



**Report to Paul B. Roth, MD, FACEP
Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
Dean, UNM School of Medicine
October 6, 2010**

**Proposal For
Department
Of
Dental Medicine**

Report Submitted By:

**Division of Dental Services
Division of Dental Hygiene**

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary.....	3
Background	4
Rationale for a Department	6
Proposed Research Initiatives	7
Existing Programs.....	8
Department Structure	14
Funding.....	15
Faculty and Staff	16
New Programs.....	17
Curriculum.....	18
Conclusion.....	19

Executive Summary

The University of New Mexico, Divisions of Dental Services and Dental Hygiene are proposing the establishment of an academic department that focuses on oral health to address the needs in New Mexico. Organizationally the Divisions of Dental Services and Dental Hygiene reside within the Department of Surgery. The Department of Surgery has served as the dental programs' administrative home during their growth years. Historically, this was due to dentists having their hospital privileges credentialed in Departments of Surgery where Departments of Dentistry did not exist. In fact, it is unique in the United States for a Medical School to house dental programs normally located in Dental Schools. A logical next step for oral health education is raising the dental programs to departmental level within the Health Science Center.

The Department of Surgery has nurtured the dental divisions to a point where they are mature enough to form a Department of Dental Medicine. Combining the two dental divisions into one department develops a larger and stronger vehicle for the education of future oral health care providers. In addition, this new department will have a more powerful voice regarding issues that impact oral health. A Department of Dental Medicine provides a significant multi-disciplinary impact with the Health Science Center mission and goals and expands the institution's value of oral health as an academic unit.

Both dental programs are helping the State of New Mexico address the shortage of oral health care providers. The Division of Dental Hygiene graduates 26 bachelors level students yearly and provide a Master's Degree of Dental Hygiene to develop teachers, public health practitioners and researchers. Over 90% of the hygiene graduates stay in New Mexico, immediately following graduation. The Division of Dental Services provides New Mexico with its only educational program for dentists providing young dental graduates opportunity to learn advanced dental skills. Retention rates of graduates are historically high with greater than 60% practicing in New Mexico, often in public health and rural clinics.

A UNMHSC Department of Dental Medicine will help develop state-wide leadership, as growth in oral health education is important in helping New Mexico develop programs and providers to address the severe shortage of oral health care providers. A Department of Dental Medicine will provide a base, continuing to attract highly talented hygiene students, dental residents, and faculty to the UNMHSC. This important step provides a sound foundation, which is critical if New Mexico one day develops a dental school. During the interim years, the Department of Dental Medicine allows the dental programs to provide emphasis for collaborative educational and clinical efforts within the health science center. It provides UNM a flagship vessel spotlighting the importance of oral health for the State of New Mexico.

Plans for the new department include the expansion of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency program, the creation of several dental specialty residency programs and the implementation of the BA-DDS program, which focuses on the education of a dental provider with strong rural health ties to New Mexico. An innovative University of New Mexico regional dental school model proposed to address the shortage of dentists in our state uses out-of-state dental school partnerships for portions of dental professional education. Such partnerships provide a cost effective approach in providing New Mexicans guaranteed slots in dental school. This New Mexico regional dental school model would allow dental students to complete a portion of their first two years at UNM. The dental students would then complete the final two years of curriculum at an affiliated dental school and clinical rotations completed in UNM sites. This model would be affordable to New Mexico and would focus on developing dentists who are familiar with New Mexicans' oral health needs.

The new department will continue to focus on the education of dental hygienists. Since 2004, UNM has been educating select dental hygienists at the Master's level. These dental hygienists have assumed roles in school-based dental clinics, county health programs, Carrie Tingley hospital dental clinic and educational programs across the state. Developing programs that currently are being initiated by these dental hygienists are in nursing facilities and Head Start programs. These MSDH dental hygienists work alongside dentists in all endeavors. Just last year, 10 of the 24 undergraduate dental hygienists decided to further their education in the MSDH program. In essence, UNM is already creating a unique mid-level provider in oral health care. This mid-level is triaging patients, not only referring patients to dentists, but ensuring these patients get needed urgent and restorative care by dentists and working as true dental case managers with teachers, social workers, WIC employees and health care providers. UNM plans to expand this mid-level role of these dental hygienists to hospitals and other medical care clinics to ensure access to care, by working with dentists to get those in need to dental offices.

