



March 2009

2009 AAP Oral Health Preceptorship Award

In its efforts to encourage an understanding of the role pediatricians can play in providing oral health assessments for young children, the AAP Oral Health Initiative is offering training opportunities to AAP members. The program is sponsored by an American Dental Association Foundation grant and was initiated to provide pediatricians interested in implementing oral health assessments in their practice with mentorship support. The awards are designed to provide the recipient with individualized one-on-one training in performing oral health risk assessments, maternal/caretaker oral assessment interviews, and the application of fluoride varnishes by a pediatric dentist or pediatrician with oral health training. These awards will be given to sites serving underserved populations (eg border, inner city, migrant, Native American, rural). The program guidelines and application are available online at:

<http://www.aap.org/commpeds/dochs/oralhealth/ohra.cfm>. Questions should be addressed to Wendy Nelson at wnelson@aap.org. **Applications are due ELECTRONICALLY by March 23, 2009.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCHB Oral Health Program Webcasts

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau Oral Health Program is presenting a series of Webcasts in March and April. The next titled *Medicaid Portability: Eliminating Gaps in Health Care, Optimizing Oral Health, For Migrant Children and Their Families* will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2:00-3:30 PM ET. This Web cast will showcase the opportunities and challenges in addressing Medicaid portability to ensure continuity in health care, including oral health, for children and their families of migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Read more at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/MCHBWebcast_MedicaidPortability.pdf. Register online at <http://www.mchcom.com>. Further details about upcoming Webcasts will be coming soon.

As part of this series *the American Academy of Pediatrics' Oral Health Initiative will co-host the presentation Medical/Dental Interface with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's Improving Prenatal and Infant Health Project on April 16th.*

HHS Launches New Web Site

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has launched a new Web site. "This new Web site, ensure that when we discuss health reform, the American people will have an equal stake in the health reform efforts," said HHS Spokeswoman Jenny Backus. "Sky-rocketing health care costs are creating enormous pressure on families, on businesses and our fiscal future. Access the new site at: www.healthreform.gov.

International Symposium on the Oral-Systemic Health Connection in Children (October 9th)

The 3rd International Symposium will be held at North Pointe Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio. The goal of the symposium is to discuss the connections between oral health and systemic health in children and the implications they have in the delivery of oral and dental care. Many childhood disorders and conditions such as cancer, cardiac disease, diabetes, craniofacial syndromes, etc, have head, neck and oral manifestations. Furthermore, the medical therapies used in their treatment may also cause disturbances in the oral cavity which in many cases may be permanent. Because of advances in medical technology, these patients are surviving longer nowadays. Therefore, the dental professional must be aware of these interactions in order to provide safe dental care and to increase the patient's quality of life. Several renowned national and international speakers have confirmed their presence. This course will offer 6.5 CE's. Information is available online at:

<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/gd/templates/pages/medpros/medpros.aspx?url=409&page=4609&clk=58094>.

Journal of Dentistry and Oral Hygiene Call for Articles

The Journal of Dentistry and Oral Hygiene (JDOH) publishes high-quality solicited and unsolicited articles, in all areas of the subject. All articles published in JDOH will be peer-reviewed. The following types of papers are considered for publication: Original articles in basic and applied research, and critical reviews, surveys, opinions, commentaries and essays. Our objective is to inform authors of the decision on their manuscript(s) within four weeks of submission. JDOH is fully committed Open Access Initiative by providing free access to all articles (both abstract and full PDF text) as soon as they are published. We ask you to support this initiative by publishing your papers in this journal. Following acceptance, a paper will normally be published in the next issue. Instruction for authors and other details are available on our website www.academicjournals.org/JDOH. Prospective authors should send their manuscript(s) to JDOH@acadjourn.org. JDOH is seeking for qualified reviewers as members of the review board team. JDOH serves as a great resource for researchers and students across the globe. We ask you to support this initiative by joining our reviewer's team. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, kindly send us your resume to JDOH@acadjourn.org.

IN THE NEWS

Medicare Investigates Dentistry Rort Claims

(Sydney Morning Herald-AU—Mar 14)

Medicare Australia is investigating allegations that doctors, dentists and patients are colluding to rort the Medicare dental scheme. The dentistry program, which can finance up to \$4250 worth of dental work, is believed to have become a big earner for some dentists. The Medicare inquiries are believed to be focusing on doctors who are referring to dentists patients who do not have the medical problems necessary to justify Medicare cover for the dental work. By early this year, 94,673 patients in NSW had benefited from Medicare dentistry, with many receiving dentures and crowns that previously they could not afford. The *Herald* has been told that Medicare has identified "compliance concerns" with the scheme, introduced by the Howard government but targeted for removal by the Rudd Government. Potential rorts have been identified as a result of Medicare's risk assessments, reports by the public to Medicare fraud tip-off line and complaints by state law enforcement agencies. Medicare, which can scan its computer databank to identify suspect claims, is targeting dentists who have wrongly claimed upfront for future services, claims made by patients who do not fit the eligibility requirements, and collusion by doctors, dentists and patients. Access article online at:

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/medicare-investigates-dentistry-rort-claims-20090313-8xv0.html>.

Superglue for Teeth? Desperate Do-it-Yourself Health Care

(ABC News—Mar 12)

Doctors, patients report more Do-it-Yourself health care in the bad economy. Its 2009, not 1909, but more people are willing to do their own health care and dentistry these days. "It's one of my front teeth, I had just been supergluing it in," said September Williamson of Grand Junction, Colo. The mortgage is due, the kids have needs, and the dental insurance doesn't cover a ninth of the cost of your dental work. At that point, applying superglue to your crowns didn't seem too unreasonable for Williams. But, the superglue was just one of a whole set of tooth

troubles. Unable to pay for more expensive treatments, Williamson said she's resorted to just pulling out the problem teeth. "I've had five teeth total pulled, one of them was a wisdom tooth," said Williamson. "A couple of months ago, I was just frustrated with the whole thing -- I'm not the only person out there." Emergency room physicians, social workers and advocates for the uninsured or underinsured agree. Although the poor have always employed questionable home treatments, some health care workers have noticed a recent increase in desperate attempts by people to play doctor out of economic desperation. Access article online at:
<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/WellnessNews/story?id=7061635&page=1>.

Text Messages Reduce No-Shows

InteliHealth News Service—Mar 11)

Researchers from the Edinburgh Dental Institute in Scotland have found that fewer people miss checkups if they get text-message reminders. The Department of Paediatric Dentistry sent the messages to patients for two years. A reminder was sent 24 hours before each appointment. The messages went to any patient who had provided a cell phone number. More than 700 patients got text reminders. In a two-year period, about 1 out of 10 missed their dental appointments. They were compared with a similar group of patients who did not get text reminders. Nearly 1 out of 4 missed appointments. The reminder service cost about \$56 a month. Similar reminder services exist in the United States. Other countries, including Sweden and Finland, have tested text-message reminders. Access article online at:

<http://www.simplestepsdental.com/SS/ihtSS/r.EMIHC252/st.32571/t.32571/pr.3/d.dmtNewsContent/c.1060590.html>.

Minnesota's Dental Therapists

(Star Tribune—Mar 11)

Minnesota is poised to become only the second state in the country to allow someone other than a dentist to fill cavities and pull teeth. The proposal would create the dental equivalent of nurse practitioners to provide care in parts of the state where dentists are in short supply. But one big question has yet to be settled: Just how independent should they be? The Minnesota Dental Association insists that dentists must be on the premises to supervise the new clinicians, known as "oral health practitioners" or dental therapists. But a group called the Minnesota Safety Net Coalition says the new clinicians should be free to work in other settings in order to reach thousands of low-income children and adults who now get no dental care at all. Last year, the Legislature gave its initial blessing to the idea of a new type of dental practitioner, and asked members of both sides to join in a "work group" to hammer out their differences. Access article online at:

http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/41126527.html?elr=KArks:DCiUMeAPc:UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU.

Dentists are Smiling, Even in the Recession

(WalletPop—Mar 11)

Dentistry appears to be one profession that the recession might not bite. The 17 % average profit margin of dentists' offices was higher than that of any other industry in 2008, according to Sageworks, which uses data from 9,000 CPA firms across the country. Aside from tooth grinding and other nervous habits that bring folks to the dentist, insurance issues appear to be driving the profits. More and more folks are losing their dental insurance and are skipping cleanings and other preventive care to save money. So when they do go to the dentist they need more expensive treatment to alleviate the pain. And while many of us will endure physical pain, very few of us will walk around with an aching mouth. In fact, if you are like me, you will go to almost any lengths to keep an attractive smile and good bite. Access article online at:

<http://www.walletpop.com/blog/2009/03/12/dentists-are-smiling-even-in-the-recession/>.

American Dental Association Launches Evidence-Based Dentistry Web Site

(ADA News—Mar 10)

The American Dental Association (ADA) announces the launching of EBD.ada.org, the Web site dedicated to evidenced-based dentistry (EBD). The site allows easy and quick access to a database of systematic reviews of oral health clinical information from one centralized location. EBD, according to the ADA, is an approach to

oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient's oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist's clinical expertise and the patient's treatment needs and preferences. The site also features critical summaries of systematic reviews that assess information within systematic reviews in a concise format so that health care workers can incorporate scientific evidence in clinical decision making. Access article online at: http://www.ada.org/public/media/releases/0903_release02.asp.

