

Media Clipbook

American Dental Association Endorsement of Smiles for Life Curriculum

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Smiles for Life

By Stacie Crozier

American Dental Association News

October 9, 2012

Leesburg, Va.—The ADA has endorsed Smiles for Life, a national online oral health curriculum for primary care providers.

Funded by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, the Smiles for Life curriculum is designed by and for primary care clinicians to learn about and promote oral health. The free curriculum offers opportunities for clinicians to learn about and prioritize oral health as well as to partner effectively with each other.

“With physicians, nurses, physician assistants and other members of the primary care team joining the fight for oral health, we have a real chance to eradicate the silent epidemic of dental disease,” said Dr. Kathleen O’Loughlin, ADA executive director. “The dental profession looks favorably on the engagement of primary care clinicians who have contact with patients of all ages since they can greatly impact dental disease firsthand.”

The endorsement was announced during the NIIOH 2012 Symposium on Oral Health and Primary Care, Oct. 7-9, in Leesburg, Va.

“The Smiles for Life curriculum provides an educational website for physicians and other medical primary care providers at no cost to the individual,” said Dr. David Holwager, a general dentist in Cambridge City, Ind., and chair of the ADA Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations. “Smiles for Life also provides for an exchange of information and the establishment of both a medical and dental home for the patient. The early establishment of such an integrated medical/dental home will help to reduce oral disease in children.”

Since its launch in 2005, the Smiles for Life curriculum has been revised and expanded and today is the nation’s most comprehensive and widely used oral health curriculum designed for primary care clinicians, according to the NIIOH. The eight-module course covers the relationship of oral to systemic health, child oral health, adult oral health, dental emergencies, oral health in pregnancy, fluoride varnish, geriatric oral health and the oral

examination. Curricular components of the first two editions of Smiles for Life were downloaded more than 100,000 times.

The current edition is web-based and interactive and can be used by both individuals and health educators in academic settings. It includes educational objectives based on Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education competencies, test questions, resources for further learning, oral health web links, an implementation guide and detailed outlines of the modules.

“Very little time is devoted to oral health education for other health care professional groups during their training,” said Dr. Monica Hebl, a general dentist in Milwaukee and CAPIR vice chair. “The Smiles for Life curriculum enables health professionals to access quality oral health information and education at no cost. This greater awareness has the potential for increased referrals to dentists.”

The NIIOH, a consortium of funders and health professionals, was founded in 2009 with a vision to eradicate dental disease. The group’s mission, posted on its website, is to engage primary care clinicians to be alert to their patients’ oral health needs, ready and willing to deliver oral health preventive services to patients of all ages, effective at partnering with dental specialists, and able to learn from, with and about each other.

Professional organizations that have already officially endorsed this curriculum include the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, NIIOH, the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, the Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and the Physician Assistants Education Association.

The Smiles for Life curriculum is online at smilesforlifeoralhealth.org. For more information on the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, visit niioh.org.



Groundbreaking Oral Health Curriculum Endorsed by ADA

**Dentistry Today
By Dentistry Today
October 9, 2012**

LEESBURG, Va., Oct. 9, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The American Dental Association (ADA) announced its official endorsement of "Smiles for Life," the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's national online oral health curriculum. Funded by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, the Smiles for Life curriculum was first released in 2005 and is now available in an interactive online 3rd edition. Smiles for Life is the nation's most comprehensive and widely used oral health curriculum specifically designed by and for primary medical care clinicians.

The endorsement came at the Interprofessional Initiative's "2012 Symposium on Oral Health and Primary Care," held in Leesburg, Va., October 7-9, and marks great progress toward ensuring all people at risk of dental disease get the benefit of preventive services that experts know can work.

"Oral health is a key component of overall health. We are pleased to provide an opportunity for medical clinicians to learn to promote oral health as an integral part of primary medical care," said Alan Douglass, M.D., Founding Editor of Smiles for Life.

"With physicians, nurses, physician assistants and other members of the primary care team joining the fight for oral health, we have a real chance to eradicate the silent epidemic of dental disease," said Dr.

Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director of the ADA. "The dental profession looks favorably on the engagement of primary care clinicians who have contact with patients of all ages since they can greatly impact dental disease firsthand."

The ADA recognizes and commends the work of the Interprofessional Initiative for investing in the development of high quality tools like Smiles for Life and in opportunities for clinicians to learn about and prioritize oral health. This includes learning how to partner effectively with each other. The work aligns with the ADA's strategic plan to collaborate across the spectrum of stakeholders outside of dentistry to improve public health outcomes.

The Interprofessional Initiative's goal is to improve access to oral health care and prevention for children, adults and families who are at high risk. It brings together diverse

stakeholders in the field of primary care clinician education and practice to create oral health solutions. The Interprofessional Initiative is funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, The Washington Dental Service Foundation and the Connecticut Health Foundation.

