TMD Professional Education, Research and Specialization

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Disclaimer

• Not a TMD expert
  – General dentist by training
  – Completed a PGY1 – rotation through TMD service – just enough to know that I don’t know anything about TMD

• Not speaking on behalf of the Commission on Dental Accreditation
  – Served as a commissioner
  – Currently serve as a consultant

• Not speaking on behalf of the American Dental Association
  – Served on the Council of Dental Education and Licensure when the council had responsibility for recommending dental specialties

• Speaking as a private individual

• Opinions are purely my own
Dental Educational Pathway

BS/BA Program
- 4 years

DMD/DDS Program
- 4 years

Continuing Education
- 1 day to couple of weekends

Fellowship
- 6 months to 1 year

Accredited Post-Graduate Program
- 1-4 years
DMD vs. MD Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MD</th>
<th>DMD/DDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Must be able to practice independently after 4 years <strong>PLUS</strong> multi-year residency</td>
<td>• Must be able to practice independently after 4 year DMD curriculum</td>
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<td>• Clerkships</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Mainly observational</td>
<td>– Responsible for patient management</td>
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<td>– Clinical enterprise covered by hospital or other entity</td>
<td>– Perform non-reversible procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>• PG Residencies</td>
<td>– Extremely condensed curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>– All GME Supported</td>
<td>• 8-5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Five days per week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Almost year round</td>
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<td>• Most expense program in higher education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Clinical enterprise paid for by dental school</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Reimbursement for care – extremely low</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Highest level of student indebtedness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– &gt;$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• PG Residencies</td>
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<tr>
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<td>– Only some GME supported</td>
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<td>– Requires contracts with hospitals</td>
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Rutgers TMD Educational Pathway

**DMD Program**
- **4 years**

**Continuing Education**
- **1 day to several of weekends**
  - In-person
  - On-line

**Fellowship**
- **6 months to 1 year**

**Accredited Post-Graduate Program**
- **2 years**
  - Currently 12 programs

- **Didactic curriculum**
  - Basic science
  - Clinical science
  - Epidemiology
  - Behavioral science
- **No clinical rotation**
  - Too few patients for 125 students per year to get meaningful experience
- **Elective/Selective/Honors**
Continuing Education

• For dentists
  – High demand

• Rutgers has been involved with TMD CE for over 40 years
  – Evolved from CE to Fellowship to accredited program
  – Still offer on-line program – mainly international

• Ripe for Interprofessional programs
  – CME/CNE/CDE … have different accrediting groups so logistically difficult
    • Universities (academic medical centers) are best able to navigate through these waters
    • CE infrastructure for different health professionals
A Word About …

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

• Incredible opportunity for interprofessional education and interprofessional care
  – Rutgers has a very active program – all health professional school participate
  – Don’t have a TMD case but should!
  – Centralized structure is important
  – Need support from the highest level to ensure wide participation
  – Dentistry often in the lead
  – Scheduling is a nightmare

• Most, if not all, health professional program accreditation standards require interprofessional education
  – Helped move along IPE

• Knowledge of TMD not just required by dentists
  – Often get cases after patient has been seen by multiple health care practitioners

• NOTE: This is also an incredible opportunity for intradisciplinary education
  – Involves general dentistry and multiple specialty areas
A word about ....

Accreditation

• 29 curriculum “competency” standards with 75 +/- sub-parts
  – Includes patient assessment and diagnosis – don’t list every diagnosis
  – Includes pain control

• “Competency” achievement not realistic in all areas

• Most obvious approach – add one more item - Don’t do this!
  – Conesus is needed to move away from specific procedures
  – Everything is watered down – graduates won’t be prepared to do anything

• Need to be deliberate
  – Familiarity vs. true competency
  – Underlying skills vs. laundry list of diagnoses and treatments
  – Key – life long learning skills / analysis of the evidence skills
Education Recommendations

• Lay out recommended curriculum for
  – Develop consensus as to what should be covered in DMD/DDS programs
  – Familiarity/manage vs. treat/perform

• Consider moving toward required PGY1
  – Can’t do everything in 4 years
  – Develop consensus for PGY1
  – GME funding directly to dental programs – conversation for another day

• Leverage new interprofessional education standards by developing high quality IPE
  TMD cases – maybe add to MedEd Portal
  – Predoctoral education
  – Postgraduate level
  – CE

• Revisit accreditation standards
  – But don’t just add TMD to list – rather focus on underlying skills