Advancing Oral Health Across the Lifespan: A Workshop

Committee

Anita Glicken

Chair

Anita Duhl Glicken MSW, Professor and Associate Dean Emerita at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center, has over 35 years of administrative, research and education experience. A founding member of the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH), she now serves as the organization's Executive Director. She is an active Board Member of the Sante Fe Group. and immediate past chair of HRSA's Federal Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (ACTPCMD). She was consultant and chair of the award-winning Primary Care Collaborative Advisory Committee's Integration of Oral Health in Primary Care Compendium, and co-chair of a recent National Academies of Medicine Global Forum Workshop on Models of Whole-Person Oral Health Education. Ms. Glicken has served on many oral health project committees including the Meharry University Oral Health Equity Project, the CIPCOH 100 Million Mouths Campaign Advisory Board and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors' Medical Dental Integration Project. Ms. Glicken has served on several national expert panels to develop tools and resources supporting workforce research, practice, and policy, including HRSA's National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) on Data and Methods for Tracking, Supply, Demand, Distribution and Adequacy of the Primary Care Workforce, HRSA's 2014 report Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice, and the Qualis Health White Paper, Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care. Ms. Glicken has personally received several national awards; under her leadership the NIIOH has received the ADEA Foundation's Gies Award and the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education's George T. Thibault Award. A clinical social worker, Ms. Glicken's career has focused on healthcare transformation, partnering to create innovative education and care delivery models grounded in interprofessional collaboration and health equity. She was the Project Director of an American International Health Alliance multi-year PEPFAR contract to create new educational programs to build midlevel health workforce capacity in South Africa. Ms. Glicken is the author of over 100 publications in health care education, workforce, and research.

Hawazin Elani

Member

Dr. Hawazin Elani is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Elani is a prosthodontist and health services researcher. Her research focuses on investigating the impact of federal and state health policies on the oral health of vulnerable populations, with specific interests in social determinants of population health, health disparities, and improving access to oral healthcare services. She uses big data analytics, including causal inference, econometrics, and machine learning approaches, to inform data-driven policymaking to reduce health disparities. Dr. Elani was selected as the 2022 NIMHD-Health Disparities Research Scholar. She is leads multiple projects funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Elani received an MSc and a Ph.D. from McGill University. She completed a residency in Prosthodontics and received an MMSc from Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Michael Helgeson

Member

Dr. Helgeson is one of the founders of Apple Tree Dental, an innovative non-profit organization that operates nine Centers for Dental Health and delivers on-site care in collaboration with about 200 urban and rural organizations including Head Start Centers, schools, group homes, hospitals, medical clinics and nursing facilities. In 2020, Apple Tree opened a Center for Dental Health within the Mayo Clinic Health System campus in Fairmont Minnesota and in 2023 it added the ADT Center for Dental Health in Minneapolis. He serves as Apple Tree’s Chief Executive Officer, managing a professional staff of more than 280 which delivered more than $44 million worth of dental care during 2023. Apple Tree’s community collaborative practice model has been replicated in North Carolina, Louisiana and California and has received recognition from the Surgeon General, the American Dental Association, the Robert Wood Johnson and Kellogg Foundations. In 2017, he was included in a list of the 32 most influential people in dentistry published by Incisal Edge, and in 2019, the American Association for Community Dental Programs selected Dr. Helgeson for the John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award in recognition of his leadership at the local, state and national levels.

Jessica Y. Lee

Member

Dr. Lee is the Demeritt Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health at the University of North Carolina. She is also a Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. She is board certified Pediatric Dentist and an active member of the medical staff at UNC Hospitals and practices in the Dental Faculty Practice in the School of Dentistry. She has authored over 150 peer reviewed manuscripts and is a renowned expert in health literacy and health disparities. She is dedicated to bridging the gap between medical knowledge and patient understanding and reducing health disparities. She has led projects funded by the NIH and HRSA. Dr Lee is involved in teaching, clinical practice and research. Dr. Lee is actively involved in leadership, community outreach and education initiatives. She collaborates with healthcare providers, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. She served as the President for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) from 2020-2021. She is the recipient of numerous teaching and research awards including the 2008 AAPD Jerome Miller “For the Kids” Award. In 2010, she received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientist and Engineers from President Barack Obama. In 2011, Dr Lee was named the ‘Pediatric Dentist of the Year” by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr Lee received her MPH and DDS degrees from Columbia University and her Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry and PhD in Health Policy and Management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was also a NIDCR National Research Service Award recipient.

