

New Haven Dental Association NEWSBRIEF

A Bulletin For New Haven Dental Association Members

January 2001

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NHDA Website
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FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2001

speaker

CLARENCE TRUMMEL, DDS, Ph.D.

Professor and Head, Department of Periodontology
University of Connecticut, School of Dental Medicine

topic

**CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC METHODS IN TREATING
PERIODONTAL DISEASE**

New Haven Country Club

6:00 PM	<i>Cocktails</i>
6:45 PM	<i>Dinner</i>
7:30 PM	<i>Business Meeting</i>
8:00 PM	<i>CE Presentation</i>

RSVP to Doug Rollins — 288-0900

by Tuesday January 30, 2001.

You may mail your reservation and payment to his office at
1220 Whitney Avenue C-8, Hamden, CT 06517.

A **Buffet Dinner** will be served.

Cost will be **\$33.00** with a reservation and **\$38.00** without a reservation.

There is no cost for those who wish to attend the business meeting/CE presentation and not have dinner. Attending members may obtain AGD Continuing Education Credits.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy winter wonderland to you all! After several mild ones, we finally have a real winter to deal with. Cancellations are obviously a pain but the extra time can be put to good use catching up on things...like reading our newsletter. Hopefully, "Connecticut Chuck" will promise an early spring on Ground Hog Day.

Our January meeting was extremely well attended, the best in years. Mr. Resigno the President of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce updated the membership on New Haven's business climate. His organization is involved with a multitude of plans and projects to aid the entire region not just the city. Linking downtown with the waterfront, the new Q-bridge, and improving Tweed Airport are just a few which will help keep and attract new industry especially the biotechnology companies spinning off of Yale University research. He feels that Mayor DeStefano, Governor Rowland and Yale are all finally getting on the same page regarding what is best for our region. Don't be afraid to voice your concerns and ideas to Mr. Resigno... even perhaps join his organization.

At the last executive board meeting, Dr. Milt Wallack gave an update on the plans for the U.N.H. Hygiene School to have a UConn pediatric fellow on site to help with the Title 19 population access issue. He also requested a liaison from our board to sit on the Hygiene School board to aid us in addressing the practicing dental community's concerns and needs. This school is a great asset and I am glad we will be working together. A definite win-win relationship should result.

On the A.D.A. recruitment effort, Dr. D'Andrea and I are drafting a personal letter to invite those nonmembers in our community to join us. We have a terrific association here in New Haven but we need to continue trying to get every dentist to not only to join but to be active and participate in our various functions and committees. If there is some need or concern that is keeping you from not being active in your association, please call me personally. Dentistry can be a tough lonely profession without the camaraderie of your peers.

At the February meeting, we return to the New Haven Country Club and to our scientific program. Dr. Clarence Trummel from UConn will enlighten us on the ever-changing arena of periodontal chemotherapy. Don't forget the month of February is Children's Dental Health Month. Dr. Muller has been busy arranging talks at area schools and setting up the Dino-mite Day at Peabody Museum on Sunday February 25th. Call him if you would like to volunteer. This has become a fantastic community event. Bring your own children and make a day of it.

So with winter firmly entrenched, you can fight cabin (cubicle) fever by coming out to our February 1st meeting and warming up with your colleagues. See you there!

Phil

Update on the University of New Haven Dental Hygiene Program

The University of New Haven Dental Hygiene Program is an allied health program, which prepares dental hygiene graduates for career-ready dental hygiene positions. The Program was established in 1994 and is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Hygiene Association. The mission and goals of the Program is to educate students to develop the knowledge, the clinical skills and the attitudes necessary to participate in a changing health care system. Students provide preventive dental services for diverse populations at the UNH Dental Center; the Dental Center houses 19 state-of-the art dental stations and supportive facilities for the delivery of care to patients.

The UNH Dental Hygiene Program is currently developing a collaboration with the UCONN School of Dental Medicine Pediatric Fellowship Program. This collaboration will begin to address the access to care issue, primarily providing comprehensive dental services to underserved children from the greater New Haven and West Haven areas. Complementing and contributing to this collaboration are the following institutions and agencies: Benecare Managed Care Insurance, Hospital of Saint Raphael Smiles 2 Go Van, YNHH, Department of Dentistry, and Connecticut's Bureau of Community Health, Department of Public Health.

In addition to the Program's academic and clinical goals, its continual partnership with the New Haven Dental Association is vital to the current status of the Program and its commitment to serve the community. Our professional collaboration will not only enhance the student dental hygienists' educational experiences, but it will also contribute to improving the oral health of our future generations.

Again, thanks for your support and for your genuine interest in the UNH Dental Hygiene Program. Please contact Sandy Palumbo at 931-6029 for additional information.

In Memoriam

Michael Cozzolino, DDS

Lester Weiss, DDS

The New Haven Dental Association acknowledges with deep regret the deaths of our two colleagues, both lifetime members of our association.

