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PATRICIA McLEAN SYMPOSIUM FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENIST
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

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Front photo: Patricia McLean observes dental hygiene students in the Vanderbilt Clinic, 1964.
PATRICIA MCLEAN SYMPOSIUM FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENIST

This annual symposium is dedicated in memory of Patricia Stanton McLean, who served as assistant dean and director of the Division of Dental Hygiene at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (CDM). An outstanding educator and leader in the dental hygiene profession, Patricia McLean was a former president of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. The Symposium is sponsored by the Patricia McLean Fund in Dental Hygiene.

2017 Course Description & Objectives

Working with Individuals with Special Health Care Needs: Practical Tips

Purnima Rathi Hernandez, DDS, MA, BCBA, MA

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry defines special health care needs (SHCN) as including “any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional impairment or limiting condition that requires medical management, healthcare intervention and/or use of specialized services or programs.” An indirect assessment via patient/parent interview can be helpful in the development of individual special health care plans. Practical tips on how to manage SHCN patients will be discussed with a focus on patient preparation, behavior management and anxiety reduction.

Learning Objectives

- Provide an overview of SHCN focusing on mental health, medical, behavioral and physical disabilities
- Understand need for care coordination, patient behavior interviews and development of special health care plans
- Learn practical tips that focus on Autism Spectrum Disorders, sensory dysfunction, anxiety disorders/phobias and the medically fragile

Risk Assessment Leading to Culturally Sensitive Care

Cheryl Westphal Theile, RDH, EdD

Risk assessment is an integral aspect of patient-centered care. Complete assessment of the patient’s risk of disease or prognosis for health is directly linked to their culture and health beliefs. Application of cultural assessments, motivational interviewing and focused oral health care managerial roles will be addressed leading to total patient-centered care.

Learning Objectives

- Learn risk assessment strategies for oral and systemic health
- Understand motivational interviewing and other active listening techniques to develop comprehensive care plans
- Apply cultural assessments to develop patient-centered care plans

Speaker Profiles

Dr. Purnima Rathi Hernandez is a board certified pediatric dentist and behavior analyst. She received her education in Pediatric Dentistry at Columbia University CDM and served as an assistant professor. After establishing her practice in Fair Lawn, New Jersey in 2005, she pursued a Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis from Caldwell University, NJ. Delivering care to all children, her special interests are treating children with SHCN. Dr. Hernandez is also a parent of a child with disabilities. An author and co-author of articles related to disability issues, she has served as council member on the Council of Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey and board member of Disability Rights New Jersey.

Dr. Cheryl Westphal Theile is professor and assistant dean for Allied Health Programs at New York University College of Dentistry (NYU). After receiving her MS in Dental Hygiene at CDM, she served as director of Dental Hygiene at Fairleigh Dickinson University from 1981 until 1990, and then moved to NYU. She is a contributing author and editor for Comprehensive Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist, 4th edition and for Oral Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist, 2nd edition. Dr. Westphal Theile served as vice president for Allied Dental Program Directors for ADEA and president of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. Active in many professional associations, she promotes the key role of the dental hygienist in patient-centered care.

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