



Faculty Voice

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Stuart Schrader, Clinical Assistant Professor of Behavioral Sciences in the IU School of Dentistry, believes the next generation of dentists will require different skills than their predecessors. He notes, "We must educate students to serve not only their patients, but also their communities ". Dr. Schrader is a long-time member of the Service Learning Assistant program, which supports community engaged faculty work in teaching, research, and service. His involvement in the SLA program has enabled him to write several articles, present posters, and publish book chapters. More importantly, the students he works with have also gone on to publish and present at conferences, and become civic-minded professionals.

This year Dr. Schrader is focusing his scholarship on teaching and learning related to civic engagement and service learning around 3 areas:

1. assessing student reflections about civically engaged service learning activities such as those in which first-year dental students' work with local children at Westside Indianapolis Head Start,
2. Enhancing and evaluating the success of the IU School of Dentistry's recently launched online site (www.ohccp.org) for educating oral health care providers, oncologists, cancer survivors and caregivers in understanding oral health care complications and considerations pre-, during and post-cancer therapies, and
3. the design, development and implementation of a new civically engaged objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) process used to reflectively train second-year dental students about how best to provide oral health education to people living with disabilities (e.g., working with deaf culture).



Many Dr. Stuart Schraders

Much of the work this year will involve Head Start School #75 in the Haughville neighborhood on the Westside of Indianapolis. This early intervention oral health education project is essential in reaching out to an underserved population of children who are at risk for limited access to oral health care yet who are mandated by Head Start to get an oral health screening, find a dental home, and to follow through with necessary treatment. Unfortunately, in 2005-2006 Marion County's Family Development Service (FDS) reported that approximately 15% of Head Start kids did not complete their dental exams and 22% still required treatment at the end of the school year. Dr. Schrader and one of his two Service Learning Assistants will work towards bridging this gap while developing a stronger partnership with the community.

Dr. Schrader's Service Learning Assistants will also be responsible for working with clients at the [Bethlehem House](#) (a Marion County HIV/AIDS care coordination site) who are currently living with HIV/AIDS. People living with HIV/AIDS have historically had no or limited access to oral health care services. A national study conducted by Marcus et. al., (2000) found that 1 out of 5 people living with HIV reported an unmet oral health need within the past 6 months, with the highest portion of these respondents being those with income levels below \$5,000 a year. Locally, in 2002 an Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Needs Assessment estimated that 54% of all people living with HIV/AIDS at that time did not receive regular dental care.

As a result, Dr. Schrader has dedicated his time and effort to building civic partnerships with local,

ethnically diverse, lower income patients living with HIV so as to increase their access to oral health care, provide them with more contextualized oral health education and invite them to participate in the didactic, interactive, experiential and multi-mediated education of dental students about the barriers and motivators involved in accessing care.

Dr. Schrader exemplifies what it means to be a community engaged faculty member at IUPUI. He is dedicated to promoting civic learning amongst his students emphasizing the importance of civic responsibility and collaborative models of leadership. His students are presented with the importance of viewing ourselves in the academy and elsewhere in organizational life as active participants in our local communities. He emphasizes "learning from" patients and clients in his service learning courses, community projects, and civic assignments, in hopes they, as future leaders of their discipline, will appreciate, understand, and put into practice the design of community-minded messages that are meant to reach out to our culturally, ethnically, socio-economically and organizationally diverse set of stakeholders.