

# Strategic Partnership for Interprofessional Collaborative Education in Pediatric Dentistry (SPICE-PD)

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## Background

- Dental caries are one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in childhood<sup>1</sup>.
- Pediatricians are well positioned to ameliorate this disease burden with appropriate caries risk assessment, fluoride application, and referral, but many lack the training necessary to provide this care<sup>2</sup>.
- American Academy of Pediatrics and US Preventative Services Task Force state that primary care providers (PCP) should be knowledgeable on the management and prevention of dental caries<sup>3</sup>.

## Goals

- SPICE-PD aims to prepare dentists and PCPs to meet the growing oral health needs of children from underserved and high-need vulnerable populations.
- Develop an integrated didactic and clinical curriculum for pediatric residents and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner students (PNP) emphasizing interprofessional education.
- Improve knowledge, confidence, and clinical performance in the prevention of childhood caries.

## Methods

- Goals and objectives were jointly developed by pediatric, nursing, and dental faculty, including core knowledge and clinical competencies.
- Didactics include:
  - Lectures and fluoride varnish training by dental faculty
  - Online self-study modules using "Smiles for Life" curriculum
  - Infant Oral Health Webinar by dental faculty
  - Instructional videos on infant oral health protocols
  - Required readings
- Interprofessional clinical training\*:
  - Formal caries risk assessment and anticipatory guidance
  - Knee to knee pediatric dental exam
  - Application of fluoride varnish and self-management goals

\*Occurs in an infant oral healthcare clinic with dental students and pediatric dental residents.

## Results

- Curriculum piloted with 8 UCLA pediatric residents and 15 UCLA PNP students from January 2016 to June 2016.
- A pre/post survey assessing trainee's knowledge, skill, confidence and perceptions of oral health practices was administered and completed by 14 participants.

Survey Results (n=14)	PRE	POST
Familiarity with formal caries risk assessment (Caries Management by Risk Assessment - CAMBRA).	7%	100%
Often or always provide anticipatory guidance on oral health.	36%	79%
Felt confident screening for early childhood caries.	21%	79%
Agree that fluoride varnish application is the responsibility of PCPs.	21%	71%
Agree that meaningful information exchange should occur across provider types to deliver high quality oral healthcare.	79%	100%



## Conclusion

- An oral health curriculum that capitalizes on opportunities in interprofessional collaboration can improve confidence and practice in the prevention and management of childhood caries.
- Broad dissemination of interprofessional training of PCPs in preventive oral health may help decrease the overall burden of pediatric dental caries.

## Next Steps

- Overcoming challenges with integrating interprofessional faculty and trainee curriculum schedules.
- Expanding the training to more UCLA pediatric trainees.
  - 26 pediatric residents, 13 PNPs in Year 2
- Piloting electronic health and dental record integration
- Continued evaluation of knowledge and application of the core competencies.

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