Moreover, all dentally-related educational programs will be working in concert with each other, so that students are educated to work together for the provision of comprehensive care. Once these students become providers they will be accustomed to working together, which will ensure and enhance the dental team concept in New Mexico. As evidenced, UNM is working to solve access to care issues, not by devaluing educational standards of providers, but by providing highly educated and qualified providers to work with those New Mexicans most in need. The ongoing programs and plans of this new department will provide New Mexico with highly educated practitioners who work in collaboration with each other, and strive to provide our state with highly educated dental professionals.

Background

Division of Dental Services

Housed within the Department of Surgery, the Division of Dental Services began in 2001 with the goal of developing a general dentistry residency program. The first class of five residents was accepted July 1, 2004 and the program has now expanded to ten residents each year for its post graduate one-year advanced education residency program for general dentists. This is the only training program in New Mexico for dentists and offers the base for expansion of oral health educational program for training and dentists and providing post-graduate training residency programs.

Due to the expansion of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency, there is strong support within the HSC to elevate the oral health programs within the UNM HSC organizational structure to recognize the importance of its oral health educational programs. The School of Medicine plans to implement a BA/DDS program modeled after the successful BA/MD program. A department within UNM HSC establishes a stronger oral health presence within the School of Medicine and enhances oral health education

UNMHSC received a Macy Foundation Grant to study the formation of a BA/DDS program. Over the course of approximately fifteen months, discussions with out-of-state dental schools occurred to determine willing partners in this educational effort for the dental school professional portion of the BA/DDS program. A report prepared for Dean Roth regarding the New Mexico Regional Dental School outlined how UNM could provide the professional education of its BA/DDS students. Under the model of a Regional Dental School concept, dental students and residents would return to New Mexico for rotations, thus meeting the dire need for increased qualified dental health providers in the state.

Senator Jeff Bingaman earmarked funds to study the possibility of constructing a dental school in New Mexico which will explore whether New Mexico will develop its own dental school. The NM Department of Health has released their study on a model which would create a NM Dental School with a class size of 40. At this time, no final decision has been made as to which model of dental education will be pursued in the State of New Mexico but both will depend on legislative support.

Division of Dental Hygiene

The Division of Dental Hygiene was created in 1961 and currently has three educational programs, including an entry level Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene (24 students per class), a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree Completion Program and a Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree Program. Additionally, the Division of Dental Hygiene has a national continuing education program that offers courses to providers and faculty around the country.

The Division of Dental Hygiene recently has developed curriculum for a mid-level dental provider in the Master's Degree Program in Dental Hygiene. The Division is also investigating the need for fast track curriculums at the Bachelor's and Master's Degree

levels and the feasibility of developing a fast track degree for other dental workforce providers if there are statutes enacted for such providers.

The Division of Dental Hygiene has a research program that has progressively grown with the advent of the MSDH program and would be served well with the collaboration of the Division of Dental Services. The Division also operates several preventive dental clinics in local schools and at the Sandoval Health Commons. Increased collaborations would facilitate the expansion and duplication of these programs to other areas in New Mexico.

Melding the two dental health divisions into one department makes good sense at this time as a department provides a larger and stronger vehicle for implementation of new programs, expansion of both undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate programs, as well as encouraging innovative educational models to better educate future providers of oral health in the State of New Mexico. Due to the expansion of the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency and graduate level dental hygiene programs, there is strong support within the UNM HSC for implementation of a BA/DDS program modeled after the successful BA/MD program.

