



June 21, 2021

CDSS Board Update

As Dean of the College of Dentistry, it gives me great pleasure to provide the following updates on key issues and initiatives occurring in the College of Dentistry.

- Our budget remains strong – between our programming changes and new research efforts we have brought in a substantial amount of new revenue. As a result, we are proceeding with hiring:
 - 5 faculty positions (3 new and 2 replacement). All 5 positions are 100% clinical
 - 3 new staff positions – one of which is a clinician (hygienist/therapist).

Education

- Despite the challenging year with COVID-19, students progressed at a normal rate as compared to previous years
 - NDEB failed an unprecedented number of candidates nationally
 - USask OSCE exam failure rate was significantly lower than the national average.
- Our main undergraduate clinic will be moving to a full comprehensive care model starting in August 2021. This will better align us with dental education in North America.
- We are making a number of changes to the Dental Assisting (DA) Program:
 - Increasing annual number of students from 40 to 52
 - Moving to a dual intake model – intakes in August and February annually
 - In the transition year (2021-2022) we will be admitting 66 DA students .
- Dr. Alan Heinrichs has stepped down from his position as Assistant Dean, Clinics, and Dr. Peter Doig has been named to the interim position.
 - We are proceeding to raise this position from assistant dean to associate dean before beginning the permanent search.

Research

- The college has been approved for a Canadian Research Chair (CRC) to explore the relationship between oral health and systemic health. The term of this position is seven years, renewable once.
 - These CRCs are highly sought after and prestigious research positions that are provided and funded by the federal government
 - The position will result in external funding to the college and to the Chairholder:
 - The college will receive \$200K per year from the Federal CRC to support the Chairholder salary/stipend/benefits (total of \$2.8M in 14 years)
- As we continue to increase our research capacity the college has received numerous research grants and funding:
 - USask Fiscal Year 2020-2021: \$1,469,098
 - 3 Year Total (2018-2021): \$3,998,792.



- In addition to research grants and funding, the college has also seen an increase in number of publications:
 - USask Fiscal Year 2020-2021: 33 publications
 - 3 Year Total (2018-2021): 73 publications.

Service

- The Prince Albert Campus Dental Clinic is operating nicely. It's not as busy as we would like it to be, but the patient flow is improving steadily.
 - The two-week rotation through this clinic is very popular with students, with many requesting a second rotation because the experience has been so good.

Future Plans/Other Initiatives

- Plans are progressing well for the renovation and reequipping of the dental school. With the current trajectory we will be replacing all of the dental chairs and other operatory equipment in the main clinic, as well as replacing all of the simulation units in the preclinical lab. This new equipment will be housed within a fully renovated building modernized to a modern architectural design.
 - We have been awarded a budget of \$17M for the renovation, with \$3M of that to come from College fundraising.
- Beginning in August 2021, we will be providing free parking for all patients in the underground lot beside the school or in the lot across the street. This is being done to remove an important barrier to accessing dental care at the school.
- We are further reducing patient dental fees for some elective procedures with the intent of increasing the amount of clinical experience in the targeted areas of endodontics, crowns and bridge, and removable prosthetics.
- The college has received \$150,000 from Indigenous Services Canada to develop a proposal to initiate a new dental therapy program in Saskatchewan. This is being done in partnership with Sask PolyTechnic and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA). We have 10 more months to complete and deliver a final proposal to ISC.
- The college is implementing use of Intiveo, a patient appointment-reminder software system. Currently students are calling patients themselves. This software will improve efficiency and effectiveness, reduce student stress, and increase the amount of clinical student experience by reducing no-show appointments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Brothwell'.

Dr. Doug Brothwell
Dean, College of Dentistry