



INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
DENTISTRY

**First Friday**  
Dean's Update to the IUSD Community

## JADA: Efficacy of Caries Risk Assessment Models Compared

The cover story of the February issue of *The Journal of the American Dental Association* suggests that "inconsistency in weighing risk factors in caries risk assessment (CRA) tools affects dentists' ability to best identify and develop a treatment plan for patients at risk of developing caries."

Using National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data, the authors constructed 10 caries risk assessment models and used the models to estimate the level of caries risk for publicly insured young people aged 1-20. The authors found significant variation among models in assigning risk levels and concluded dentistry needs a valid, evidence-based, accurate and reliable population-based CRA model that could address the variability among CRA tools.

CRA tools could address oral health disparities and enhance the efficiency of the oral health care system. The authors aimed to explore the feasibility and limitations of using clinical CRA tools in informing oral health care policy-making processes.

Not only did the authors find substantial variation among the selected models in assigning risk levels, there are huge cost of care implications. Depending on the CRA model used, the projected annual cost of covering this population ranged from \$18 billion to \$127 billion. For more information on caries risk models see: the JADA CRA article here.

**Vol. 7, No. 11**

**February 1, 2019**

As this February *First Friday* edition goes to press, we are on the eve of Groundhog Day, appearing Saturday, February 2. According to Wikipedia, the day derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees a shadow because of clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks. If it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. While the tradition remains popular in modern times, studies have found **no consistent correlation** between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather. Now you are asking what does this have to do with IUSD and our educational programs? The answer is scientific evidence! Did our forefathers use the best available scientific evidence to predict the next six weeks of winter weather? Perhaps they did, but we are much more scientifically advanced today.

At IUSD, we have made an important decision to strengthen the scientific application of biomedical sciences in comprehensive care education by merging these two departments (see below). Enhancing our application of scientific principles and evidence-based practice, and reinforcing DDS instructional years one and two within a clinical context (years three and four) positions IUSD toward becoming *...one of the best dental schools of the 21st century*.

### **Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care Merge on March 1**

IUSD has consistently reinforced biomedical principles in clinical education. Beginning March 1, we will be much more intentional in this endeavor by combining two departments – Department of Biomedical and Applied Sciences and the Department of Comprehensive Care and General Dentistry – to strengthen our integration of the biomedical science concepts within the pedagogy of comprehensive general dentistry. Dr. Jeffrey Platt will lead the newly merged department, named the **Department of Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care**. This is an important decision for IUSD. The rationale is: 1) dental science has exploded in recent years and we can enhance our application of the best evidence to provide treatments, and 2) the national dental boards are moving to a single national examination beginning in fall of 2020. I have every confidence that Dr. Platt can lead this important transition for IUSD.

### **Administrative Appointments, Spring Semester 2019**

These faculty members have been appointed to the following positions to provide continuity in IUSD's academic programs:

**Dr. Jeffrey Platt** – Chair, Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care (March 1)

**Dr. Waldemar Polido** – Interim Chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) and interim OMFS Program Director (February 1)

**Dr. Minnie Cho** – Director of International Dental Education

**FULLFILLING *the* PROMISE**

## IUSD Dean's Search Update

During the month of January, the weather mostly cooperated to allow the committee conducting the search for the next dental dean to host four outstanding finalists to visit Indianapolis and the IUPUI campus. The candidates are faculty members and administrators at their respective dental schools. The candidate visits took place as follows:

- Dr. Karen West (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Monday, January 14, and Tuesday, January 15
- Dr. Carol Ann Murdoch-Kinch (University of Michigan) Wednesday, January 16, and Thursday, January 17
- Dr. James Fine (Columbia University) Tuesday, January 22, and Wednesday, January 23
- Dr. Larry Cunningham (University of Kentucky) Monday, January 28, and Tuesday, January 29

Each candidate made a school-wide presentation, which was recorded for future viewing. Questions regarding the presentations or search may be directed to Linda Durr at [ldurr@iupui.edu](mailto:ldurr@iupui.edu) or (317) 278-2090.

## Bravo, Damon Spight, Featured as a Face of Both IUSD & IUPUI's 50<sup>th</sup>

Damon Spight, faculty recruitment manager in IUSD's Office of Faculty Affairs, is so inspired by IUPUI's mission and culture that he returned to join the staff not once, but twice. He began his career at IUPUI more than 25 years ago in what was then the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education. He left for a year before returning as outreach coordinator in the former Office of Learning Partnerships, a position he held for a short time before spending the next 10 years with the National FFA Organization. When he returned to IUPUI a second time in 2011, it was to assume his current position. [Read more here.](#)

## In an Ancient Nun's Teeth, Blue Paint — and Clues to Medieval Life (NY Times)

From the *New York Times* comes a story of tartar! A rare blue pigment, discovered in the fossilized plaque of a German nun, suggests that tartar played a broader role for women in the production of religious texts. [Read more here.](#)

## IUSD Accreditation Tip

The CODA Predoctoral Draft Gap Analyses on DentNet. You can access these at <https://dentnet.iu.edu/portals/accreditation/FTFaculty/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. (Sign in using your IU ID and passphrase.)

**Coffee and Donuts** – Join us on Friday, February 1, from 7:30 to 9 am for the monthly First Friday school gathering. Complimentary coffee, donuts, and fruit will be served in the student lounge.

## Upcoming IUSD Events

- Friday, February 22, 2019 – Chicago Midwinter, IUSD Alumni Reception, Hyatt McCormick Place, 5-6:30 pm
- March 16-19, 2019 – ADEA Annual Session, Hyatt Regency Chicago
- Monday, April 3, 2019 – IUSD Research Day, 12-4:30 pm, Campus Center
- Friday, April 12, 2019 – IUSD's 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Thanks to each of you for your dedication to and support of the Vision and Mission of IUSD. I'll be back next month with another edition of *First Friday...Dean's Update*.

-John

Check out all the current  
**IU Dentistry news on our website:**  
[www.dentistry.iu.edu](http://www.dentistry.iu.edu)  
**or on our Facebook page:**  
[www.facebook.com/IUDentistry](http://www.facebook.com/IUDentistry)