Rationale for a Department of Dental Medicine

Establishment of a Department of Dental Medicine is desirable and timely because of the growth of the two divisions and showcases educational, research and clinical service roles that UNM is capable of providing in the state. Additionally, the Department of Dental Medicine will have the opportunity to provide a leadership role in oral health at the UNM HSC. Oral health increasingly factors into the management of a broad range of health issues and subsequently, into a similarly broad ranges of educational and research priorities. Departmental status will make it more likely that the clinical, educational, and research needs of not only the University of New Mexico but also the entire state of New Mexico will be met.

The significant multi-disciplinary impact that dental sciences have within the institution across all missions will also be expanded. It will enhance the ability of the dental faculty to integrate into the clinical care and research priorities of the School of Medicine. It will create and add significantly to the future of dental education at the University of New Mexico and provide a sound basis for developing research opportunities for clinical trials and translational research.

Oral health has become a very important priority of the HSC as recognized by the office of Executive Vice President for Health Sciences. UNM will benefit from the prospect to build a broad base of state support for improving dental education with UNM leading coordination of statewide dental educational and clinical activities. An independent Department of Dental Medicine will be able to continue to attract the highest caliber of residents and students through the enhanced status that a Department of Dental Medicine

represents nationally. Departmental status will make it more likely that needed faculty will not only be able to be recruited to but also retained at the University of New Mexico. Expertise in oral health and integration of oral health into other UNM HSC entities will benefit all. Such a group of oral health care providers attracted to the University of New Mexico by the enhanced stature of the new Department of Dental Medicine will serve as a resource to the graduate and undergraduate faculty for class instruction, mentorship for graduate and undergraduate students as well as role models for students at many levels of services and educational programs in Oral Health.

The department's financial viability is expected to stay stable as both divisions now operate separate balanced divisional budgets. Future growth for oral health programs can only be enhanced by departmental status allowing UNM to provide continued state-wide leadership in oral health. These important roles will be enhanced by the ability of the administrator of the dental department to work directly and actively with the dean and the administration to build a program capable of meeting not only the clinical but also the educational and research needs of UNM and the state.

Proposed Research Initiatives

The Department of Dental Medicine will build upon the research activities that are available from combined efforts of both divisions. It will be actively involved in pursuing both clinical and laboratory research efforts with a focus on working in a collaborative manner with other units of the medical and scientific communities within and outside the University of New Mexico. The Department of Dental Medicine will pursue developing a research division to expand its opportunities for funded programs.

Programs initiated by the Department will focus upon clinical trials and translational research which has current interests in oral health by the NIH. Initiatives for new programs of research will be pursued with the goal of developing broad based programs involving laboratory research linked with clinical programs. Public Health studies will be coordinated with the faculty in the Masters in Public Health Program and the New Mexico Department of Health. These efforts will be with elements of the dental community locally, regionally and nationally.

As the Department of Dental Medicine grows the research component, it can look to recruit a faculty with proven research skills. A scientifically focused dental researcher brings unique perspectives and skills to a diverse scientific community. These unique perspectives and skills will enhance the collaborative efforts to meet the many current and future needs of the state and region.

SOM CY 2010 ACTION PLAN

Education Goal: The School of Medicine (SOM) will provide excellence in education to outstanding students from all of the communities of New Mexico in the service of the

highest quality patient-center, community engaged care to "help New Mexico make more progress in health than any other state by 2020"

- Address the critical state dental workforce needs with innovative oral health educational programs that includes:
 - Advanced provider clinical track for hygienists
 - BA/DDS program
 - An expanded general dental residency
 - New dental specialty residencies
- Tasks for 2010: Senior Associate Dean for Education
 - Study alternative models for an advanced provider clinical track for hygienists that addresses the state dental workforce needs to determine which is best for New Mexico
 - Plan the creation of a University of New Mexico regional dental school
- Tasks for 2010: Executive Vice Dean
 - Identify and implement the optimal organizational structure for the Oral Medicine Program
- Research Goal: Develop nationally acclaimed programs in research, research education and research infrastructure in coordination with our local and national partners to make more progress in health and health research than any other state by 2020.
 - Tasks for 2010
 - Encourage interdisciplinary and programmatic research
 - Clinical Trials: Increase usage of the Clinical Trials Center (CTC) and Patient Collaborative Interactive Resource (PCIR) for clinical trials (including community based, practice based and therapeutic intervention trials)
- Clinical Goal: The School of Medicine, through the activities of the UNMMG, will work with its internal and external partners to develop the comprehensive and state of the art clinical services and health care delivery systems required to meet the health care needs of the people of New Mexico.
 - Expand and Enhance the following clinical services lines
 - Oral health programs

