

# DENTAL NOTES

Newsletter of D.O.H.M.H. - The Bureau of Oral Health, Programs and Policy

Spring 2004

Dedicated to Quality

Committed to Excellence

Number 23

## OHPP SPONSORS STAFF ENRICHMENT DAY MARCH 10TH

### OHPP Continues **TEAMEXCELLENCE** *Focus on Teamwork and Excellence of Care*

The tenth annual OHPP Staff Enrichment Day will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at New York University, College of Dentistry. A major component of the **TEAMEXCELLENCE** Program introduced at the convocation in September 1994, Staff Enrichment Day will focus on areas which will help upgrade staff skills and improve patient service.

The theme for this year is *New Frontiers For Dentistry*. The opening session will focus on *Conservative Caries Management for the Pediatric Patient*. The presentation will feature Dr. Linda R. Rosenberg, DDS, FAAHD, Chair Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Division Diagnostics, Infectious Disease and Health Promotion, and Director, Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Rosenberg is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Her topics for today's symposia are centered around the theme of preventive therapies and interventions for the clinician. **Dental Sealants-An Update** will depend on evidence-based approach to the diagnostic and technical aspects of sealant utilization, as well as clinical considerations and protocols. A major objective of the presentation is to clarify misunderstandings about dental sealants, to improve application technique and to increase utilization in our dental clinics.

In the second part of her presentation, Dr. Rosenberg will tackle the subject of **Risk Assessment and Fluoride Interventions**. The emphasis here will be how to properly assess caries risk, and how to follow through with individualized fluoride regimens for effective disease management. In particular, fluoride varnish will be showcased as the latest most effective and most potent of our available fluoride options. Dr. Rosenberg will review mechanism of action, application technique and clinical protocols.

Part II of the program will feature Dr. Robert J. Boylan, Ph.D., Associate Professor Basic Sciences and Craniofacial Biology, New York University. The topic of the presentation is **Bioterrorism: Diseases, Diagnoses and Dilemmas**. Knowledge about biological agents used in terrorist acts can provide a base for dentists to protect their families, patients and general public. Dr. Boylan's essay will describe the diagnostic features and pathophysiology of diseases commonly associated with biological weapons as well as their prevention and treatment.

### Continuing Dental Education Credit *New this Year - CDE No Cost to Any Participants*

The New York State Education Department has approved the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Oral Health, Programs and Policy as a sponsor of continuing education courses for dentists and dental hygienists. The State Board for Dentistry will accept its courses in those subjects areas that the Education Department has determined are appropriate continuing professional education for dentists and dental hygienists.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Oral Health, Programs and Policy designates each of today's continuing dental education courses with one hour of CDE credit for a total of three CDE credits for dentist and four CDE credits for dental hygienists. Each dentist/hygienist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in each of these courses.

### Afternoon Sessions

One of the new frontiers that OHPP has crossed is the use of computers in our clinical operations, starting with the Oral Health Surveillance system where laptop computers are used to capture data. The next step is to survey all clinical staff on the

(Continued on Page 2)

(Staff Enrichment Day Continued from Page 1)

level of their computer skills and send those who need it for training. This is in anticipation of going to electronic patient scheduling and patient records, as well as having forms stored on a computer to be printed as needed, instead of having to maintain a large supply of forms. (See *Cyber 21<sup>st</sup> Century IT Initiative*, page 7) At today's meeting, all staff are required to fill out a computer skills survey form and return it. At lunch there will be resource people to answer any questions staff might have about the survey. In addition, during the afternoon sessions, the surveys will be addressed during workshops.