Many Americans Say They Forgo Routine Dental Care

(USA Today—Mar 10)

Skipping regular dental visits could land Americans in "the chair" down the road with far more serious and costly tooth and gum problems, say experts, as new data reveal many Americans chose not to see a dentist last year. "The message of the value of your teeth is not getting through," says Matthew Messina, consumer adviser for the American Dental Association and a dentist in Cleveland. "If people consider dental care a luxury item, they're shorting themselves. Prevention's always cheaper than fixing problems later." Results out this week from a Gallup-Healthways poll of 355,334 Americans indicate that more than one-third of the population, 34% to be exact, did not visit a dentist last year at all. A recent American Dental Association survey shows dentists' incomes are dropping, too, and some dentists say patients who've lost dental insurance are asking about alternate payment plans or skipping appointments. The 2008 Gallup data report that in nine states, close to half of residents did not visit a dentist last year, even though the ADA recommends twice-yearly cleanings and check-ups. Men, African Americans, Hispanics and seniors were more likely to skip, an historic pattern, Messina says. Over half of those making less than \$2,000 a month reported omitting visits as well, according to Gallup. Access article online at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-03-10-dental-skip_N.htm.

Program Seeks to Improve Dental Education, Care

(Mercury News—Mar 6)

A pilot program involving researchers at the University of Oklahoma, UCLA and Temple University will seek to give people in rural, urban and tribal areas better access to dental care. American Dental Association President John Findley joined officials from the OU Health Sciences Center on Friday to announce the creation of the Community Dental Health Coordinator program. The five-year program will study the use of a new type of health professional called a community dental health coordinator. The coordinator would work in parts of the country that don't have easy or regular access to routine dental care. The coordinator would be a part of a dental team that included a dentist. In Oklahoma, those coordinators will work primarily with people in rural areas. Those at Temple, in Philadelphia, will work with urban residents while those at the University of California, Los Angeles will serve the American Indian tribal community, Findley said. The coordinators already live in the areas they will serve and work at federally qualified local or tribal health centers. They will receive online and distance education for a year then begin serving a six-month internship. Access article online at: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11851931?nclick_check=1.

Time Magazine Articles Examine Electronic Health Records, Financial Burden of Medical Bills

(Kaiser Daily—Mar 6)

Expanding the use of EHRs, touted as a means to improve health care and control costs, would provide doctors with "advantages" but many physicians are concerned that "the greatest cost will be in the quality of medicine [they] practice," Time Magazine reports. While U.S. physicians have "not been enemies of the digital revolution," many are "forced to use computerized orders" or risk being barred from hospitals, Time reports. Among the problems doctors see with EHRs is that electronic records allow for less specificity -- such as preventing a doctor from writing a personal message to a nurse or drawing a diagram of how a patient should be positioned -- and the likelihood that EHRs will compromise patients' privacy, according to Time. The increasing use of computerized data would most likely result in "more information -- and less medicine," Time reports, as insurers would be able to "greatly increase" denials of tests and treatments ordered by doctors. Information technology also facilitates comparative effectiveness efforts, which could be detrimental to those who would benefit more from treatments deemed more expensive and no more effective for the general population.

March-2009

Page 4

According to Time, many doctors "wince whenever electronic medical records are held up as some kind of silver bullet." Access article online at: http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=57355.

More Companies Offering 'Telehealth' Consultations

(Kaiser Daily —Mar 5)

Various "telehealth" services -- allowing consumers access to health care via telephone, Internet or other telecommunications devices -- have cropped up in recent months, the Wall Street Journal reports. American Well's service, launched in January, allows patients to talk with doctors through online video, online chat or phone. Physicians can review patients' personal health records using Microsoft's HealthVault and can prescribe medications. To use most of the services, patients need a standard computer connected to the Internet and a Web cam. Before consulting with a doctor, patients develop a username and password, enter payment information and answer basic questions about their medical history. Once the consultation is complete, records are stored in a personal electronic health file. According to the Journal, the Web sites "appeal to uninsured patients, as well as millions of others hit by layoffs and the recession" because they cost less than most in-person health care consultations. Because physician-licensing regulations and health plans vary from state to state, the availability of electronic consultations is limited. Another potential limitation is that some patients might be hesitant to disclose personal information to a stranger or have concerns regarding the privacy and security of their online health records. Access article online at:

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=57329

Easing Fear Through The Senses

(InteliHealth News Service—Mar 4)

Lights, music and pressure may help reduce children's fears at the dentist. A small Israeli study involved 35 children, ages 6 to 11. Sixteen of the children were developmentally disabled. Each child visited the dentist twice. The first visit involved the usual office experiences. During the second visit, the overhead lights were turned off. The hygienist wore a special headlamp that shined light into the children's mouths. A lamp in the room slowly changed color. Soothing music played, and children wore a heavy vest that was designed to feel like a hug. The changes in the office reduced fear in all of the children. Overall, the time that anxious behavior lasted dropped by about 60%. Developmentally disabled children showed the biggest decrease in fear. They had an overall drop in anxious behaviors from about 23 minutes under normal conditions to about 9 minutes with the changes. A 2008 review of published research found that listening to music can reduce children's fear and pain in both medical and dental care. The Israeli study was published online February 23 by The Journal of Pediatrics. Access article online at:

<http://www.simplestepsdental.com/SS/ihtSS/r.EMIHC252/st.32571/t.32571/pr.3/d.dmtNewsContent/c.1059768.html>.

Mountain Dew Mouth Common Dental Health Problem

(Dental Plans.com—Mar 4)

While an ABC News report suggested the residents in central Appalachia suffered poor dental health due to high intake of the soft drink Mountain Dew, a Texas news provider is urging others to curtail the amount of soda they drink. Diane Sawyers' A Hidden America: Children of the Mountain, raised awareness about the lifestyle and hardships of the residents living in central Appalachia. One of the issues discussed was the significant amount of tooth decay among the area's inhabitants. The report suggested it was the popularity of the soft drink Mountain Dew that led to the residents' poor dental care, as well as a minimal access to dental insurance and dental checkups. Since then, some parents and news providers have been monitoring soft drink consumption. The Victoria Advocate stated that "Mountain Dew Mouth is a condition all dentists are familiar with" and that other sodas and sport drinks can create the same condition. The Texas paper also suggested that because Mountain Dew has 50 percent more caffeine and may be cheaper than other sodas, parents may purchase the drink for their young children and not think about the dental health consequences.. Access article online at:

<http://www.dentalplans.com/articles/40236/newspaper-mountain-dew-mouth-common-dental-health-problem.html>.

Concerns May Darken Future for Teeth-Whitening Outlets

(Houston Chronicles—Mar 3)

Because there are few rules, cheaper whites becoming a gray area. “I’m really happy with the results,” Houri said. The BleachBright store is one of a growing number of teeth-whitening outlets run by people who aren’t dentists. They can be found in malls, spas and even a local chiropractor’s office. Employees guide customers through the bleaching process and aren’t supposed to touch patrons or diagnose dental problems. Because the businesses don’t technically practice dentistry — they never put hands in patients’ mouths — they aren’t regulated by most state dental boards, including in Texas. But now dentists are increasingly concerned that people who aren’t trained in dentistry could harm customers’ gums or teeth. Critics have accused some teeth-whitening employees of practicing dentistry by prescribing treatments or diagnosing dental illnesses. Last month, Tennessee banned the businesses in that state. Access article online at:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6292518.html>.

Short of Dentists, Maine Adds Teeth to Doctors’ Training

(New York Times—Mar 2)

Dentists are in such short supply in Maine that primary care doctors who do their medical residency in the state are learning to lance abscesses, pull teeth and perform other basic dental skills through a program that began in 2005. Maine has one dentist for every 2,300 people, compared with one doctor for every 640, and the gap is expected to widen as both dentists and doctors retire over the next decade. Nationally there is one dentist for every 1,600 people. Maine has trouble recruiting dentists because many young graduates do not want to work in rural areas. The shortage is much less acute in Portland, the state’s largest city. Maine also does not have a dental school — the closest are in Boston, about 50 miles from the state’s southernmost town. Last year the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics announced a program to train pediatricians to apply fluoride and look for signs of tooth decay, a step already taken by some other states, including Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina and Washington. Access article online at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/03/us/03dentist.html?_r=2.

Scientists Discover Why Teeth Form In a Single Row

(The Hindu-India—Feb 27)

A system of opposing genetic forces determines why mammals develop a single row of teeth, while sharks sport several, according to a study. When completely understood, the genetic program described in the study may help guide efforts to re-grow missing teeth and prevent cleft palate, one of the most common birth defects.

Gene expression is the process by which information stored in genes is converted into proteins that make up the body's structures and carry its messages. The current study adds an important detail to the understanding of the interplay between biochemical’s that induce teeth formation, and others that restrict it, to result in the correct pattern. Specifically, researchers discovered that turning off a single gene in mice resulted in development of extra teeth, next to and inside of their first molars. While the study was in mice, past studies have shown that the involved biochemical players are active in humans as well. Access article online at:

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/008200902271681.htm>.

Finding Genes that Make Teeth Grow All in a Row

(Associated Press—Feb 26)

Ever wonder why sharks get several rows of teeth and people only get one? Some geneticists did, and their discovery could spur work to help adults one day grow new teeth when their own wear out. A single gene appears to be in charge, preventing additional tooth formation in species destined for a limited set. When the scientists bred mice that lacked that gene, the rodents developed extra teeth next to their first molars — backups like sharks and other non-mammals grow, University of Rochester scientists reported. If wondering about shark teeth seems rather wonky, consider: Tooth loss from gum disease is a major problem, here and abroad, and dentures or dental implants are far from perfect treatments. If scientists knew exactly what triggers a new tooth to grow in the first place, it's possible they could switch that early-in-life process on again during adulthood to

regenerate teeth. Access article online at:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hIBcw52MsKheYkcQaxxtSld_Vt4QD96JEDSO0.