Existing Programs at UNM HSC

The new Department of Dental Medicine will not duplicate any existing programs and should pose no actual or potential conflicts with existing programs at the University of New Mexico. A comprehensive Department of Dental Medicine provides only benefits to related dental education for New Mexican citizens. Other clinical services depend upon resolving oral health issues before a patient's overall systemic health can be achieved, i.e. emergency medicine. A more stable and broad based academic dental department will provide an enhanced capacity to partner with care-giving organizations as well as with members of the scientific community at large throughout the state.

Proposed Department of Dental Medicine Initiatives

The Department of Dental Medicine proposes the following collaborative initiatives to fulfill the mission of the department.

- The expansion of the AEGD residency to 20 residents
- Development of specialty residencies including pediatric and oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Implementation of the BA/DDS program
- Creation of a regional dental school in New Mexico
- Creation of a BS in Dental Hygiene advanced standing for dental school in a regional dental school
- Implementation of midlevel dental hygiene provider curriculum
- Creation of collaborative dental units for treating patients in the UNMH including patients with cancer, hemophilia and other blood disorders, bone marrow transplant patients
- Expanded emergency room coverage through residents and midlevel providers
- Expansion of clinics in schools, health departments and community clinics
- Tele-dentistry projects for dental providers and patients
- Foreign graduate 2 year residency track (tuition paying)

This department will collaborate on these initiatives in a truly multidisciplinary nature. The goal is to educate dentists, dental hygienists and other dental workers to provide care in a collaborative manner. Because most dentists and dental hygienists are educated in isolated programs, this department would strive to ensure education that is collaborative in nature, so that upon graduation, dental providers who are trained together, maintain a seamless working relationship. Moreover, this department will strive to integrate dental care into the health care system in New Mexico, by teaching students, while they are in school, how to provide care in schools, health commons, hospitals and long term care facilities, so that dental providers are able to integrate oral health care into the health care delivery system in New Mexico. See Table 1 for more information about these initiatives.

Table 1

DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL MEDICINE - PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS		
Activity	Potential Partnerships	Unique Contribution
BA to DDS Undergraduate Degree Program	UNM College of Arts and Sciences BA/MD Program HSC Office of Diversity	Currently, no curriculum of this type has been implemented elsewhere. This program would serve as a viable stop-gap measure for recruitment of underserved minority and rural students into the dental health profession until the issue of the establishment of a dental school is resolved.
Dental Geriatrics Program/Fellowship	Division of Geriatrics/Department of Internal Medicine. New Mexico Geriatric Education Center UNM College of Nursing Long Term Care Facilities	Presently, no ongoing program for geriatric dental services exists in our State. In addition to providing dental services on an outpatient basis to ambulatory seniors, our program could also encompass providing intake and annual examinations, as well as ongoing dental oversight of institutionalized senior residents in long-term care facilities.
Expansion of teaching curriculum at UNM's undergraduate studies	Freshman College UNM University College UNM College of Arts & Sciences UNM Kaplan Testing Centers CNM	To date, only two courses are offered to UNM undergraduate students interested in the dental health professions. The first is the Freshman Learning Community course (FLC 612; A&S 198) taught in the Fall Semesters in tandem with the Communication & Journalism Department at UNM. The second course is a Career Awareness Seminar (Univ. 216) offered