Elizabeth Mertz

Member

Dr. Elizabeth Mertz is the associate director of research at Healthforce Center and a professor at the School of Dentistry in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Mertz’s work covers a broad range of health professions workforce issues primarily focused on dental care, including supply and demand of providers, health care regulation, state and federal workforce policy, delivery system design and finance, access to care, and evolving professional practice models. Dr. Mertz has also served on numerous advisory and planning committees for federal and state agencies, as well as many other nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. She served in 2009 on a planning committee for the Institute of Medicine Workshop on the Oral Health Workforce, and in 2011 as a member of the Committee on Oral Health. Dr. Mertz holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California, a master’s degree in Public Affairs MA from the University of Minnesota, and a doctorate in medical sociology from the University of California, San Francisco.

Hugh Silk

Member

Hugh Silk, MD, MPH, FAAFP, is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Vice Chair for Community Health. He also teaches at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). Hugh has excelled in dental-medical integration and oral health promotion. He is co-founder of the award-winning national curriculum on oral health for health providers entitled "Smiles for Life". He is the past recipient of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry's Public Service Award. Currently he is co-PI for the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH) and the 100 Million Mouths Campaign supporting oral health champions in 26 states with a goal over the next five years of having champions in all 50 states to integrate oral health into medical, nursing, and primary care schools and programs across the US. He has been an invited speaker at over fifty education symposiums, presented at over one hundred national and international conferences, published seventy-five journal articles, eighty chapters, and a dozen policy briefs. His clinical care is providing outreach care for individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use issues. He earned his MD from McMaster Medical School.

Astha Singhal

Member

Dr. Singhal is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Florida College of Dentistry. She also serves as an assistant director of the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health at the University of Florida which spearheads multidisciplinary research to reduce disparities in oral health outcomes. As a public health dentist and a health services researcher, her research has focused on examining factors affecting access to dental care among vulnerable populations. She has received several awards from national and international organizations in recognition of her research contributions, most recent being the inaugural Oral Health Equity award from AADOCR and Delta Dental Institute. Dr. Singhal completed her dental school from Manipal University, India, followed by an MPH from University at Albany. She then completed a residency in dental public health from NIH and earned her PhD from the University of Iowa.

Patrick D. Smith

Member

Dr. Smith is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health, with a range of professional experiences as a clinician, educator, and researcher. As an Assistant Professor at UIC College of Dentistry, he develops course content and partnerships with community-based organizations that advance the service-learning curriculum, with an emphasis on oral health promotion among underserved populations. His latest work involves collaborating with several organizations to establish a mobile dental program in south Chicago, and a dental clinic in the Pilsen neighborhood that provides free access to preventive and minimally-invasive dental care to individuals facing hardship. These endeavors also provide opportunities for dental students to hone their skills in oral health prevention and promotion, healthcare advocacy, and interprofessional collaborative practice. In addition, Dr. Smith is the PI of a funded research project with the American Cancer Society that is developing educational tools that promote oral cancer prevention among Black men. His scholarly publications and presentations center on advancing oral health equity in dental education, addressing the effects of racism on oral health policy and program development, and improving access and quality of dental care to underserved populations. Dr. Smith remains clinically active as a general dentist on the south side of Chicago, and serves in various capacities on campus committees, as well as within local, state, and national dental organizations.

Robert Weyant

Member

Robert J. Weyant, MS, DMD, DrPH, serves as Associate Dean of Dental Public Health and Community Outreach, and professor and chair of the Department of Dental Public Health at the School of Dental Medicine. He is also an associate professor of epidemiology at the Graduate School of Public Health. He received a master's degree in public health in 1978 and a dental degree in 1982 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. In 1991 he earned a doctoral degree in epidemiology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Weyant is a former Navy Dental Officer and V.A. dentist. He has been a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health since 1987, and also is a past president of the American Association for Public Health Dentistry. He currently serves on numerous local, state and national committees aimed at reducing oral health disparities, increasing the dental workforce and improving access to oral care. Dr. Weyant's research involves basic and social epidemiological research related to oral health disparities. Presently he is PI or co-PI on several NIH-funded studies of oral disease etiology. Dr. Weyant also directs the Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia (COHRA), and oversees the joint degree program in public health.