"The ADA endorsement of the Smiles for Life curriculum is an important sign of support from the dental profession," said Ralph Fuccillo, president of the DentaQuest Foundation. "We are thrilled to have the ADA welcome new partners in prevention. We appreciate their recognition of the work of the Interprofessional Initiative and its partners to include oral health in the education and training of all primary care clinicians. The Interprofessional Initiative is enacting real systems change to permanently alter the way that health professionals are educated about oral health; dental profession support is key to our success."

The 2012 Symposium on Oral Health and Primary Care, sponsored by the Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, is an opportunity for funders and representatives from dentistry, family medicine, pediatrics, nursing, physician assistant and pharmacy professions to come together to celebrate progress made and determine the most effective next steps to integrate oral health into primary care education and practice. The 2012 Symposium is the fifth in a series of these events.

"We are seeing great progress as groups partner through the Interprofessional Initiative to prevent dental disease," said Laura Smith, President and CEO of the Washington Dental Service Foundation. "In Washington State, we're excited by the possibility that primary care medical providers will be ready to work in partnership with dentists when they complete their education and start practicing. All patients will benefit from dentists and primary care medical clinicians sharing responsibility for preventing oral disease."

"An endorsement of the Smiles for Life curriculum from the ADA speaks volumes about the importance of educating the entire medical community about oral health," said Patricia Baker, president and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation. "We are thrilled to support the work of such an important initiative as we work together to end dental disease."

"The Interprofessional Initiative is forging common ground in the arena of Medical and Dental Collaboration, one of the six priority areas of the US National Oral Health Alliance. This work is a concrete expression of what the Alliance hopes to make possible in all six of its priority areas," said Dr. Caswell Evans, Chair of the Alliance Founding Board. National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health:

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American Dental Association:

Lydia Hall 312-440-2806 halll@ada.org

About the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health

Founded in 2009, the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health is a consortium of funders and health professionals whose vision is that dental disease can be eradicated. The mission of the Interprofessional Initiative is to engage primary care clinicians to be alert to their patients' oral health needs, ready and willing to deliver oral health preventive services to patients of all ages, effective at partnering with dental specialists, and able to learn from, with and about each other. The activities of the Interprofessional Initiative are made possible as a result of funding from The DentaQuest Foundation, the Washington Dental Service Foundation, and the Connecticut Health Foundation. For more information, please visit <http://www.niioh.org/>.

About the American Dental Association

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing 157,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit www.ada.org. For more information on oral health, including prevention, care and treatment of dental disease, visit the ADA's consumer website www.MouthHealthy.org.



Oral health curriculum endorsed by ADA

October 9, 2012

By Dentistry IQ Editors

LEESBURG, Virginia--The [American Dental Association](#) has endorsed [Smiles for Life](#), the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's national online oral health curriculum.

Funded by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, the Smiles for Life curriculum was first released in 2005 and is now available in an interactive online third edition. Smiles for Life is a comprehensive oral health curriculum specifically designed by and for primary medical care clinicians.

The endorsement came at the Interprofessional Initiative's 2012 Symposium on Oral Health and Primary Care, and marks progress toward helping ensure people at risk of dental disease get the benefit of preventive services that experts know can work.

"Oral health is a key component of overall health. We are pleased to provide an opportunity for medical clinicians to learn to promote oral health as an integral part of primary medical care," said Alan Douglass, MD, founding editor of Smiles for Life.

Added Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director of the ADA: "With physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and other members of the primary care team joining the fight for oral health, we have a real chance to eradicate the silent epidemic of dental disease.

"The dental profession looks favorably on the engagement of primary care clinicians who have contact with patients of all ages since they can greatly impact dental disease firsthand."

The ADA recognizes and commends the work of the Interprofessional Initiative for investing in the development of high-quality tools, such as Smiles for Life, and in opportunities for clinicians to learn about and prioritize oral health.

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"We are thrilled to have the ADA welcome new partners in prevention. We appreciate their

recognition of the work of the Interprofessional Initiative and its partners to include oral health in the education and training of all primary care clinicians. The Interprofessional Initiative is enacting real systems change to permanently alter the way that health professionals are educated about oral health; dental profession support is key to our success."

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"We are seeing great progress as groups partner through the Interprofessional Initiative to prevent dental disease," said Laura Smith, president and CEO of the Washington Dental Service Foundation.

"In Washington state, we're excited by the possibility that primary care medical providers will be ready to work in partnership with dentists when they complete their education and start practicing. All patients will benefit from dentists and primary care medical clinicians sharing responsibility for preventing oral disease."