		through University College in the Spring semesters. These courses are taught by faculty members in the Division of Dental Services at UNM. Undergraduate students contemplating careers in the dental health professions consistently request additional courses. Suggested curricular offerings could include: DAT preparation courses, Dental Anatomy, Hands-On Dental Laboratory Technique classes, Simulation labs, Head and Neck Anatomy.
Mid-level Provider Education	Other dental hygiene and dental assisting programs in New Mexico	The Divisions of Dental Hygiene and Dental Services will collaborate to develop programs in advanced dental hygiene practice and other education focused on teaching expanded services to non-dentist providers.
Fast Track Degrees	Divisions of Dental Hygiene and Dental Services	Develop a fast track degree in Dental Hygiene (3 years), and a fast track MSDH degree (4 years)
Community Preventive Clinics	Local Schools Long Term Care Facilities Head Start Programs Primary Care Clinics	Expand our preventive clinics throughout New Mexico in settings which will help increase access to care in the underserved populations

Dental Services to Patients within UNMH	Cancer Center Department of Surgery Department of Emergency Medicine	Patients with cancer have unique dental needs. As do patients who present to the ER with dental infection and pain. The department would have a dental unit within the cancer center and the emergency room.
Certificate in Dental Public Health Program	Masters in Public Health Program, UNM Division of Dental Hygiene	Post-graduate students enrolled in dental fellowship and residency programs would also have the opportunity to earn certificate or masters degrees in public health. Given the vast scope of dental health professional shortage areas in our state and the protracted health disparities experienced by citizens of our state who do not have access to regular dental care, dental public health programs would facilitate innovative strategies to address enduring and intractable oral health problems in New Mexico.
Dental Research Center	UNM Research Center UNM College of Pharmacy Masters in Public Health Division of Dental Hygiene Department of Anthropology	Due to the fact that faculty members in the Division of Dental Services are primarily clinician educators, very sparse activity occurs in the area of oral health research at the University of New Mexico. With a designated Oral Health Research Center, investigations could be designated in the area of Biomaterials science, pharmacology, dental therapeutics, and population-based studies. Opportunities for grant

		funding, such as NIH, NIDCR, HRSA and private funders would be enhanced significantly.
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Department Structure

Existing Organizational Structure

The Divisions of Dental Hygiene and Dental Services are components of the Department of Surgery. The Surgery Department reports to the Dean of the School of Medicine, who reports to the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, who Reports to the President of the University, who reports to the Board of Regents.

Proposed Organizational Structure

The Department of Dental Medicine will report directly to the Dean of the School of Medicine. Other reporting relationships will remain the same.

Dean of School of Medicine would appoint the position of chair and vice-chair upon recommendation of faculty. The position of Vice-chair would be to aid with administrative, educational and research related issues. This structure would ensure equal representations from both divisions. The academic leadership will be responsible for assuring that 1) the clinical needs of the University of New Mexico Health Science Center are met, 2) that undergraduate students, graduate students and post-doctoral residents educational needs are met, 3) that programmatic development needs within the state are met, 4) that new programs are created that enhance the capabilities and recognition of the University of New Mexico.

Promotion within the tenured and non-tenured (Clinician Educator, Research) streams will be proposed for members of the Department of Dental Medicine based upon clinical and academic achievement consistent with School of Medicine guidelines.

DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL MEDICINE	
GOVERNANCE	
Two Existing Divisions into One New Department	
Structure	Strong central organization; Governance Policies and Procedures will be first order of business for the new department.
Chair	Appointed by the Dean upon recommendation of faculty. Chair will have doctoral degree (DDS or PhD or equivalent).
Vice Chair	From different division than the Chair and appointed by the Dean upon recommendation of faculty

Funding

All existing programs within the divisions will maintain their existing relationships and funding mechanisms. However, the new clinics that are proposed will contribute to the operational budget of the department.

It should be noted that the costs and resources associated with the proposed growth of the dental programs will be incurred whether the programs remain divisions in the Department of Surgery or become an independent Department of Dental Medicine. An increase in the number of faculty in the Department of Dental Medicine will need to occur over approximately the next two years. This growth will be required to support the clinical and academic needs of the faculty, the 10 residents, and their support staff. An expected increase in dental referrals is anticipated when the new and expanded resident dental clinic becomes operational in September 2011. These referrals include underserved populations and medically complex patients requiring oral health care. Growth of programs for each division is planned in the form of mid-level providers, additional general dentistry residents, specialty dental residents, and possibly future dental students. Realization of the above programs and efforts will require the addition of more members to the Department that should be a major source for increased legislative financial support and prestige for the University of New Mexico.