National Health Service Forces City to Add Fluoride

(BBC News-UK—Feb 26)

Fluoride will be added to tap water in Southampton after health bosses voted through the plans despite protests. It is the first time a health trust in England, rather than water companies, has been allowed to introduce fluoridation under new laws. The idea has proved controversial with 72% of 10,000 respondents in a public consultation opposing the plan. Despite the opposition, the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA) unanimously backed the move. Jim Easton, the SCSHA chief executive, said: "We recognize that water fluoridation is a contentious issue for some people." The board was satisfied that, based on existing research, water fluoridation is a safe and effective way to improve dental health." The SCSHA will now write to Southern Water instructing the firm to increase levels of fluoride from a natural 0.08 part per million to one part per million. The Southampton City Primary Care Trust (PCT) said more than 40% of children in the area were suffering from tooth decay and the increase was desperately needed. Access article online at:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/hampshire/7911820.stm.

Results of the Largest US Consumer Dental Survey

(PRNewswire—Feb. 26)

Nobel Biocare announced the results of the largest known consumer survey in dentistry. The survey, which evaluated the responses of nearly 55,000 consumers, provides new insight into the prevalence of missing teeth in America and the general lack of understanding about the health consequences of missing teeth. Importantly, the survey revealed the emphasis consumers place on their smile when considering their overall appearance. The survey found that smile and appearance of teeth scored the highest (first and second, respectively) in terms of importance to personal appearance - exceeding hair, clothes, eyes, facial features and physique. In fact, nearly 90 percent of respondents ranked their *smile* as the most important attribute and almost 87 percent ranked the appearance of teeth as the second most important feature. "As dentists we are very aware of the underlying health issues that can be associated with missing teeth. In this survey, we wanted to better understand how missing teeth affected patients on an emotional level and determine their awareness of the associated consequences," said Dr. Neil Park, vice president of professional relations, Nobel Biocare. Access article online at: <http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-26-2009/0004979223&EDATE=>.

Dentistry of Future? Gene Responsible For Formation of Enamel Discovered

(ScienceDaily—Feb. 26) — A team of researchers lead by Professor Dr Thimios Mitsiadis at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, has identified a gene responsible for the formation of enamel, which is the key component of the teeth. The experiments were accomplished in mice carrying a deletion of the transcription factor *Tbx1*, a gene that plays a principal role in several human malformations (heart, thymus, parathyroid, face, and teeth) associated to the DiGeorge syndrome. These findings, just published in *Development Biology*, represent a major contribution to the understanding of the production of enamel, the "hardest organic tissue" found in nature. An American group of researchers from the University of Oregon have also shown a relationship between another transcription factor (*Ctip2*) and the production of enamel, but in the words of Prof Mitsiadis "our investigations better demonstrate the lack of enamel in teeth. Because of the early lethality of the *Tbx1* mutant mice, we have used long-term culture techniques that allow the unharmed growth of teeth until their full maturity. No such studies were performed from our American colleagues." Access article online at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090226110814.htm>.

As Unemployment Rises, Chicago Dentists See Fewer Patients

(Medill Reports—Feb 25)

Chicago dentists are noticing more patients pass on dental care, according to a survey by the Chicago Dental Society of its members. More than 50 percent of the 300 dentists who took the online survey said their patients

are putting off necessary dental work. The survey also found that 60 percent of dentists report a drop in elective procedures and 40 percent have noticed fewer preventative visits. Even in good times, a visit to the dentist rarely tops American's to-do lists. Slightly more than half of all Americans made the recommended two visits to the dentist in the past 12 months, according to an October survey from the American Dental Association. One in four Americans didn't visit a dentist at all, the survey found. Dr. Kim Bolden, a dentist who works at Cook County Hospital and in her own practice in the Loop, said unemployment – and the accompanying loss of dental insurance – is part of the problem because many patients think of dental health as “insurance dependent.” “We need to break that mindset,” she said, adding that she has always offered a discount to patients without insurance. Access article online at: <http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=118493>.

Depression, Stress Can Upset Your Mouth

(InteliHealth News Service—Feb 25)

Depression and stress levels may affect dental health, a study has found.

The study examined 45 people with periodontal (gum) disease. They answered questions about depression and long-term stress. Researchers took samples of each person's saliva to test for the hormone cortisol. The body makes more cortisol during stressful times. People in the study who reported being depressed were more likely to have missing teeth. People with higher levels of cortisol also were more likely to have missing teeth or deeper pockets between teeth and gums. These deeper pockets translate to more severe periodontal disease.

Depression and stress may make people less careful about taking care of their teeth. Periodontal disease is more common in people who are older or don't take care of their teeth. Researchers adjusted their numbers to account for age and how often people brushed. Even after adjusting, they still found links between depression, stress and gum health. The study appears in the February issue of the Journal of Periodontology. Access article online at: <http://www.simplestepsdental.com/SS/ihSS/r.EMIHC252/st.32571/t.32571/pr.3/d.dmtNewsContent/c.1058417.html>.

Oregon State University Makes Breakthrough in Tooth Genetics

(OSU News—Feb 24)

Researchers at Oregon State University's (OSU) College of Pharmacy say they've solved the genetic riddle of how teeth get their protective coating of enamel. OSU's discovery has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. Pharmacology professor, Mark Leid (LEED), says the genetic discovery is a breakthrough. He says biologically engineered teeth - made of the same material as real teeth - have been in development for some time. But he says they've always lacked protective enamel. Leid says OSU's discovery makes that next step possible. Mark Leid: “Where we're trying to take it is to make a bio-engineered tooth - taking advantage of the information we have from this discovery, to make a better teeth, basically. We want to make a tooth that is both tougher, and is more resistant to acid, for example, which is the main cause of tooth decay.” Leid says it could be about five years before the enamel discovery translates into a widely available tooth. Leid says there's another discovery a little further off. OSU researchers are using stem cells to look into genetic treatments for teeth. A discovery in that area could save the teeth you have, rather than make better replacements. Access article online at: <http://news.opb.org/article/4351-osu-makes-breakthrough-tooth-genetics/>.

Philippines National Dental Health Month

(ABS-CBN News-Philippines—Feb 25)

As the country observes the fifth National Dental Health Month, the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) is promoting dental health care to family members in Manila and different parts of the region. The annual celebration kicked off last January 25 and will end on March 5. Engaging activities that reach out to children, such as street dance competitions and kids pageants to inspire them to take care of their teeth, have been lined up. The National Dental Health Month started in 2004 with a goal to provide community-based programs such as offering free consultations from dentists, supervising tooth brushing drills, and staging free dental check-ups in the communities. ANC's Shoptalk recently gave special attention to dental care and invited dental experts to discuss the prevailing problems Filipinos face today. Dr. Leo Gerald de Castro, PDA President discussed proper

tooth brushing techniques for children and adults. Access article online at: <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/lifestyle/02/25/09/dentist-flossing-more-important-brushing>.

Out of Tragedy, Maryland Dental School Brings Hope to Children

(UMB News—Feb 25)

Too many people still feel that toothaches are a just part of life, US Rep. Elijah Cummings of Baltimore said in marking the second anniversary of the tragic death of a Maryland boy whose infected tooth went undiagnosed and untreated until the bacteria spread to his brain. Cummings came to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) to recognize the leadership shown by the Dental School, part of UMB, in its efforts to extend dental health care to underserved people in the state. He said that as a nation "we have to figure out how to provide more preventive care." Cummings said, the country and the world were shocked that a boy, such as 12-year-old Deamonte Driver of Prince George's County, said Cummings, could have died in one of the wealthiest counties, in one of the richest state, in one of the richest countries, when \$80 worth of dental care might have saved his life. "But he never got that care," Cummings said. Access article online at:

<http://www.oea.umaryland.edu/communications/news/?ViewStatus=FullArticle&articleDetail=5715>

Dentists Wary of Salon Teeth-Whitening Treatments

(Associated Press—Feb 24)

When Kelly Markos started offering teeth whitening in her upscale salon, she thought it would be a nice addition to her lineup of eyelash extensions, temporary tattoos and custom makeup. But then an inspector for the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners ordered her to stop, accusing her of practicing illegal dentistry. Markos' ongoing lawsuit with the state has waded into the murky area of regulating teeth-whitening products that are increasingly offered in settings outside the dentist's office, such as salons and mall kiosks. The dental industry claims it's a health and safety issue; the beauty parlors say the dentists are just trying to brush them out of a lucrative niche. "As a new business owner, I'm trying to bring something new and innovative to the salon. And then to be threatened to be shut down before I really even had it going was more than a little frustrating," Markos said recently while blow-drying a customer's freshly cut hair. "I believe that this is a cosmetic service and we are on the right side of the law." Access article online at:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ggCYIIG0qg_DQ_9W-bVehWVPUEjgD96IJ8A00.

Brushing Up On Dental Care

(Baltimore Sun—Feb 23)

With February's National Children's Dental Health Month upon them, academic, industry and government leaders can point to improvements. They formed a Dental Action Committee that has won aid for local health centers; streamlined the Medicaid program; and sent hygienists into the community to provide screenings. They've been gaining commitments from dentists to treat poor children. They worry, however, that the bad economy will set back efforts and that there will be less money for care at a time when people are losing their jobs and private health care. "The problem is huge," said Rosemary Fetter, executive director of the Baltimore dental museum, where about 60 kids got some hands-on education as well as dental screenings this month as part of an annual event. "Problems with teeth keep kids out of school, some statistics say, more than anything else." Student volunteers from the nearby University of Maryland Dental School said the children's mouths didn't look too bad during the recent visit. Many had been to dentists, as evidenced by work done on their baby teeth. The volunteers also thought they were keeping the kids' attention during the oral-hygiene lessons by using props and computers. Access article online at: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-to.hs.dental23feb23,0,4355395.story>.

