



First Friday.....November Edition (November 2, 2012)

This past month was spent participating in the annual American Dental Association meeting in San Francisco and in Boston conducting a comprehensive accreditation site visit. In San Francisco, there was a buzz about the changing environment for dentistry both from an economic basis as well as a scope of practice perspective. The challenge remains to focus our efforts on contemporary enhancements to the dental school curricula so that we advance our journey to make *Indiana University School of Dentistry one of the best dental schools of the 21st century.*

- **DDS Degree with a More Medical Emphasis?** (Source: *ADA News 10-19-2012*)

One program of the 2012 ADA Meeting asked.....Should [dentists screen for medical conditions](#) in their offices? That was the central question in the forum series hosted jointly by the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs and The Journal of the American Dental Association. These forums help bring new issues, including controversial issues, to the forefront of dentistry. Dr. Donald Giddon, a clinical professor at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, described research he and his colleagues have conducted on how patients see the respective roles of various health care providers. "What we found is that people are more willing now to have dentists ask about [general] health issues," he said, noting that their willingness is higher if they suffer from the disease in question. Dr. David T.W. Wong, director of Dental Research at the University of California at Los Angeles, described his research on the use of saliva for risk assessment, screening and diagnosis. Saliva, he said, can be "the mirror of the body." He said dentists seem to know that, but many physicians are skeptical. The conversation touched on the need for dental schools to address curriculum changes that could facilitate expanded services, and the need to address attendant legal issues. On whether performing in-office medical tests could open dentists to increased liability, a lawyer-dentist in the audience offered a carefully worded answer. Speaking as a lawyer, she said, "let me say, maybe yes, and maybe no. Ask our own IUSD, Dr. Jeff Bennett, about the need for more and better knowledge and application of medicine in the dental curricula and you will get a direct answer....yes. IUSD has an opportunity to further explore this topic in greater detail perhaps as part of our New Academic Directions discussion.

- **ADA Explores Economic Downturn in Dental Practice** (Source: *ADA News 10-19-2012*)

One session I attended at the ADA examined the past 10 years of private dental practice economic activity in the utilization, payment and net income for dentists. According to ADA experts, it wasn't the economic downturn in 2008 that caused dental earnings to decline and adult utilization to go down. These trends have been in play since the early 2000s as an ADA forum sponsored by the Council on Dental Practice presented "[Has the Economic Downturn Changed Dentistry Forever?](#)" Dr. Vujicic of the ADA presented data showing the growth rate in the dental economy slowing significantly in the early 2000s and flattening after 2008. "This suggests that something was happening well before the economic downturn," Dr. Vujicic said. What was it? Dr. Vujicic said he's not completely sure but points toward a decrease in the number of people using private

First Friday....IUSD Dean's Update for November (November 2, 2012)

insurance. That could be because more employers are cutting their benefits, specifically dental insurance, forcing many people to utilize public insurance or be uninsured. It was also noted that many employers are also passing higher insurance costs on to their employees, leaving them with less disposable income.

- **ADA White Paper – [The Role of Finance for Dental Care](#)**

Another edition to the ADA's Access to care White paper series has been released this spring. This paper examines why people from all walks of life are increasingly facing financial barriers to accessing dental care and offers solutions to reduce these barriers. It is acknowledged that the ongoing economic crisis dramatically reduces the likelihood of significant reforms in the short term. But the economy will recover; Americans will return to work, and state and federal governments will be under less pressure to cut or underfund essential services. The entire Report is a great primer on dental care finance in the USA.

- **IUSD Included in [IUPUI ACE Internationalization Study](#)**

Each year the American Council on Education selects a group to join an invitational learning community that helps participating universities achieve comprehensive internationalization, which at IUPUI is defined as "the active involvement, across the teaching, research and engagement missions of the university, in global networks of knowledge and collaboration." Dr. Michael Kowolik represents IUSD in this study.

- **IUSD- International Dentist Program (IDP) Founding Director Named**

Dr. Melanie Peterson, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, has been named the founding director of the IUSD IDP program. The first IDP enrollment cohort of up to 12 IDP-DDS candidates will begin next summer on July 1, 2013. IUSD will use the ADEA CAPID admissions program to receive IDP applications. The IDP admissions process will operate in parallel with the DDS admission processes. We anticipate full enrollment of up to 24 IDP students beginning July 2014. The IUSD-IDP program will benefit from Dr. Peterson's depth of administrative, academic and clinical experience to move us along to a successful July launch of this important program.

- **IUSD First Friday Factoid (Source: IUSD Axium Database)**

When comparing the seven IUSD comp care groups on the utilization of 2% lidocaine, the average number of carpules of anesthetic used during a recent week in October was under 2 carpules per patient. This is an example of the new anesthetic log now being maintained as part of Axium.

- **Upcoming IUSD Events**

- November 6th – Chancellor Bantz Address to the IUPUI Campus (Campus Center 450@ 4pm)
- November 5-7th - IUPUI Re-accreditation site visit by Higher Learning Commission
- November 30 – IUSD ASDA Vendor Day – Dean Emeritus Arthur Dugoni Guest speaker on the *A, B, C's of Leadership*, IUPUI Campus Center, 2pm

I appreciate your dedication 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 IUSD News on our [website](#) or at:
<http://www.iusd.iupui.edu/>