Three afternoon concurrent workshops will be conducted for:

- < Dentists  
IT Training Needs - Herbert S. Kenigsberg, DDS  
Dental Materials - Susan Courtney, representative of Ultradent
- < Dental Hygienists  
IT Training Needs - Potung Wong  
Oral Health Surveillance - Su-Yan Barrow, RDH, BS, MA (CDE course)
- < Dental Assistants  
IT Training Needs - James Wolin, MBA, CPPB  
Proper Maintenance of Dental Equipment - Frank Cardinale  
Clinic Management - Mark Lewis, Sheldon Lisogorsky, Stephens Kumar, Toni Smith

A special thank you to New York University, College of Dentistry and its Dean, Michael C. Alfano, for providing the conference facilities and to Ultradent, makers of sealants, bonding agents, endodontic and restorative materials, and their special representative, Susan Courtney. Ë

### **American Dental Association Component Dental Societies, NYU and Columbia Join OHPP as Founding Members of *Seal Your Smile Initiative***

Dental decay is one of the most common chronic childhood diseases. The mission of the *Seal Your Smile Initiative* is to increase the number of New York City school aged children who receive dental

sealants, the thin, hard protective coatings that prevent decay on the chewing surfaces of teeth. The initiative will focus on education, changing healthcare-seeking behaviors and improving access.

The NYC Dental Sealant Steering Committee, spearheaded by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), will provide leadership for this new initiative. At present, the following are members: Bronx County Dental Society; Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery; DOHMH OHPP; New York County Dental Society; New York University College of Dentistry; Queens County Dental Society and Second District Dental Society. Ë



## **GIVE KIDS A SMILE (GKAS)**

### **NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

On Friday, February 6, 2004, dentists across the country provided free oral health care services to thousands of children from low-income families. The American Dental Association's second annual *Give Kids A Smile!* nationwide event, being held during National Children's Dental Health Month, will enhance the oral health of large numbers of needy children. *Give Kids A Smile!* activities also highlight for policy makers the ongoing challenges that disabled children and children from low-income families face in accessing dental care.

The concept behind *Give Kids a Smile!* is to bring together the numerous charitable education, screening, prevention and comprehensive treatment programs already in existence and to have them hold events on the same day. At the same time, the campaign provided a framework for identifying, cataloging and recognizing the many dental access programs that take place throughout the year. Ë

**Lower Manhattan Dental Clinic Reopens  
February 6, 2004 at the  
Leona Baumgartner Health Center  
in Chelsea**

**NYC dental clinic reopens for GKAS**

Reprinted from the American Dental Association News February 16, 2004 Volume 35, No. 4

*New York*—Dental leaders and public health officials celebrated GKAS in Chelsea with the reopening of a much-needed oral health clinic.

The Lower Manhattan Child and Adolescent Oral Health Clinic at the Leona Baumgartner Health Center was a popular place. Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Christine Quinn, chair of the city council's health committee; and Richard Gottfried, chair of the state assembly, spoke at the ribbon-cutting.

"There is a silent epidemic of dental disease in New York City with children in some communities, especially those in low-income families and neighborhoods, suffering disproportionately," Dr. Frieden told a standing-room-only crowd. "Furthermore, many children do not practice preventive dental care or receive necessary treatment."

Originally built in 1935, the clinic was closed in 1999 for lack of funds. On GKAS 2004, it was reopened after a complete renovation. It will provide comprehensive dental services free of charge to children from low-income families.

"There's a very high need here," said Dr. Mercedes Franklin, and director of DOHMH's bureau of oral health programs and policy. "There are a lot of people in the neighborhood without insurance and there aren't many places they can go for free care."

Assemblyman Gottfried said that between the city's efforts and the ADA's campaign, young New Yorkers now have a better chance of beating dental disease than ever before.

Dentists participated in GKAS events at some 50 department of health sites throughout New York County. —

(See photograph of ribbon cutting, page 4)

**Corona Dental Clinic Reopens  
November 2003 During the  
Milestone 90th year of OHPP,  
the Nation's Oldest Municipal  
Dental Program**

The Corona Child and Adolescent Oral Health Clinic renovation has been completed as the current stage of OHPP's capital projects. A welcome addition to this high need community, the Corona Clinic improves access to dental care for children up to age 21. Comprehensive dental care and prevention services are available year round.