Funding for the Department of Dental Medicine will be required from many sources including clinical revenues. The current Department of Surgery taxes will now remain as funding for Department of Dental Medicine administrative operations. Federal sources of funding through individual and program grants as well as collaborative research trials support will be sought. When collaborative efforts with industry can be maximally achieved, rewarding UNM collaborative efforts will be developed. With the expansion of all oral health services at UNM there will be an expanding capacity to develop and perform many new clinical research programs.

Operation of the Department of Dental Medicine will require the Department Chair and Vice Chair to devote a portion of their time in Health Science Center and Department duties. A Department administrator and accountant will be hired replacing those services presently delivered by the Department of Surgery. Dr. Russell will mentor the transition process as the new Department develops. Funding of these new support staff and Chair and Vice-chair time would be from new programs sources generated by the Department of Dental Medicine and Departmental taxes. Similar to other clinical programs in the HSC, the dental divisions will be expected to support themselves mainly through clinical revenue generation and state funding. The Department of Dental Medicine will work with UNMMG administration for the outpatient clinical operations.

DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL MEDICINE	
BUDGET	
Two Existing Divisions into One New Department	
Chair	Chair would still fulfill duties of current Divisional Chief
Vice Chair	Vice-Chair would still fulfill duties of current Division Chief
Staff Administrator	\$45,000-\$50,000 plus benefits (\$18,000)
Staff Accountant	\$45,000-\$50,000 plus benefits (\$18,000)
Supplies	\$14,000
TOTAL	Estimated: \$150,000

Source of funding from existing Dept. of Surgery Tax contributions of FY10 Taxes: DH: \$17,914 & DS: \$101,841 to Department of Surgery
Source of projected income FY 2011: DH; \$33,206 & DS \$133,079.

Faculty And Staff

The Department Chair and Vice-Chair would be existing faculty in the respective divisions. The department chair will be responsible for overall functioning of the Department of Dental Medicine and the vice chair will work closely with the Chair ensuring coordination of the Department and implementation of the combined educational and clinical endeavors. As a young department, the Department of Dental Medicine will depend on current faculty to serve those duties. As the department grows, there will need to be an assessment of protected time the department will need for faculty serving duties of Chair and Vice-chair for HSC responsibilities. Equitable financial consideration for replacement to the divisions from the Department of Dental Medicine may be required with department growth

Two new staff would be required to coordinate department activities that are currently served by Department of Surgery staff. These are Department Administrator and Department Accountant. It would also be that as the Department develops, the divisions would consider restructuring administrative staff depending on current employee skills and natural attrition of staff.

Timeline of Divisional program growth: The Divisions of Dental Hygiene and Dental Services will incur any expansion costs depending on current program needs and

budgetary considerations working with both UNMHSC administration and UNMMG administration.

Division Administrators

Dental Services:

Chair/Vice Chair, Chief Division of Dental Services
Director of General Dentistry Residency
Director of Undergraduate Dental Education

Dental Hygiene:

Chair/Vice Chair, Chief Division of Dental Hygiene
Program Director
Graduate Program Director
Clinic Manager

Future Faculty Positions Needed with expected growth:

1. Dental Hygiene: 2.0 FTE
2. Dental Services: 2.0 FTE

New Staff Positions Needed:

1. Department Administrator
2. Department Accountant

Department of Dental Medicine:

Collaborative Program Growth to better serve the UNMHSC Missions

Raising the level of recognition for oral health at the University of New Mexico to Departmental status affirms the importance the HSC places on providing educational and clinical programs for oral health.