Improper Flossing Put Oral Health at Risk

(Canada.com—Feb 23)

Dentists and periodontists everywhere have been horrified to learn poker decks do double duty as floss, a seamstress turns to her sewing thread, or needle, to remove the midday snack, and office workers turn pencils, paper clips or car keys into it'll-do-for-now floss. It's just not good dental practice. "Improper tools can actually

contribute to, or accelerate recession or abrasion [of the gums]. People actually chew off their fingernails and use them as floss," says dentist Gregg Liberatore. "Abrasion can also cause damage to the enamel or damage to the root surface." Winglosky, a patient of Dr. Liberatore's, broke teeth, pulled off caps and severed his gums with his improper flossing methods. In the past few weeks he has spent nearly US\$900 in repairs, a result of his poor flossing methods combined with his delicate teeth. The last repair is enough, he says, to make him consider carrying floss in his pocket. A survey by the British Dental Health Foundation found more than 60% of people risk their oral health using whatever's closest to remove food from between their teeth. Experts say, while inserting jokes about Britain's dental care, that U.S. numbers are probably lower, but not by much. Access article online at: <http://www.canada.com/Credit+cards+dental+tools/1320568/story.html>.

Prenatal Vitamin D Linked to Kids' Dental Health

(Reuters Health) - By maintaining adequate vitamin D levels during pregnancy, mothers may be protecting their babies against early tooth decay in childhood, according a study reported Friday at the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Toronto, Canada. Dr. Robert Schroth from the University of Manitoba reported that mothers of children who developed cavities at an early age had significantly lower vitamin D levels during pregnancy than those whose children were cavity-free. The study team enrolled 206 women during the second trimester of pregnancy "as that is when primary teeth begin to develop and calcify," Schroth explained in comments to Reuters Health. They measured vitamin D levels in the women's blood at enrollment and then followed them until their infants were around 1 year old. Only 21 women (10.5 percent) were found to have adequate vitamin D levels. The average vitamin D level was about half what is considered adequate, the investigators found. Among 135 infants who had their teeth checked by the team, roughly 22 percent had noticeable enamel defects and about 34 percent had early childhood tooth decay. Access article online at: <http://www.canada.com/Health/Prenatal+vitamin+linked+kids+dental+health/1320490/story.html>.

Facts About Breast Feeding and Oral Health

(Health News Digest—Feb 23)

As the country celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month, many health care professionals, teachers, and parents are promoting the benefits of good oral health to children. Although it is easy to find accurate information about the proper way to brush and floss, parents often receive conflicting information about breastfeeding and oral health. This has presented a barrier to continued breastfeeding beyond six months of age, when an infant typically begins to develop normal oral flora (bacteria) with the teeth. High caries rates occur in families and usually are passed from mother to child, generation to generation. The children of mothers with high caries rates have an increased risk of caries. Therefore, it is important that the mother maintain good oral habits and schedule regular dental visits for herself. The United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) also recommends that parents take their infant to a dentist beginning ideally at 7 - 9 months of age or at the time of first tooth eruption, and no later than one year of age, to receive an assessment of their child's risks for tooth decay and information on preventive measures. Access article online at: http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/Family_Health_210/Facts_About_Breast_Feeding_and_Oral_Health.shtml.

Genetic Discovery Could Lead to Advances in Dental Treatment

(Dental Office—Feb 23)

Researchers have identified the gene that ultimately controls the production of tooth enamel, a significant advance that could some day lead to the repair of damaged enamel--a new concept in cavity prevention-- and restoration or even the production of replacement teeth. The gene, called Ctip2, is a "transcription factor" that was already known to have several functions in immune response, and the development of skin and the nervous system. Scientists can now add tooth development to that list. The findings have been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. "It's not unusual for a gene to have multiple functions, but before this we didn't know what regulated the production of tooth enamel," said Chrissa Kioussi, an assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy at Oregon State University. "This is the first transcription factor ever found to control the formation and maturation of ameloblasts, which are the cells that secrete enamel." The

researchers used a laboratory mouse model in this study in which this gene has been "knocked out" and its protein is missing. Such mice lack basic biological systems and cannot live after birth, but allow scientists to study what is there, and what's missing. Access article online at:

http://www.dentalofficemag.com/display_article/354181/54/none/none/IndNw/Genetic-discovery-could-lead-to-advances-in-dental-treatment.

UAE Ministry of Health Assures that Cavity Prevention Better than Treatment

(AME Info - United Arab Emirates—Feb 23)

The majority of children in the UAE suffer from poor oral hygiene; Dr. Ibrahim Arab, Director of Dental Department, Ministry of Health confirmed that the dental department focuses on reducing cavities among children of different age groups. Dr. Ibrahim Arab said: 'It is very important to monitor the health of primary teeth to avoid problems throughout a child's development. Good oral hygiene at an early age is key in preventing cavities and it is crucial to focus on leveraging awareness about the importance of oral hygiene and cavity prevention.' Various Medical Districts in the UAE are currently focusing on dental prevention and are implementing oral care programs for children in schools. Ras Al Khaimah Medical District - Dental Center has implemented an oral care prevention program for children in Ras Al Khaimah in order to prevent cavities at an early stage and contribute to the development of a society with less dental issues. The program includes educational seminars for students, teachers, nurses and mothers as well as workshops aimed at teaching KG students how to take care of their teeth. Access article online at: <http://www.ameinfo.com/185995.html>.

Easing Children's Fears of the Dentist

ScienceDaily—Feb 22)

For many children, a trip to the doctor or dentist is a stressful experience. The sensory environment (ie, the sounds, smells, and lights associated with the clinical setting) can cause a child's anxiety levels to rise. This is especially true in children with developmental disabilities who may have difficulty understanding the unfamiliar clinical environment. A new study explores the relationship between the sensory environment and anxiety levels in children. Dr. Michele Shapiro of the Issie Shapiro Educational Center and colleagues from Hebrew University in Israel studied the effects of the sensory environment on a child's anxiety levels during two separate routine cleaning visits to the dentist. The researchers observed 35 children between the ages of 6-11 years, 16 of whom were developmentally disabled. They measured the anxiety levels of the children during each visit using a behavior checklist and monitored each child's electro-dermal activity, an objective measure of arousal. Dr. Shapiro and her colleagues found that anxiety levels decreased in all children when the sensory adapted environment was used. The duration of anxious behavior dropped significantly, from an average of 3.69 minutes to 1.48 minutes in typical children. The decreased anxiety levels were even more notable in children with developmental disability, with averages dropping from 23.44 minutes to 9.04 minutes. Access article online at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090220074822.htm>.

Many Struggling New Yorkers Hold Off on Care

(Daily News--Feb 22)

A recent survey by the society found that 20% of middle class New Yorkers did not fill pricey prescriptions because of a lack of money or insurance, and nearly one in five postponed medical care or surgery for the same reason. It was even worse among low-income workers with children: 35% skipped prescriptions and 21% put off medical care or surgery. Shea, a former computer consultant who lives in Brooklyn, is disabled from the powerful drugs that have kept him alive for 20 years with HIV. Jim Shea is walking around with no back teeth. Although he has private health insurance, which costs him \$900 a month, he has been forced to dig into his 401(k) to pay for life-saving dental work that his policy does not cover. The HIV medicines have contributed to a dry mouth condition, which led to severe tooth decay and malnutrition. He has used up \$10,000 from his retirement account to replace all of his top teeth and the bottoms will cost another \$15,000, if he ever gets to finish the job. Access article online at: http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/02/21/2009-02-21_many_struggling_new_yorkers_hold_off_on.html.

Saving Children's Teeth Eyes on the Mountains

(Kentucky.com—Feb 22)

Almost any portrayal of Eastern Kentucky poverty these days sets off a chorus of complaints about stereotyping. But toothlessness is not a caricature perpetuated by the media. It's a real-life epidemic. And while no one has figured out a cure for Eastern Kentucky's poverty, we do know how to take care of children's teeth. If nothing else comes from the buzz created by ABC newswoman Diane Sawyer's look at *Children of the Mountains*, let it be a public assault on "Mountain Dew mouth." The painful, diseased state of Kentuckians' mouths is as big an obstacle as any to lifting many places from poverty. And, thanks to Kentuckian Sawyer, it's become enough of a national embarrassment that someone in power might do something. Yet, fewer than 400 dentists are significant providers of care for an estimated 300,000 poor Kentucky kids. No wonder chronically poor Eastern Kentucky has the nation's highest rate of tooth loss. But most dentists can't afford to treat poor people because Medicaid pays so little. Medicaid coverage is also limited, paying for extractions but not much else. While getting more Kentuckians to the dentist earlier and more often has to be a priority, education is also critically important. Access article online at: <http://www.kentucky.com/591/story/702862.html>.

Southern California First 5 Address Children's Most Unmet Health Care Need

(Medical News Today—Feb 22)

Southern California's First 5 Commissions are tackling the health care needs of low-income children one tooth at a time. According to an independently produced research report, local First 5 commissions have expended some \$21 million and made quality oral health care available to nearly a quarter of a million youngsters, or one out of every 11 children age 5 and under in the eight Southern California counties. "We applaud the county First 5 commissions for their investments in children's oral health programs," said Jon R. Roth, executive director of the California Dental Association Foundation. "First 5's commitment to oral health as a priority has resulted in California's children receiving critical oral health services that have not only improved the children's oral health status, but also each child's overall well being. "We look forward to First 5 continuing to focus on oral health efforts around the state," Roth said. Although tooth decay is the most common preventable illness, recent findings from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) show that one in three children between the ages of 1 and 5 years across the Southern California region did not have access to dental insurance and a third had never visited a dentist. Access article online at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/139828.php>.

