



## **FACT SHEET**

### ***Oral Health Services for Older Adults*** **University of Minnesota School of Dentistry**

#### **MISSION**

The mission of the [Oral Health Services for Older Adults \(OHSOA\) Program](#) is to: 1) provide training for dental and non-dental health professionals who wish to provide better geriatric care; 2) contribute new knowledge about geriatric oral health; and 3) improve community access to high quality dental care for older adults. OHSOA has been a pioneer in geriatric dentistry since it began in 1981 as the first university-based M.S. degree in Geriatrics for dentists in the U.S. The program been locally and nationally recognized, including the 1995 American Dental Association Geriatric Oral Health Care Award for outstanding contributions to community service, education, and research.

#### **EDUCATION**

- OHSOA has provided geriatric fellowship training to 36 individuals, producing leaders in geriatric care delivery, research, and education. Thirteen graduates hold faculty positions in the US and abroad and five have served as officers of the Special Care Dentistry Association.
- OHSOA also educates over 200 other learners per year including students in dentistry, dental hygiene, as well as other health disciplines. Faculty regularly present at regional and national conferences and continuing education programs for dental and non-dental professionals. As of 2019, OHSOA is also included in the [MN Northstar Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\)](#) which is supported by a 5-year, \$3.74 million grant from the US Health Resources & Services Administration to the University's Medical School.
- OHSOA's intensive continuing education program, [The Miniresidency in Geriatrics and Long-term Care for the Dental Team](#), began in 1991 and has trained over 300 dental professionals from across the US and around the world. Recognized as an innovative model for geriatric dental education, grants from the Fauchard Academy, Academy of General Dentistry and others have taken the *Miniresidency* "on the road" to other states as well.
- In 2010, OHSOA and the MN Dept. of Health released the DVD and Workbook, ["Growing Old with a Smile: Oral Care for Older Adults in Long-Term Care."](#) This DVD was a 2011 "Highly Rated" new product in the CR Foundation Clinician's Report and is distributed with support from the Minnesota Dental Association.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Since 1981, OHSOA has been a pioneer in community-based geriatric education and a regional resource for high quality geriatric dental care, serving older adults from the community as well as numerous long-term care facilities. Clinic collaborations have included the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, Presbyterian Homes and Services, HealthPartners, and Walker Methodist.
- A Clinical Innovations Grant from the MN Department of Health supported development of the [Walker Methodist Dental Clinic](#) in Minneapolis, and additional grants from the MN Dept. of Health, Delta Dental Foundation of MN, the Otto Bremer Foundation, and Stevens Square Foundation supported a major expansion in 2016 to double its capacity for patient care and education. Walker Methodist Dental Clinic received the [2016 Innovation Award from LeadingAge](#), representing over 6000 non-profit aging services organizations across the US.
- Since opening in 2006, the Walker Methodist Dental Clinic has provided over 25,000 visits valued at over \$4 million to over 2000 older adults, including about 1000 visits per year to residents in skilled nursing facilities and 1000 visits to community-dwelling older adults, including those in assisted living and other supportive housing. The clinic participates in all state health plans is a designated Minnesota Critical Access Dental Provider, and was included as a featured model program in the [US Administration for Community Living \(ACL\) Guide to Community Oral Health Programs for Older Adults](#).

#### **CONTRIBUTING NEW KNOWLEDGE**

- Student and faculty research projects at affiliated community sites have led to over two dozen publications in peer-reviewed journals and numerous presentations at local, regional, and national meetings.
- Training and research grants have generated over \$3.5 million in funding for OHSOA and its affiliates from sponsors including NIH, CDC, HRSA, state government, local foundations, and industry.
- In 2011, OHSOA collaborated with the Minnesota Dental Association and MN Department of Labor to develop new [Safe Patient Handling guidelines and educational materials](#) for Minnesota dental practices.
- Eight student projects with OHSOA faculty have earned top honors in local and national student award competitions, including three First Prize Awards in the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry's Kamen Student Research Competition.

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