



Dean's Report to CDSS Council

Friday January 8, 2021

The College of Dentistry has faced significant challenges in 2020 as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as did many of our university counterparts and dental offices across the province. However, despite the challenges that accompanied COVID-19 throughout the year, the college was able to make some important strides. In the following report, I highlight the activities of the college in the three main University of Saskatchewan areas of activity: teaching, research, and service. In addition, I will also highlight some topical issues in the College of Dentistry.

The College of Dentistry started the 2020/2021 academic year by bringing students back early to complete the procedures and experiences they missed as a result of the 2019/2020 academic year coming to a close earlier than anticipated as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dentistry programming has expanded over the past couple of years. Currently we have 143 students in enrolled in the DMD program, 40 students in the Certificate of Dental Assisting program, nine students in the Bachelor of Science in Dentistry program, and four PhD students for Winter term, and two more pending for Spring term.

The college has put significant effort into increasing its research productivity and impact. Currently the college has 6 PhD credentialed faculty members, and an additional 3 faculty completing their PhD programs. In addition to increasing the number of PhD faculty members, our faculty obtained \$824,573 in research funding from internal and external sources from May 1, 2020 to beginning of January 2021. Faculty members also published 33 publications in 2020.

In 2020, the college was pleased to receive a Centennial Enhancement Chair position in the USask area of One Health. This is a huge accomplishment for the college as it is the first research chair position the college has ever received. Dr. Petros Papagerakis, Associate Dean, Research, was the well-deserved recipient of this position and we believe this further highlights the success the college is having in increasing its research presence. The college has recently also received approval for a Federally funded Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Oral Health, a key focus of the college's seven-year strategic plan.

The first Strategic Priority in the College of Dentistry seven-year strategic plan is to become Canada's leader for Inclusive Community Care, and much progress has been made towards achieving this goal.

All DMD students are now completing a three-week rotation at Saskatoon West Dental (SWD) Clinic where they are getting considerable experience in emergency care, extractions, and operative dentistry. In addition to SWD, the Prince Albert Campus Dental Clinic officially opened in October and DMD students are each rotating through this clinic for two to three weeks as a regular part of their clinical experience. Students have been enjoying the accommodation the college has provided for them in Prince Albert and rotating through these two outreach clinics will contribute to their education greatly.



In addition to Saskatoon West Dental and Prince Albert Campus Dental Clinic, the College of Dentistry is now providing dental care in a number of outreach clinics that serve Northern Indigenous communities. These clinics include: Kinistin, Yellow Quill, Cumberland House, and Big River First Nations. The college also provides dental services for LaLoche and has services pending for Ile a la Crosse. Unfortunately, services in these clinics remain curtailed due to COVID-19.

The College of Dentistry remains committed to establishing and expanding a new, accredited GPR program. Unfortunately, efforts in this regard have not been as successful as we initially hoped as there seems to be little support for establishing an accreditable program.

The College of Dentistry has committed to meeting the oral health needs and aspirations of Indigenous people in a manner and timeframe of their choosing. This is an important component of the college. As evidence of this commitment, the college now has three Indigenous faculty members and the DMD and Certificate of Dental Assisting programs each have an Indigenous Equity Access (IEA) stream for Indigenous students. The number of IEA seats in each program has been set to be more than 17% of student intake to appropriately reflect the makeup of the Saskatchewan population.

In addition to the outreach clinics the college has established to serve communities facing problems with access to care, our faculty members have several funded research projects that address Indigenous oral health. The College of Dentistry has also implemented a working group to work on “Indigenization of the College.” The anticipated outcomes of this group include improved mentorship and support for Indigenous students and the establishment of required courses on Indigenous history, culture and health benefits.

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