Dentists Won't Treat Me Until My Teeth Fall Out

Following the closure of the dental practice at which I was registered, the search for a new practice began. As I scoured the NHS website for dental practices in this area, I despaired as one after another shouted in emboldened capitals: NOT accepting new fee-paying NHS patients. Still unregistered after a year, my concern began to grow. I was in the care of dental access centers, where I could not be seen for routine examinations as nothing short of a dental emergency merits an appointment. I noticed a cavity in one of my teeth and was suffering discomfort in the teeth that had fillings. I was told that as these complaints were not causing me serious pain, I was ineligible to receive treatment as an emergency patient. Without a dentist, I would have to wait until my teeth rotted to be seen! I was informed that as I had to travel to reach the county in which I was receiving treatment, extraction was a more sensible option as I would only have to make one visit as opposed to three. On stating my preference for saving the tooth, I was told to wait until the date of my extraction to make a decision. This not only meant that the dentist in question avoided starting the work on me then, passing the lengthy operation on to someone else, but that I would have to make another appointment at another time with another dentist. This extra inconvenience seems to encourage the quicker and more government target-effective option, despite it being markedly less desirable both functionally and aesthetically. It is unnecessarily barbaric! The cavities could not be treated as they are not part of the emergency patient allowance, so I shall have to wait until they rot so I can have them pulled out too. The attitude of the NHS seems to be that it is unfortunate, but they can't do more than they are doing with the resources they have. Access article online at: <http://www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk/letters/Dentists-won-t-treat-teeth-fall/article-714528-detail/article.html>.

Pulling Teeth: Dental Care in New Zealand Proves Too Expensive

(3News-NZ—Feb 20)

Katalina is watching and waiting. She has just come into the Middlemore Dental Clinic after having been asleep in the car. Her husband, Taulaga, has been holding her precious place in the queue since 2:00am. But they have not just waited for seven hours this morning – her tooth has been causing her pain for three months. Tooth extractions at the hospital are just \$40. The rules are “first in first served” and there are only 20 spaces. The unlucky ones arrive after 6:00am - nearly three hours before opening time, but too late for a place in the queue. “Relief of pain is emergency care, it’s not a service for low cost dentistry - we can’t do that,” says the Clinical Director of Dental Health, Clive Ross. “But we are there to get people out of pain. I guess you could call it the service of last resort.” However, the service of last resort is the only resort for everyone here. Many people are using the hospital as a dentist – too many for the service to cope. According to dentist Vanessa Wright, in times of recession people look to cut spending and dental hygiene is one of the first things to go. At the moment all dental care is free for anyone under 18-years-old. It is then the troubles start. “Subsidy of dental care has always been on the agenda the question is to whom should we subsidize ...where should the state draw the line?” questions Clive Ross. Access article online at: <http://www.3news.co.nz/News/HealthNews/Pulling-teeth-dental-care-in-New-Zealand-proves-too-expensive/tabid/420/articleID/92131/cat/58/Default.aspx>.

New Dentist Era 'Has Not Emerged'

(BBC News—Feb 18)

The shift from "drill and fill" dentistry to a more preventative approach has failed to materialize, the head of an inquiry into dentistry says. The new contract in 2006 was meant to give dentists in England more time with patients to promote oral health. But Professor Chris Drinkwater, who is carrying out a review for the British Dental Association, said in many areas that was not happening. The government said preventative dental health was improving however. The 2006 deal, which has subsequently been implemented in Wales, promised dentists the same income for doing 95% of the work they had traditionally done as well as simplifying the NHS fees system for patients. Ministers said this would allow dentists more time to talk to patients about good dental health practices. But Professor Drinkwater, who is president of the NHS Alliance, an influential group which represents NHS staff working in the community, said: "It seems reasonably clear that the contract is not allowing a more proactive approach to preventative dental health. "In some areas it could be because of the way the contract is being implemented and there may also be an issue with funding. "Clinician engagement is also problematic. It is something that needs addressing." The review he is leading was set up last month as an independent commission into NHS dentistry. It is expected to produce a final report in September this year. Access article online at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7893282.stm>.

Childhood Chicken Pox Could Affect Oral Health Years Later

(Eureka Alert—Feb 18)

If you were among those that suffered from chicken pox, the varicella zoster virus may still be present in your body and could lead to serious (and irreversible) oral health problems such as herpes-type lesions and severe bone damage to the jaws. Varicella zoster can lie dormant in the body for decades, and if activated can lead to herpes zoster (HZ), more commonly referred to as shingles, according to a study that appeared in *General Dentistry*, the Academy of General Dentistry's (AGD) clinical, peer-reviewed journal. "Herpes zoster manifests as painful blisters that erupt along the sensory nerves usually on one side of the body or face," according to co-author of the study, MA Pogrel, DDS, MD. "It can be a debilitating disease that can lead to osteonecrosis of the jaw and vision loss in addition to a prolonged painful syndrome." While the exact reason for tooth loss is unknown, it has been noted that restricted blood flow and inflammation may be a cause. However, AGD spokesperson, Laura Murcko, DMD, notes that, "Your dentist can help detect early signs of osteonecrosis of the jaw by checking for loose teeth, detached gums as well as taking dental x-rays." Dr Murcko encourages patients who may have signs of or are suffering from osteonecrosis to visit their dentist regularly and practice good oral hygiene. She recommends that patients consume 1,000 to 1,200 milligrams of calcium a day, add vitamin D to their diet, exercise and weight train, quit smoking and decrease caffeine and alcohol intake. Access article online at: <http://www.genengnews.com/news/bnitem.aspx?name=49860081>.

Why Are We so Scared of Dentists?

(BBC News-UK—Feb 17)

An eight-year-old girl starved to death because of an apparently severe dental phobia. It's an extreme reaction to a commonly held fear. But why do so many of us dread the dentist's chair? Dread of dentistry can broadly be divided into two forms: dental anxiety - a term coined in the mid-1940s to explain what is often a mild fear and dental phobia - a more extreme dread that, nevertheless, affects about 10% of people. For those with dental anxiety, this tends to be based on childhood experience, either one's own or someone else's. The concerned parent, fretting at their child's side as he or she is reclined in a dentist's chair, may be more of a problem than a solution. Parents can, unwittingly, pass on their own fears to their children in what comes to be an unbroken chain of generational fear, says Dr Nigel Carter of the British Dental Health Foundation. Access article online at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7892062.stm.

Obesity May Affect Gum Disease Treatment

(InteliHealth News Service—Feb 17)

Treatment for periodontal disease reduces levels of a protein that may signal an increased risk for heart disease. But treatment doesn't have this effect in obese people, a study has found. Researchers from eight universities in the United States and New Zealand took part in the study. It is called the Periodontitis and Vascular Events Study, or the PAVE Study. The study involved about 300 people, all with periodontal disease. Some received scaling and root planing. This is the most common treatment for periodontal disease. Others received just a dental cleaning). Still others had no treatment at all. After six months, researchers tested people's blood for C-reactive protein. CRP is produced at higher levels when the body responds to infection or injury. This response is called inflammation. High levels of CRP predict further heart problems in people who already have some type of heart disease. Studies also have linked high CRP levels with new heart problems in previously healthy people. This link is not as strong, however. Doctors sometimes use a CRP blood test to help them decide how to treat people at high risk for heart problems. Access article online at:

<http://www.simplestepsdental.com/SS/ihSS/r.EMIHC252/st.32571/t.32571/pr.3/d.dmtNewsContent/c.1036297.html>.

Health Commission Wants Dental Scheme for All

(ABC News-Australia—Feb 16)

As part of several recommendations for a major overhaul to the health system, The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission has proposed in its interim report the formation of "Denticare Australia". Speaking at the National Press Club, the commission's chair, Doctor Christine Bennett, says that under the new scheme most people would pay no more than what they already do for dental services. "People on low incomes would pay considerably less and have much better access to dental health services," she said. Dr Bennett says the proposed scheme would provide all Australians with universal access to preventative and restorative dental care regardless of people's ability to pay. A dental scheme - to be funded by a 0.75 per cent increase in the Medicare levy - should be introduced to provide access to dental care for all Australians, a Government commissioned report has recommended. Access article online at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/16/2492734.htm?section=justin>.

Fake Toothbrushes Found on Market: Health Canada

(Canadian Press—Feb 16)

Consumers and retailers should be cautious when buying toothbrushes after counterfeit products bearing brand names were found on the Canadian market, Health Canada warned. The toothbrushes are falsely labeled as Colgate Massager, Colgate Navigator, Oral B Classic 40, Oral B Contura and Colgate 360. "If an imitation is suspected, consumers should stop using them immediately, as the quality, safety and effectiveness of counterfeit products cannot be assured," Health Canada said in an advisory. Last July, a public advisory was issued about a sham Oral B Classic 40 toothbrush being sold. Health Canada received a report of toothbrush bristles dislodging and catching in a consumer's throat. Genuine Colgate toothbrushes can be identified by the packaging, labeled in English and French only, that states "Distr. by/par: Colgate-Palmolive Canada Inc," and by a lot code molded

into the brush handle just under the brush head. Oral B toothbrushes, made by Proctor and Gamble Inc., can be identified by the Oral B logo manufactured as part of the handle mould. Fake Oral B brushes have been known to have the logo printed in silver text on a peel-away label. Access article online at: <http://www.thestar.com/News/Canada/article/588359>.