According to Patricia Baker, president and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation: "An endorsement of the Smiles for Life curriculum from the ADA speaks volumes about the importance of educating the entire medical community about oral health. We are thrilled to support the work of such an important initiative as we work together to end dental disease."

Added Dr. Caswell Evans, chair of the Alliance Founding Board: "The Interprofessional Initiative is forging common ground in the arena of medical and dental collaboration, one of the six priority areas of the U.S. National Oral Health Alliance. This work is a concrete expression of what the Alliance hopes to make possible in all six of its priority areas."

For more information, go to www.ada.org.

Groundbreaking Oral Health Curriculum Endorsed by American Dental Association
October 9, 2012

LEESBURG, Va., Oct. 9, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The American Dental Association (ADA) announced its official endorsement of "Smiles for Life," the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's national online oral health curriculum. Funded by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, the Smiles for Life curriculum was first released in 2005 and is now available in an interactive online 3rd edition. Smiles for Life is the nation's most comprehensive and widely used oral health curriculum specifically designed by and for primary medical care clinicians.

The endorsement came at the Interprofessional Initiative's "2012 Symposium on Oral Health and Primary Care," held in Leesburg, Va., October 7-9, and marks great progress toward ensuring all people at risk of dental disease get the benefit of preventive services that experts know can work.

"Oral health is a key component of overall health. We are pleased to provide an opportunity for medical clinicians to learn to promote oral health as an integral part of primary medical care," said Alan Douglass, M.D., Founding Editor of Smiles for Life.

"With physicians, nurses, physician assistants and other members of the primary care team joining the fight for oral health, we have a real chance to eradicate the silent epidemic of dental disease," said Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director of the ADA. "The dental profession looks favorably on the engagement of primary care clinicians who have contact with patients of all ages since they can greatly impact dental disease firsthand."

The ADA recognizes and commends the work of the Interprofessional Initiative for investing in the development of high quality tools like Smiles for Life and in opportunities for clinicians to learn about and prioritize oral health. This includes learning how to partner effectively with each other. The work aligns with the ADA's strategic plan to collaborate across the spectrum of stakeholders outside of dentistry to improve public health outcomes.

The Interprofessional Initiative's goal is to improve access to oral health care and prevention for children, adults and families who are at high risk. It brings together diverse stakeholders in the field of primary care clinician education and practice to create oral health solutions. The Interprofessional Initiative is funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, The Washington Dental Service Foundation and the Connecticut Health Foundation.

"The ADA endorsement of the Smiles for Life curriculum is an important sign of support from the dental profession," said Ralph Fuccillo, president of the DentaQuest Foundation. "We are thrilled to have the ADA welcome new partners in prevention. We appreciate their recognition of the work of the Interprofessional Initiative and its partners to include oral health in the education and training of all primary care clinicians. The Interprofessional Initiative is enacting real systems change to permanently alter the way that health

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About the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health

Founded in 2009, the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health is a consortium of funders and health professionals whose vision is that dental disease can be eradicated. The mission of the Interprofessional Initiative is to engage primary care clinicians to be alert to their patients' oral health needs, ready and willing to deliver oral health preventive services to patients of all ages, effective at partnering with dental specialists, and able to learn from, with and about each other. The activities of the Interprofessional Initiative are made possible as a result of funding from The DentaQuest Foundation, the Washington Dental Service Foundation, and the Connecticut Health Foundation. For more information, please visit <http://www.niioh.org/>.

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October 9, 2012**

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SOURCE: American Dental Association

<http://www.cisionwire.com/american-dental-association/r/groundbreaking-oral-health-curriculum-endorsed-by-american-dental-association ,c9315305>



[ADA endorses online course for primary care physicians](#)

**Dr. Bicuspid
By Dr Bicuspid Staff
October 10, 2012**

October 9, 2012 -- The American Dental Association (ADA) has officially endorsed Smiles for Life, the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's national online oral health curriculum.

Smiles for Life is a comprehensive and widely used oral health curriculum specifically designed by and for primary medical care clinicians, according to the ADA. Funded by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, the Smiles for Life curriculum was first released in 2005 and is now available in an interactive online third edition.

The Interprofessional Initiative's goal is to improve access to oral healthcare and prevention for children, adults, and families who are at high risk by bringing together diverse stakeholders in the field of primary care clinician education and practice to create oral health solutions, the ADA noted.

The Interprofessional Initiative is funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, The Washington Dental Service Foundation, and the Connecticut Health Foundation.



[ADA endorses Smiles for Life oral health curriculum](#)

Dental Tribune
October 12, 2012
By Dental Tribune Staff



A groundbreaking oral health curriculum is being endorsed by the American Dental Association. (DTI/Photo Elena Vdovina, Dreamstime.com)

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ADA praises Portland, Ore., City Council for vote to fluoridate
AGD and ADA agree that more study is needed on midlevel providers
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