Originally built in 1938, the Corona Clinic is among the dental clinics located in the city's District Health Centers, which were constructed in the 1930s. Fully renovated, the clinic will provide much needed dental care, complementing the geographic delivery of services. The ergonomically designed clinic has been standardized with OHPP clinics to ensure optimal efficiency and effectiveness for the delivery of services, replacing outmoded clinic designs.

The Corona Clinic is an enlarged and enhanced treatment facility with state-of-the-art equipment. Features of the clinic include: four operatories; enhanced radiographic diagnostic capacity; a dental laboratory; and a sterilization area, which supports increased clinical capabilities.

Both the Corona and Lower Manhattan Dental Clinics are *Centers of Excellence* which, together with OHPP's three existing Health Center dental clinics - - Bushwick, Washington Heights and Fort Greene, increase the capacity to provide clinical and public health services, ensure continued access during the summer and school holidays, and serve as *hubs* for community-based services. The integrated network includes 45 community-based dental clinics located in schools and other sites.

**Clinical Network of Community-based and Health Center Dental Clinics: Reconfiguration Project**

During the Bureau's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, planning began to reconfigure and expand community-based services from 45 to 66 sites, enabling the Bureau to target more effectively the use of its personnel. E

# LOWER MANHATTAN DENTAL CLINIC AT THE LEONA BAUMGARTNER HEALTH CENTER



◀ One of five Treatment Rooms



▶ Panoramic X-ray Unit



▲ Treatment Room with Cabinetry



**Easy does it:** Enjoying the moment, from left, Richard Gottfried; Dr. Alan Winik, president, Queens County Dental Society; Thomas R. Frieden M.D.; Dr. Michael Cali, president, 2nd District Dental Society; Dr. Bina Park, New York County Dental Society's chair for Children's Dental Health Month; Christine Quinn; Dr. Sheldon Nadler, president of the New York County Dental Society; and Dr. Mercedes Franklin.

▲ Source ADA News



▶ Two Treatment Rooms

# CORONA HEALTH CENTER DENTAL CLINIC



▲ Modern Sterilization Area



► Two of four Treatment Rooms



◀ State-of-Art Dental Treatment System



▲ Cutting the ribbon for Opening of the Corona Dental Clinic were: Dr. D. Mercedes Franklin, OHPP Director, Medical Affairs; Jose R. Peralta, NYS Assembly; Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President; John Sabini, NYS Senator; Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, DOHMH Commissioner; Helen Sears, NYC Council Woman; Ivan C. Lafayette, NYS Assembly; Chet Szarejko, Polish American Congress.



► Dental Lab.

# Clinic Openings



▲ Klaus W. Schmitt, RA, The Hall Partnership, Architects (far left), James Capozziello, Deputy Commissioner Health Care Access and Improvement, and (front) Claire Moise, Director, Management, Planning and Analysis, Anthony Botta, NYS Dormitory Authority, Project Manager (far right) at Corona



▲ Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Frieden and City Council Health Committee Chair, Christine Quinn (front), with Dr. Meryl Hersh, Dr. Jesse Kravit (rear) at Lower Manhattan



▲ Barbara Reiter, RDH and Gail Kashdan, RDH at Lower Manhattan



▲ James Wolin, Stephens Kumar, Dr. Jesse Kravit, Dr. Robert Grace, Dr. Meryl Hersh and Dr. Kirthlyn Branch at Lower Manhattan



▲ Dr. Jesse Kravit, Dr. Robert Grace, Dr. Kirthlyn Branch and Dr. Meryl Hersh at Corona



▲ Kaye Tinkelman, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Toni D. Smith, NYS Senator John Sabini, at Corona

## CYBER 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY IT INITIATIVE

The Division of Health Care Access and Improvement is in the process of evaluating the feasibility of purchasing a computer system (hardware and software) to automate scheduling of patients and for the creation and use of electronic patient records. HCAI is also exploring the feasibility of using digital x-rays. It is possible, that as early as the late summer of 2004, that some of the Health Center Dental Clinics may be using electronic scheduling and electronic patient charts. All Clinical Staff will receive training on the specific hardware and software at the time that their clinic implements a digital solution.