Mother of Girl Who Starved to Death Speaks Out Over Treatment

(The Guardian-UK—Feb 14)

The mother of a schoolgirl who was terrified of the dentist and starved to death after all her milk teeth were extracted expressed horror at failings in her child's treatment and defended herself from criticism that she could have done more to help her daughter. Sophie Waller, eight, refused to open her mouth to eat or drink after leaving hospital following the traumatic dental operation. She lost 24lb and when her body was examined after her death her skin was peeling because she was so dehydrated. An inquest on Sophie is due to end on Monday, but it has already been accepted by medical professionals that opportunities were missed to intervene in the girl's decline. Sophie's mother, Janet, a nursery nurse, said it had been horrifying to hear details of how her daughter apparently slipped through the net. She also said she felt upset that she and her partner, Richard, were being blamed in part for not making sure their daughter got the help she needed. During the inquest there was argument over exactly what information the parents passed on as Sophie's condition deteriorated. She spoke of her concern at the decision to remove her daughter's teeth: "I don't know why they took all her teeth out." Although Sophie's case is exceptional, it raises questions about the way children with phobias are treated - and about the quality of community psychological care. Access article online at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/feb/14/sophie-waller-teeth-starvation>.

Dental Residency Program Announced

(WABI-TV News—Feb 13)

"It's an astonishing fact that as many as 11 percent of our nation's rural population has never been to the dentist - never once," says Senator Susan Collins. Across the nation, the number of dentists in rural areas is rapidly declining. And those who are working in the field are nearing the age of retirement. "In Maine, we currently have about 580 dentists in active practice...more than three quarters of them are 45 or older." "Dental health is inseparable from overall health...the establishment of this residency program will help insure that this region has more dentists who are able to provide the oral health care that people of this region so desperately need....I'm very excited about this development, the cooperation between the community health center and the two local hospitals, and I think its going to make a real difference to the people of this region." The first two residents are set to take part in the program starting this July. Access article online at: http://www.wabi.tv/index.php?cat_id=4006&url_news4006=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wabi.tv%2Fmodules%2FNews%2FdisplayNews.php%3Fid%3D4956&formFocus=news4006.

Dental Care's Reach to Expand With New Breed of Health Professional

(KARE-TV—Feb 13)

"In Minnesota, as in other states, access to dental health services is severely limited," Marshall Shragg of the state board of dentistry told KARE-TV, "And there are many providers who simply can't or won't take patients who are uninsured or state-funded patients." Shragg spoke after the state's working group on health care practitioners turned in a lengthy report, a list of recommendations on the scope of services such therapists could perform. "They could prepare teeth for restoration and actually restore those teeth," he explained, "So if somebody has cavities they could repair those and if they have pain they can help take that patient out of pain." "They would be prepared and trained and expected to go out to different areas, whether that's in a Head Start setting, in a nursing home, or in a public health clinic." Dental therapists are already working in other countries, and in Alaska where a privately subsidized program has extended the range of dental care to Native Americans living in remote villages hundreds of miles from the nearest dental clinic. The dean of the University of Minnesota dental school led a delegation to study similar programs in England, New Zealand and Canada. The MNSCU system of state colleges and universities is also seeking to train oral health technicians. The Minnesota

Dental Association would prefer the training program be limited to the U's dental school. Access article online at: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=539558&catid=2.

Children of the Mountains Struggle to Survive

(ABC News—Feb 13)

Diane Sawyer Reports on Children in Central Appalachia

ABC News spent two years following children growing up in poverty in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, and were shocked by the state of community's oral health and lack of access to care. The oldest mountains in America are rich in natural beauty with their raging creeks, steep hollows and old pines. They are also one of the poorest, most disadvantaged regions in America. Central Appalachia has up to three times the national poverty rate, an epidemic of prescription drug abuse, the shortest life span in the nation, toothlessness, cancer and chronic depression. But everywhere in these hills, there are also young fighters filled with courage and hope. Access news report online at: <http://abcnews.go.com/2020/Story?id=6865077&page=1>.

Mobile Clinic Treats 'Mountain Dew Mouth'

(ABC News—Feb 13)

Dr. Edwin Smith, a dentist in Barbourville, KY, invested \$150,000 of his own money to build a mobile dental clinic, Kids First Dental Care, inside an 18-wheel truck. Several days a week, Smith criss-crosses the curvy roads of 16 eastern Kentucky counties to offer free dental screenings and services to hundreds of students. Most children dread the dentist, but those who line up outside Smith's van are often giddy with anticipation. For many, it's the first and only dental check-up they'll have for years. In a statement, PepsiCo said that its vice president of global health policy had reached out to Smith to learn more about his clinic after Smith's appearance on "Good Morning America". "They also discussed how we might support his efforts to educate people in Appalachia about proper dental care and help them lead healthier lifestyles," the statement said. "We would welcome any support we can get from Pepsi," Smith said. "Our concern is bettering the dental health of these kids. Kids who need help right now -- not just with education, but with the practicalities of getting their teeth fixed." Access article online at: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=6863173&page=1>.

Britain's Bad Smiles Revealed: Britons Treating Dental Problems Themselves

(ABC News-UK—Feb 13)

The Brits and their bad teeth have been the butt of many an American joke. A recent online survey conducted in the U.K. may help to explain the cause of the national stereotype: Some are practicing dentistry on themselves at home. No surgery, no sanitation, no equipment and a lot of pain. *Which?* a British consumer magazine, asked customers online last month if they had ever performed dentistry on themselves. And of the 2,631 adults asked, 210 said they had. The do-it-yourselfers described procedures ranging from popping an ulcer with a pin to pulling out a tooth by tying a piece of string to a door handle. From this unofficial poll, which the British government has denounced, *Which?* estimated that as many as 3 million Brits look after their own teeth, which would work out to about 5 percent of the U.K.'s estimated 61 million residents. Access article online at: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=6863228&page=1>.

AWARDS / FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research funds highly-qualified individuals to undertake broad studies of the most challenging health policy issues facing America. RWJF will award approximately 10 grants of up to \$335,000 each to investigators from a variety of disciplines to support projects that combine creative and conceptual thinking with innovative, policy-relevant approaches. The RWJF welcomes applications from investigators in the health, social, and behavioral sciences, as well as other fields. They seek a diverse group of applicants, including minorities, early-career investigators, and individuals who work in nonacademic settings such as research firms and policy organizations. A letter of intent is due March 25. Information is available online at: <http://www.investigatorawards.org/>.

State Action: Evaluating the Healthy People 2020 Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Agenda

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, in collaboration with the Regional Health Administrators, is pleased to announce a request for proposals for the State Action: Evaluating the Healthy People 2020 Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Agenda project. Funded by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, this project is being administered by John Snow, Incorporated (JSI). This evaluation project will fund state, territorial, and tribal governments to conduct innovative and participatory strategic planning activities, with an emphasis on multi-sector collaboration, using the Healthy People 2020 framework and population health improvement concepts (i.e., Healthy People 2020 mission and overarching goals; social, physical, and environmental determinants of health; and health equity). Up to 12 projects, taking place between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, will be funded at a maximum award of \$37,000 each. The application deadline is Monday, April 27, 2009. For more details and to download the request for proposal forms please visit www.healthypeople.gov/stateaction.

CONFERENCES

Special Care Dentistry Association *(April 17-19)*

The 21st meeting of the Special Care Dentistry Association will take place at the Hilton Baltimore, MD. Information is available online at www.scdonline.org

National Oral Health Conference *(April 20-22)*

The Annual National Oral Health Conference will take place at the Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center in Portland, OR. When available, info will be posted online at: <http://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/>.

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry *(May 21-25)*

The 62nd Annual Session will be held in Honolulu, HI. Information is available online at:

http://www.aapd.org/events/detail.asp?EVENT_ID=182&MONTH_CHOICE=5&DAY_CHOICE=21&YEAR_CHOICE=2009.

Dental Management Coalition *(June 1 – 2)*

The 2009 meeting of the Dental Management Coalition will take place in Jersey City, NJ at the Westin Jersey City Newport Hotel. More info including a regularly updated agenda can be found on the website, www.dmcnet.org.

International Association of Paediatric Dentistry *(June 17-20)*

The 22nd meeting of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry will take place in Munich, Germany at the Gasteig Convention Centre in the city of Munich. Information is available online at: <http://www.iapdworld.org/>.

American Dental Hygienist Association *(June 17-23)*

The 86th annual meeting of the American Dental Hygienist Association will take place in Washington, DC at the Shoreham Hotel. Information is available online at: <http://www.adha.org/annualsession/index.html>.

Academy of General Dentistry *(July 8-12)*

The Annual meeting of the Academy of General Dentistry will take place in Baltimore, MD. Information is available online at: <http://www.agd.org/annualmeeting/>.

National Dental Association *(July 24-29)*

The 96th Annual Convention of the National Dental Association will take place at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville- Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida. Information is available online at: <http://www.ndaonline.org/>.

World Congress on Preventive Dentistry *(Sept 7 – 10)*

The 9th World Congress on Preventive Dentistry will take place in Phuket, Thailand at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. Information is available online at: <http://www.iadr.com/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3777>.

International Symposium on the Oral-Systemic Health Connection in Children (October 9th)

The 3rd International Symposium will be held at North Pointe Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio. Information is available online at:

<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/gd/templates/pages/medpros/medpros.aspx?url=409&page=4609&clk=58094>.

