



FACT SHEET

Oral Health Services for Older Adults **University of Minnesota School of Dentistry**

MISSION

The mission of the Oral Health Services for Older Adults (OHSOA) Program is to: 1) provide training for dental and non-dental health professionals who wish to provide better geriatric care; 2) contribute new knowledge about geriatric oral health; and 3) improve community access to high quality dental care for older adults. OHSOA has been a pioneer in geriatric dentistry since it began in 1981 as the first university-based M.S. degree in Geriatrics for dentists in the U.S. The program been locally and nationally recognized and received the 1995 American Dental Association Geriatric Oral Health Care Award for its outstanding contributions in community service, education, and research.

EDUCATION

- From 1981 through 2014, OHSOA provided fellowship training to 36 individuals, producing leaders in geriatric care delivery, research, and education. Thirteen graduates now hold faculty positions in the US and abroad, and five served as officers of the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry.
- OHSOA also educates over 200 other learners per year, including students in dentistry, dental hygiene, as well as medicine, nursing, pharmacy and other disciplines. Faculty regularly present at regional and national conferences and continuing education programs for dental and non-dental professionals, as well as collaborating with the University's Center on Aging.
- OHSOA's intensive continuing education program, *The Miniresidency in Nursing Home and Long-term Care for the Dental Team*, began in 1991 and has trained over 250 dental professionals from across the US and around the world. Recognized as an innovative model for geriatric dental education, grants from the Fauchard Academy, Academy of General Dentistry and others have also taken the *Miniresidency* "on the road" as well.
- In 2010, OHSOA and the MN Dept. of Health released the DVD and Workbook, "Growing Old with a Smile: Oral Care for Older Adults in Long-Term Care." This DVD was a 2011 "Highly Rated" new product in the CR Foundation Clinician's Report and is distributed with support from the Minnesota Dental Association.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- OHSOA has been a pioneer in community-based geriatric education. From 1981-2010, the Wilder Senior Dental Program, operated with St. Paul's Amherst Wilder Foundation, was a regional resource for geriatric dental care, serving older adults from the community as well as 20 area long-term care facilities.
- A Clinical Innovations Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health supported replication of the OHSOA/Wilder clinic model to Minneapolis in partnership with Walker Methodist Health Center. Additional grants from the MN Dept. of Health, Delta Dental Foundation of MN, the Otto Bremer Foundation, and Stevens Square Foundation supported a major expansion in 2016 to double its capacity for patient care and education. Walker Methodist Dental Clinic received the 2016 Innovation Award from LeadingAge, the national organization of over 6000 not-for-profit organizations representing the entire field of aging services.
- In 2015, the program provided 1800 patient visits to about 700 older adults, including about 1000 visits to nursing home residents and 800 to community – dwelling older adults, including those in assisted living and adult day programs. Since opening in 2006, the Walker Dental Clinic has provided over 15,000 visits valued at almost \$3 million to over 2000 patients. The program is known for its expertise managing patients with dementia and other geriatric conditions. Walker Clinic participates in all state health plans and is a designated Minnesota Critical Access Dental Provider.

CONTRIBUTING NEW KNOWLEDGE

- Student and faculty research projects at affiliated community sites have led to over two dozen publications in peer-reviewed journals and numerous presentations at local, regional, and national meetings.
- Training and research grants have generated over \$3 million in funding for the OHSOA program. Funders have included NIH, U.S. Bureau of Health Professions, local and state government, foundations and industry.
- In 2011, OHSOA collaborated with the Minnesota Dental Association and MN Department of Labor to develop new safe patient handling guidelines and educational materials for dental practices.
- Eight student projects with OHSOA faculty have earned top honors in local and national student award competitions, including three First Prize Awards in the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry's Kamen Student Research Competition.

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