The computer skills survey that staff are required to fill out and submit will be used to design training classes to address their specific needs to acclimate them to use computers for work (see page 2). Classes are being tentatively scheduled June 21, 2004 through June 30, 2004 and will be designed to address the different skill levels of the staff. Computer training for Dentists will be scheduled from June 21, and for Dental Assistants will be scheduled from June 28 through June 30. The Dental Hygienists training will be scheduled sometime during the month of June. E

## Oral Cancer Awareness Goes National *Free Screenings in NYC April 15, 2004*

On a national level, April 2004 will be the month to focus on oral cancer awareness. On Thursday April 15, 2004, immediately preceding the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation (YBF) Awareness week, the Oral Cancer Consortium will hold its sixth annual FREE ORAL CANCER SCREENING event. This is a step closer to synchronizing oral cancer, awareness events nationwide. The Consortiums event is designed to raise public awareness of this deadly but unfamiliar disease and to spread the message that oral cancer, if detected early, is curable.

The Oral Brush Biopsy, a computer assisted analysis of suspected cancerous lesions, will be provided at no cost to the institution and the patient.

This year, OHPP personnel will staff OHPP health center clinics and supplement the staff, as needed, at participating HHC sites. As a result of the joint effort, we will conduct screenings at a total of fourteen sites, a record breaking number.

The sites currently include:

### Bronx

- HHC Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center

### Manhattan

- DOHMH Washington Heights Health Center
- DOHMH Lower Manhattan Dental Clinic at the Leona Baumgartner Health Center
- HHC Metropolitan Hospital Center
- HHC Gouverneur Diagnostic and Treatment Center

### Queens

- DOHMH Corona Health Center
- HHC Elmhurst Hospital Center
- HHC Queens Hospital Center

### Brooklyn

- DOHMH Bushwick Health Center
- DOHMH Fort Greene Health Center
- HHC Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center
- HHC Kings County Hospital Center
- HHC East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center
- HHC Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center

## *Smokers at High Risk for Disfiguring Disease That Kills 12,000 Americans Yearly.*

One American dies from oral cancer every hour, more than from either cervical cancer or melanoma. The alarming findings of a new survey conducted on the behalf of YBF show that "three out of four tobacco users (72%) in the U.S., the segment of the population that is at highest risk for developing oral and head and neck cancer, have never been screened for this prevalent and potentially deadly disease." The Consortium annual event for 2005 is tentative scheduled for April 7th, to coincide with the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation Awareness week. E

## DOHMH Patient Satisfaction Surveys

The survey, part of the Department's Quality Improvement efforts, is designed to assist in the Department's understanding of the level of patient satisfaction with clinic services and the clinic environment. A standardized survey was implemented throughout the Department's Article 28 clinics in late February 2004. A survey of patients receiving Oral Health Services will be conducted March 29-April 2, 2004. Article 28 Programs are required to conduct annual patient satisfaction surveys. Survey findings will be shared with clinic administrators and staff, as well as with the Quality Improvement Executive Council chaired by Commissioner Frieden. E

## ☰ PERSONAL NOTES ☰

Congratulations to James Wolin who has been renewed as a "Certified Professional Public Buyer," by The National Institute of Government Purchasing, Inc.

Congratulations on the marriage of Amy Beth Goldstein, daughter of Dr. Seymour Goldstein, to Robert Martens Jr. on September 14, 2003.

New staff members have joined OHPP's Central Office Staff we welcome:

Kee Fung, Community Coordinator  
Nirva Samy, Supervising Public Health Adviser

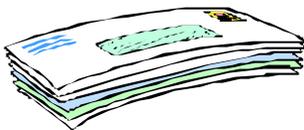
New staff members have joined OHPP's Regional Staff we welcome:

### Region I

Miata Barrolle, Dental Assistant  
Shantiel Parker, Dental Assistant  
Oliva Payne, Dental Assistant

### Region II

Ricardo Wilson, Dental Assistant



Please submit Personal Notes for the next issue (including honors, professional accomplishments and personal milestones to **DENTAL NOTES**

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