RESOURCES / RESEARCH

New Report and Survey of Association of Health Care Journalists Members Examine State of Health Care Journalism

The news business is creating new challenges for health journalists who are trying to report on those policy issues, according to a new survey and report released today by the Kaiser Family Foundation at a Washington, DC briefing. "The news media is one of the most important sources of information the general public has about health policy," said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, "so it's critical that our country continues to produce the best possible health journalism during this important period." A survey of members of the Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ), conducted in partnership with AHCJ, and the report, *The State of Health Journalism in the U.S.*, authored by Gary Schwitzer of the University of Minnesota School of Journalism, detail how the financial pressures on the media industry and the fierce competition to break news on new and expanding platforms on the Internet are affecting the quality of health reporting. The difficulties cited in the reports have caused many in the industry to worry about the loss of in-depth, detailed reporting and the influence of public relations and advertising that could color news content. The turmoil in the news business is affecting all beats in journalism, not just health. Indeed, although AHCJ members report facing many difficulties in the current climate, they are more optimistic about the future of health journalism in particular than they are about journalism in general. The full survey and report can be viewed online at

<http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh031109pkg.cfm>

Series of Briefs Focus on Disparities in Child Health

Trends in Child Health, 1997-2006: Assessing Black-White Disparities highlights differences in health outcomes among black children and white children and then examines how child health indicators vary by socio-demographic characteristics. The issue brief, the first in a series produced by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies with support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, is based on an analysis of data from the National Health Interview Survey for the years 1997 through 2006. The brief presents findings for non-Hispanic white children and non-Hispanic black children under age 18 on the following health indicators: low birthweight, health status (as evaluated by a family member), recent unmet oral health needs, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder diagnosis, lifetime asthma diagnosis, learning disability diagnosis, and activity limitation. For each health indicator, in each year between 1997 and 2006, comparisons are made first between children of the two racial groups as a whole; then, black children and white children in families with characteristics corresponding to nine sociodemographic variables are compared. The brief concludes with a discussion of gaps in health indicators between black children and white children by sociodemographic subgroup, and the influence of specific sociodemographic variables (educational attainment, poverty, health insurance) on health indicators. The brief is available at

http://www.jointcenter.org/publications_recent_publications/health/trends_in_child_health_1997_2006_assessing_black_white_disparities

Other briefs in the series will be published between now and the end of April 2009. They will highlight Hispanic/white disparities in child health, as well as racial and ethnic disparities in specific child health indicators. (*Information provided by MCH Alert, Feb 20th*)

National Association for State Health Policy Releases Report

The National Association for State Health has released the report: *Increasing Access to Dental Care in Medicaid: Targeted Programs for Four Populations*. Populations discussed include young children, pregnant women, people with developmental disabilities, and people in rural areas. Poor access to oral health care and

March-2009

Page 18

low utilization of oral health services by publicly-insured people have been persistent problems that states and their Medicaid programs have grappled with for decades. However, there are groups of Medicaid enrollees – such as young children, pregnant women, people with developmental disabilities, and people living in rural areas – who face particular oral health challenges. These populations can benefit from interventions targeted specifically at their needs. This policy briefing, which is drawn from a literature review and interviews with stakeholders across the country, describes strategies that several states have used to better address the oral health needs of these groups. The report, by Andrew Snyder, from the Pew Charitable Trusts new oral health initiative, can be found online at: http://www.nashp.org/files/Dental_Reimbursements.pdf.

National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation's Latest Expert Voices Essay

The latest Expert Voices essay titled *Life Course Health Development: A New Approach for Addressing Upstream Determinants of Health and Spending* by Neal Halfon, MD, MPH, Director, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities, and Professor of Pediatrics, Health Sciences and Public Policy is now available. In this essay, Halfon examines the Life Course Health Development (LCHD) model, which emphasizes the importance of early intervention during sensitive developmental periods in a child's life as a means to helping the child attain maximum potential health throughout his lifespan. These interventions include appropriate family support and early learning opportunities in addition to appropriate health care, with all interventions integrated across sectors and over time. While most other developed countries support their children in this way, the U.S. has lagged far behind. Current national reform activities offer an opportunity to begin redressing this shortcoming. Access the essay online at: http://www.nihcm.org/pdf/ExpertVoices_Halfon_FINAL.pdf.

New Study Examines Consequences of Missouri's Medicaid Cutbacks in 2005

A study prepared for the Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured examines the result of sweeping cutbacks that Missouri instituted in its Medicaid program in 2005 in response to serious state budget shortfalls. Researchers at the Urban Institute found that following these cutbacks, the number of uninsured people in the state increased, hospitals faced greater demand for uncompensated care and community health centers faced revenue shortfalls that forced staffing cuts and higher charges for patients. The study can be viewed at the Health Affairs Web site, <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/hlthaff.28.2.w335>.

National Quality Forum Adopts 45 Cultural Competency Practices

The National Quality Forum has adopted 45 cultural competency practices it says will help reduce disparities and improve the quality of health care. The practices focus on communication, community engagement and training, including determining language requirements for patients at the first point of contact. Information is available online at: <http://www.qualityforum.org/projects/ongoing/cultural-comp/>.

KidsCount Database

The Annie E. Casey Foundation hosts an online database called Kids Count, which contains state- and city-level data for over 100 measures of child well-being. This database can generate custom reports for specific geographic areas and compare them based on a topic (e.g., poverty, education, and health/health insurance). According to new data on Kids Count, more than one in two children living in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, and Dallas live with at least one foreign born parent; and many of these children lack health insurance (21 percent of children in Texas aged 17 and under). To view and use this database, visit <http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/>. (Information provide by Minority Health Connection, February 2009.)

Kaiser Family Foundation Releases

Materials from Kaiser Family Foundation are now available online. These include:

- *New Poll Finds More Than Half Of Americans Say Family Skipped On Medical Care Because Of Cost In Past Year:* <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/posr022509pkg.cfm>.
- *Addressing Underinsurance in National Health Reform:* <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/kcmu022409pkg.cfm>

- *Forum on Children's Media Policy During an Obama Administration:*
http://www.kaisernetwork.org/health_cast/hcast_index.cfm?display=detail&hc=3116.
- *Covering the Uninsured: Options for Reform Alliance for Health Reform and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured* <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/alliance/02mar09>

Highwire Press

Articles on interest from Stanford University Highwire Press:

- *The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner's Role in Reducing Oral Health Disparities in Homeless Children*
<http://highwire.stanford.edu/cgi/medline/pmid;19232927>

Access (February 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Access—the Dental Hygiene journal are now available online.

The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.adha.org/publications/index.html>

Articles of interest include:

- *CRA/CAMBRA and the Dental Hygiene Process of Care*

American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (Volume 135, Issue 3; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at:

<http://journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/yomod/current>.

American Journal of Public Health (Volume 99, Issue 3; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the American Journal of Public Health are now available online.

The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.ajph.org/current.shtml>.

Australia Dental Journal (Volume 54, Issue 1; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Australian Dental Journal are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118902577/home>.

British Dental Journal (Volume 206, Issue 4; February 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the British Dental Journal are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.nature.com/bdj/journal/v204/n10/index.html>. Articles of interest include:

- *A Survey of Attitudes, Knowledge and Practice of Dentists in London Towards Child Protection.*

Caries Research (Volume 43, Number 1; 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Caries Research magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at:

<http://content.karger.com/ProdukteDB/produkte.asp?Aktion=Ausgabe&Ausgabe=243486&ProduktNr=224219>.

Articles of interest include:

- *Caries Trends in Brazilian Non-Privileged Preschool Children in 1996 and 2006*
- *Case-Control Study of Early Childhood Caries in Australia*

Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology (Volume 37, Number 1; 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/117977399/home>. Articles of interest include:

- *Global Policy for Improvement of Oral Health in the 21st Century*
- *Prospective Study of 5-Year Caries Increment Among Children Receiving Comprehensive Dental Care in the New England Children's Amalgam Trial*
- *Fluoride Rinsing and Dental Health Inequalities in 11-Year-Old Children: An Evaluation of a Supervised School-Based Fluoride Rinsing Program in Edinburgh*

- *Predictors of Untreated Dental Decay Among 15–34-Year-Old Australians*
- *The Impact of Developmental Defects of Enamel on Young People in the UK*
- *School-Level Contextual Factors Associated With Betel Quid Chewing Among Schoolchildren in Taiwan*
- *Longitudinal Association of Adolescents' Sense of Coherence With Tooth-Brushing Using an Integrated Behavior Change Model*

Dental Clinics of North America (Volume 53, Issue 2, April 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Dental Clinics of North America magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.dental.theclinics.com/current>. Articles of interest include:

- *Issues in Access to Oral Health Care for Special Care Patients*
- *Health Related Issues for Individuals with Special Health Care Needs*
- *Planning Dental Treatment for People with Special Needs*
- *Special Needs of Anxious and Phobic Dental Patients*
- *Treatment of Mentally Disabled Patients with Intravenous Sedation in a Dental Clinic Outpatient Setting*
- *Evaluation, Scheduling, and Management of Dental Care Under General Anesthesia for Special Needs Patients*
- *Oral Self-Injurious Behaviors in Patients with Developmental Disabilities*
- *Oral Health Burden in Children with Systemic Diseases*
- *Behavioral Management for Patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disorders*
- *Home Oral Health Practice: The Foundation for Desensitization and Dental Care for Special Needs*

Dental Economics (Volume 99, Issue 2; 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Dental Economics magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.dentaleconomics.com/index.html>.

Dental Traumatology (Volume 25 Issue 1; 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Dental Traumatology magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121645642/issue>.