UNMH – Hospital Clinic

1. Improved ER/ED services for patients with dental infections and tooth trauma requiring emergency services. Goal would be to reduce number of admissions for dental infections and/or reduce hospital stays.
2. Provide improved consultations for hospital services which need minor procedures before discharge or pre-operative extractions prior to surgical procedures, e.g., cardio-thoracic surgery cases.
3. Provide assessment and triage service for patients needing routine dental care to an appropriate network 'dental home'
4. Educational site:

- a. Provide designated rotation for resident care rather than only bedside ability which severely limits routine procedures that are possible in a dental setting.
- b. Provide dental hygiene services through master student rotations
- c. Provide hospital training experience for expected New Mexico Mid-level oral care providers

Cancer Center Collaborative Head & Neck Clinic

1. Improved oral health care for patients with Head & Neck cancer by coordinating exams and treatment for this growing population in the Cancer Center.
2. Many patients need oral health issues corrected prior to beginning recommended cancer treatments and there is not presently a well defined program.
3. Ability of a Department of Dental Medicine to recruit and develop health care providers for this specialty area would be greatly enhanced in collaboration with the Cancer Center
4. Educational benefit by increasing the number of oral health care providers trained in this specialty area.

West-Side (Rio Rancho) Dental Practice in West Side UNM Office Complex

1. Dental Services on the west side are highly desired in surveys of west side residents.
2. Recruitment of faculty would be enhanced by providing faculty clinic and benefit the Department of Dental Medicine as it grows programs to better serve the area.
3. Educational site for clinical practice for both Dental Divisions

Curriculum

The Department of Dental Medicine will be responsible for the education of general residents, dental students, dental hygienists, and dental hygiene students. The residency and masters of dental hygiene programs are graduate (post-professional) level training programs. As the educational programs and clinical space allows, the department will seek to enlarge the program to additional students.

The Department will also support the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program through the research expertise of the faculty and the research programs that will be developed in collaboration within the Department of Dental Medicine.

Conclusion

At this time, there is a shortage of practicing oral health care providers. Access to oral health care in the State of New Mexico is not being met. While the reasons for this shortage are many, the new Department of Dental Medicine will work to educate and train New Mexican citizens in all careers in dentistry. With new collaborative programs,

we anticipate more students will become aware of the opportunities dentistry provides and this will help create oral health care providers delivering care throughout New Mexico.

In some situations, the Department of Dental Medicine will take a leadership role and in other programs a supportive role. In all situations, the Department will work in a collaborative manner to enhance the clinical services as well as the research missions of the University of New Mexico. An integrated program for the delivery of all aspects of care to patients will be an initial focus of the Department of Dental Medicine providing interdisciplinary programs of patient care. The Department will work with other Departments and programs as oral health proves scientifically to be more connected to overall systemic health.

Dental Medicine

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Division of Dental Hygiene

Introduction

The Division of Dental Hygiene currently offers three programs:

1. A Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree program which includes one and one-half years of pre-professional entrance requirements and two and one-half years of professional curriculum requirements.
2. A Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree completion program.
3. A Masters of Science in Dental Hygiene degree program.

Dental hygienists are licensed preventive oral health professionals who provide educational, clinical and therapeutic services in dental care. Career opportunities for hygienists are available in a variety of settings, including private dental practices, community dental health clinics, public schools, clinical and basic science research laboratories, state and federal health facilities and management positions. Licensure by national and state examination is required.

Division of Dental Services

The Division of Dental Services offers:

1. A one-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency program accredited through the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accepting 10 residents per year after graduation from dental school.
2. Undergraduate introductory courses through University College
 - a) ARSC 198-612 T: Dental Health Professions: The dental health professions include dentistry, dental hygiene, dental laboratory technology, and dental assisting. All of these careers continue to be in high demand nationally, and especially in the state of New Mexico. Students will be encouraged to explore experientially whether career choices in this area match their interests, as well as their educational and vocational objectives.
 - b) Univ 216- 008 T: Oral Health Connections: The format of this seminar consists of a blend of lectures and field trip outings to various clinical, laboratory, and educational settings in the greater Albuquerque area. Students will learn that the dental profession encompasses a broad and varied array of career options.