NHDA WEBSITE

www.newhavendental.org

A reminder that we have a great website full of helpful information, including copies of our previous newsletters and even pictures from our last annual banquet and holiday party (a nice feature for you retired out of town members). Thanks again to Dr. Bruce Cha for his expertise and time to put this site together. Also, thanks to Dr. Phil Harrington for his initiative and direction to this entire project. And finally, thanks to all the members who voted in support of proceeding with the website.

CSDA WEBSITE

CSDA.com

Also, check out CSDA's newly rebuilt web-site for comprehensive, up-to-date information from our state association.



FEBRUARY - NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Activities Here in New Haven

Dear New Haven Dental Society members,

February is upon us, and preparations for New Haven Dental Society's Children's Dental Health Month effort are in full swing. This year our organization has once again committed to the mission of bringing dental health information to the children of our community through two main venues.

Firstly, members of our organization will visit first grade classes in the New Haven area to put on presentations promoting good dental health. We will accomplish our goal of covering all interested schools through the generous help and cooperation from the students and staff of St. Raphael's Dental Van, Hill Health Center, and the University of New Haven Dental Hygiene School. Thank you to all of those who have signed on to contribute their time and talents in helping make this public service effort a success!

Secondly, we will stage an event at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History from noon to four p.m. on Sunday February 25th. The St. Raphael van will be there, and our organization will be giving away 1,000 "goodie bags" to children attending, as well as providing 100 free mouthguards. Chris Rowlands will perform two of his popular shows. Activity tables for the event will be staffed by hygienists and dentists. - ***That means you!***— Please contact me if you would be willing to take part in this effort. Your participation is vital if we are to continue this successful program and demonstrate our Society's commitment to the advancement of this worthy cause. My number is 248-5742. Have a great month.

Sincerely,
Doug Muller,
Chairmen Children's Dental Health Month Committee 2001

FEBRUARY - NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The following is an excerpt from a recently released U.S. Surgeon General's Report on "Oral Health in America". The facts are apropos as well as interesting as we recognize the importance of children's dental health.



CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH

- The oral health of children has improved significantly over the past few decades.
- Today most American children enjoy excellent oral health, but a significant subset suffers a high level of oral disease. The most advanced disease is found primarily among children living in poverty, some racial/ethnic minority populations, disabled children, and children with HIV infection.
- We know enough about health promotion and disease prevention measures to improve the oral health and well-being of *all* children.
- Tooth decay remains one of the most common diseases of childhood – 5 times as common as asthma and 7 times as common as hay fever.
- More than half of children aged 5-9 have had at least one cavity or filling; 78 percent of 17-year-olds have experienced tooth decay.
- By age 17, more than 7 percent of children have lost at least one permanent tooth to decay.
- Each year, 8,000 babies are born with cleft lip and/or cleft palate, making these among the most common birth defects. Cleft lip and cleft palate interfere with normal appearance, eating, and speech.
- Injuries to children, intentional and non-intentional, often involve trauma to the head, neck, and mouth. The leading causes of oral and head injuries are sports, violence, falls, and motor vehicle crashes.
- Tobacco-related oral lesions are common in teenagers who use spit (smokeless) tobacco. The lesions occur in 35 percent of snuff users and 20 percent of chewing tobacco users.
- One in four American children are born into poverty (annual income of \$17,000 or less for a family of four). Children and adolescents living in poverty suffer twice as much tooth decay as their more affluent peers, and their disease is more likely to go untreated.
- Children from families without *medical* insurance are 2.5 times less likely than insured children to receive dental care. Children from families without *dental* insurance are 3 times more likely than insured children to have unmet dental needs.
- For every child without medical insurance, there are 2.6 who lack dental insurance.
- Fewer than one in five Medicaid-covered children had a preventive dental visit during a recent year-long study.
- The daily reality for children with untreated oral disease is often persistent pain, inability to eat comfortably or chew well, embarrassment at discolored and damaged teeth, and distraction from play and learning.
- More than 51 million school hours are lost each year because of dental-related illness.

COMMITTEE FOR DENTAL CARING

Toothbrushes and toothpaste were distributed at the health tables set up at the several soup kitchens in the New Haven area. Some funds are allocated for a similar distribution to the guests at the Columbus House Homeless Shelter.

We have recently received toothpaste and toothbrushes from Colgate for these projects and have acknowledged their generosity.

We are always happy to accept contributions to the fund.

THANK YOU TO NHDA

The following thank you note was received because of the soup kitchen donations:

Dear Dr. Cohen and NHDA,

Thank you very much for your donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste. We distributed them at the soup kitchen before Christmas and everyone was very excited to have them. Wrapping them added a nice touch for the holidays. Happy New Year!

Karen Mera, Yale Nursing Student Coordinator, Student Health Professionals@DESK

NHDA WEBSITE ADDITION

The patient complaint form developed by the CSDA is available on the NHDA web. This form can be printed as a webpage and be used for filing complaints regarding any mishandling of dental claims by the insurance companies. You may access NHDA web at www.newhavendental.org.

FREE DENTAL EQUIPMENT

Five converted pump type dental chairs - free. Call John Gisondi (203) 255-2677



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

New Haven Dental Association
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New Haven, CT 06511