Articles of interest include:

- *Has the Education of Professional Caregivers and Lay People in Dental Trauma Care Failed?*
- *Activities Related to the Occurrence of Traumatic Dental Injuries In 15- to 18-Year-Olds*
- *Does a Free-of-Charge Distribution of Boil-and-Bite Mouthguards to Young Adult Amateur Sportsmen Affect Oral and Facial Trauma?*
- *Dental Trauma in Children and Young Adults Visiting a University Dental Clinic*
- *A 6-Year Investigation Into Types of Dental Trauma Treated in a Paediatric Dentistry Clinic in Eastern Anatolia Region, Turkey*
- *Prevalence and Determining Factors of Traumatic Injuries to Primary Teeth in Preschool Children*
- *Impact Energy Absorption of Three Mouth guard Materials in an Aqueous Environment*

Dutch Journal of Dentistry (Volume 116, Number 2; February 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Dutch Journal Dentistry are available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://english.nvt.nl/>. Articles of interest include:

- *Patterns of Tooth Agenesis a Numerical Code for Describing Dental Agenesis*
- *Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: Diagnosis, Treatment, Prevention And its Relevance to Dentistry*

European Journal of Paediatric Dentistry (Volume 10, Number 1; 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the European Journal of Paediatric Dentistry are available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at:

http://www.eapd.gr/EAPDJournal/2009v10/Issue_1/Vol_10_Issue1_Mar_Contents.htm.

Articles of interest include:

- *Children Who Break Dental Appointments*
- *Use of Mobile Telephone Short Message Service as a Reminder: The Effect On Patient Attendance*
- *Oral Health of Children With Intractable Epilepsy Attending the UK National Centre for Young People With Epilepsy*
- *A Study of the Management of 55 Traumatically Intruded Permanent Incisor Teeth in Children*
- *Parental Attitudes and Perceptions Affecting Children's Dental Behavior in Greek Population*
- *Caries Prevalence and Tooth Surface Distribution in a Group Of 5-Year-Old Italian Children*
- *Preferences of Dentist's Attire in a Group of Istanbul School Children Related With Dental Anxiety*

General Dentistry (Volume 57, Number 2; March-April 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of General Dentistry are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.agd.org/publications/issue/?PubID=17&IssID=937>.

International Journal of Dental Hygiene (Volume 7, Issue 2; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the International Journal of Dental Hygiene are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122239280/issue>. Articles of interest include:

- *Factors Affecting Oral Health-Related Quality of Life Among Pregnant Women*
- *Public Awareness and Social Acceptability of Dental Therapists*
- *Increase in Detectable Opportunistic Bacteria in the Oral Cavity of Orthodontic Patients*

International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry (Volume 19, Issue 2; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118535727/home>. Articles Of Interest Include:

- *Barriers for Dental Treatment of Primary Teeth in East and West Germany*
- *Erosive Tooth Wear Among Children in the United States: Relationship to Race/Ethnicity and Obesity*
- *Comparison of a Dietary Survey and the Duplicate Plate Method for Determining Dietary Fluoride Ingested by Young Children*
- *Oral-Health-Related Quality of Life Among Children With and Without Dental Fear*
- *Dental Anxiety Among Survivors of Childhood Cancer: A Cross-Sectional Study*
- *Dental and Anaesthetic Management of Children With Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa*
- *Strategies for Caries Risk Assessment in Children and Adolescents at Public Dental Clinics in a Swedish County*
- *Quantitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction for Streptococcus Mutans and Streptococcus Sobrinus in Dental Plaque Samples and its Association With Early Childhood Caries*
- *Risk Factors for Injuries to Maxillary Permanent Incisors and Upper Lip Among Schoolchildren in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania*

Journal of the American Dental Association (Volume 140, Issue 3; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Dental Association are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://jada.ada.org/current.dtl>. Articles of interest include:

- *Down Syndrome and Sleep-Disordered Breathing: The Dentist's Role*
- *A Healthy Weight Intervention for Children in a Dental Setting: A Pilot Study*
- *The Dental Pipeline Program's Impact on Access Disparities and Student Diversity*

Journal of the Canadian Dental Association (Volume 75, Number 2; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Journal of Canadian Dental Association are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.cda-adc.ca/jcda/vol-75/issue-2/index.html>.

Articles of interest include:

- “Dental Tourism”: Issues Surrounding Cross-Border Travel for Dental Care
- Access to Dental Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Ontario
- Headache in Children and Adolescents

Journal of Contemporary Dental Practice (Volume 10, Number 2; February 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Journal of Contemporary Dental Practice are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.thejcdp.com/issue045/index.htm>. Articles of interest include:

- *Prosthetic Rehabilitation in a Four-year-old Child with Severe Early Childhood Caries: A Case Report*

Journal of Dental Education (Volume 73, Issue 2; February 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Journal of Dental Education are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.jdentaled.org/current.shtml>. Articles of interest include:

- *Behavior-Associated Self-Report Items in Patient Charts As Predictors of Dental Appointment Avoidance*

Journal of Dental Research (Volume 88, Issue 2; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Journal of Dental Research magazine are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://jdr.sagepub.com/current.dtl>. Articles of interest include:

- *Risks for Early Childhood Caries Analyzed by Negative Binomial Models*
- *Dietary Fluoride Intake by Children Receiving Different Sources of Systemic Fluoride*

Journal of Periodontology (Volume 80, Number 3; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Journal of Periodontology are now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.joponline.org/toc/jop/80/3>.

Pediatrics (Volume 123, Issue 3; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of the Pediatrics is now available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/current.shtml>. Articles of interest include:

- *The Effects of Varying Periods of Uninsurance on Children's Access to Health Care*
- *Achieving Success Connecting Academic and Practicing Clinicians Through Telemedicine*

Pediatric News (Volume 43, Number 2; February 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of Pediatric News are available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.epediatricnews.com/current>.

RDH Magazine (Volume 29, Issue 2; March 2009)

Abstracts of articles found in the latest issue of RDH Magazine are available online. The table of contents can be accessed online at: <http://www.rdhmag.com/issue/toc.html>.

NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Current issues of the following Newsletters are now available online:

ADHA Update

The current issues of the Bi-Weekly News Service from the American Dental Hygienists' Association is now available online at: http://adha.informz.net/adha/archives/archive_244638.html.

APHA Oral Health Special Interest Group

The current issue of the APHA Oral Health Special Interest Group is available online at: <http://www.apha.org/membersgroups/newsletters/sectionnewsletters/oral/winter09/>.

Flossline

The current issue of the National Dental Association Newsletter is now available online at: <http://www.ndaonline.org/Downloads/Flossline%20Winter%202009%20-%20Final.pdf>.

Maternal and Child Health Library

The current issue of the MCH Alert is now available online at: <http://www.mchlibrary.info/alert/2009/alert022709.html>

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research E-Newsletter

The current issue of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research E-Newsletter is now available online at: <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/NewsAndFeatures/ENewsletters/CurrentNews/>.

NNOHA News

The current issue of the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) News is now available in a PDF format at: [http://www.nnoha.org/PDFs/NNOHA%20Newsletter%2002\[1\].09_FINAL.pdf?utm_campaign=NNOHA%20Newsletter%20-%20Winter%202009&utm_content=wnelson@aap.org&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_term=Click%20Here%20to%20Read%20the%20Entire%20Newsletter](http://www.nnoha.org/PDFs/NNOHA%20Newsletter%2002[1].09_FINAL.pdf?utm_campaign=NNOHA%20Newsletter%20-%20Winter%202009&utm_content=wnelson@aap.org&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_term=Click%20Here%20to%20Read%20the%20Entire%20Newsletter)

Oral Health Alert: Focus on Head Start

The current issue of the Oral Health Alert: Focus on Head Start is now available online at: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/alert/2009/ohalert0209.html> .

Oral Health Matters

The current issue of the Association of State and Territory Dental Directors Newsletter is now available online at: <http://www.astdd.org/docs/ASTDDOHMWinter2009FINAL2.25.2009.pdf>.

Update

The current issue of Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR) E-News is now available online at: <http://www.fnidcr.org/newsletters/FundingNews.html>.

OPPORTUNITIES



PedJobs is the electronic recruitment resource for pediatrics. View available jobs or post a resume. PedJobs is found online at: [Hhttp://jobs.pedjobs.org/H](http://jobs.pedjobs.org/H).

Indian Health Service

Indian Health Service (IHS) has vacancies in facilities large and small in some of the most beautiful areas of the United States. Whether you choose the Commissioned Corps, Civil Service, or direct Tribal hire career path, IHS has a position that will meet your specific needs for opportunity, adventure, and purpose. There are currently 169 vacancies—87 available now. To access an unofficial listing of vacancies open or soon to be open go online to: <http://www.dentist.ihs.gov/Positions/vacancies.cfm>. For more information contact each area's contact person found by clicking on the job title opening to page 2 of the vacancy listing.

Boston, Massachusetts: *Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine Assistant/Associate Professor*
Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine seeks applicants for a full time Assistant /Associate Professor, non-tenure track, 12 month faculty position in the Department of General Dentistry. This position has the responsibility of administration, implementation and coordination of the School's community based educational programs for first and second year students. Responsibilities will also include clinical and didactic

teaching, scholarly activity, and service. Qualifications include a DDS/DMD degree or RDH with a Master's degree and licensure or eligibility for licensure in Massachusetts. Advanced training and/or prior teaching experience is highly desirable. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae along with name, address, and telephone number of three references. Screening of applicants will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Michelle M Henshaw, DDS, MPH / Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine / 715 Albany St, 560, 3rd floor / Boston, MA 02118 / E-mail: mhenshaw@bu.edu

Inclusion in this publication does not imply an endorsement by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The AAP is not responsible for the content of these resources. Web site addresses are as current as possible, but may change at any time.