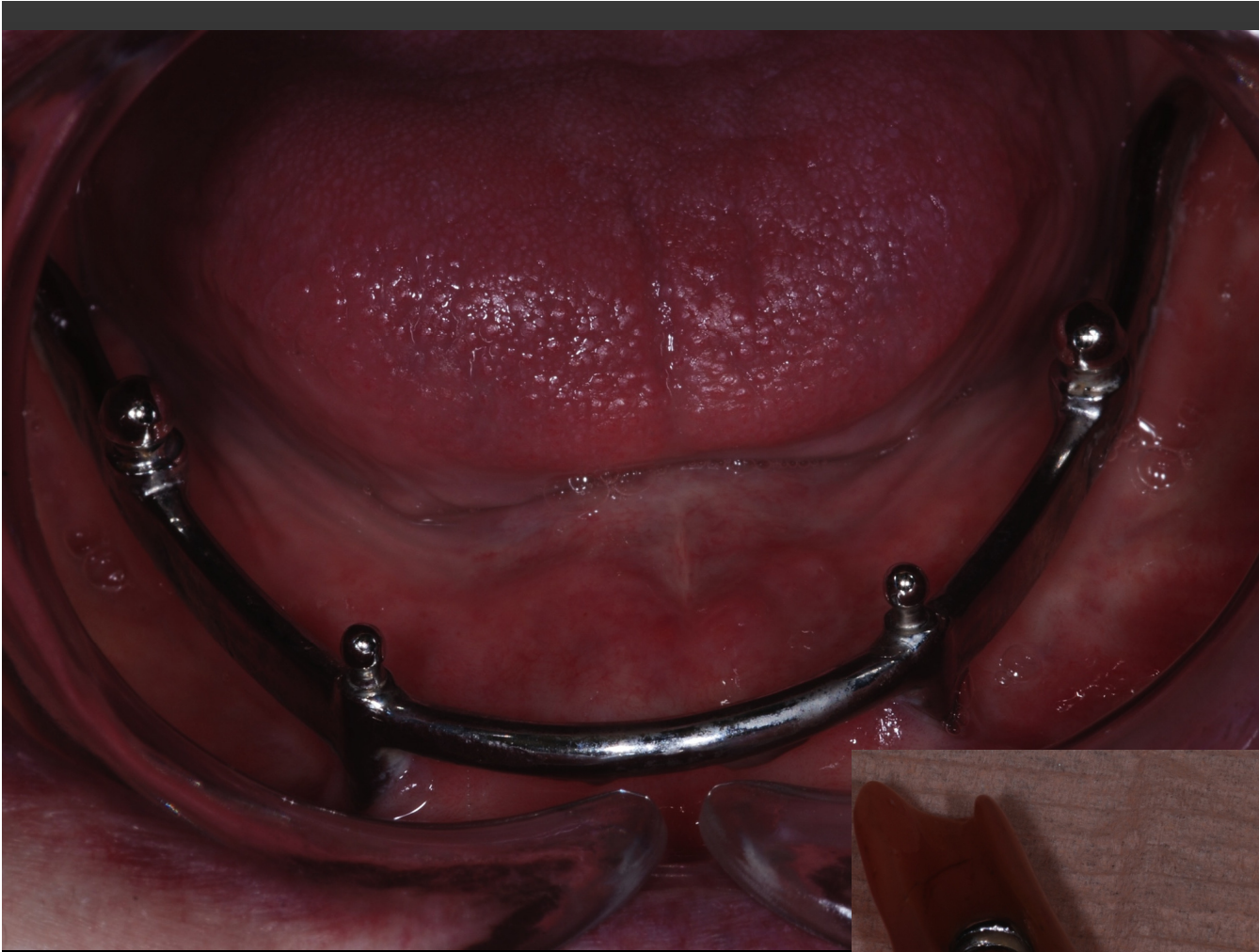
## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Patient chosen by preceptors
  - Each discipline interviews/examines
  - Asks specific questions that consider the patient's medical, emotional, social, environmental, and economic needs
  - Pre and Post testing for outcomes
-

# ICE

## INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM MEETING

- Once a week
  - Review/inform goals of interprofessional education
  - Review basics of each other's disciplines
  - Format follows Guiding Questions
  - Each discipline contributes content
  - Develop care plan for the patient
-









# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Meeting the needs
  - Training the staff; consistency of care
  - Responding to community requests for care
  - Zoning issues
  - Funding
  - Faculty
  - Future needs
  - Future plans
-



# THANK YOU

UAB



the university of alabama at birmingham

# QUESTIONS???

UAB

