

Geriatric Dentistry Core Curriculum

Overall goals:

To provide postgraduate trainees in geriatric dentistry with the knowledge, skills and attitudes so they will be able to:

- a. Deliver excellent dental care to diverse elderly populations in a variety of settings by the end of the first year of fellowship.
- b. Provide this care in conjunction with professionals from other medical and health related disciplines
- c. Embark on a successful career in academic geriatric dentistry by the end of the second year of fellowship.

1. Age-Related Changes of the Masticatory Apparatus

General goals

The fellow will:

- a. Become familiar with age-associated changes in the physiology and anatomy of the oral cavity.
- b. Be able to modify dental treatment when necessary to achieve optimal dental health.

Objectives

Knowledge

The fellow will be able to describe and diagnose age-related changes in:

- a. Dental tooth structure
- b. Periodontal tissues
- c. Oral mucosa
- d. Saliva
- e. Neuromuscular System
- f. Tempromandibular joint
- g. Residual ridge (bone loss)

2. Masticatory Function and Nutrition

General goals

The fellow will:

- a. Become familiar with how masticatory changes affect nutrition
- b. Be able to recognize the need to monitor dietary habits of older adults
- c. Be able to diagnose nutritional status
- d. Understand the need for dental prosthetic devices

Objectives

Knowledge

The fellow will:

- a. Be able to diagnose and monitor nutritional needs
- b. Be able to design a preventive oral hygiene program
- c. Learn how to construct prosthetic devices

3. Prosthetic Treatment Planning

General goals

The fellow will:

- a. Become familiar with a variety of prosthetic options
- b. Understand the needs and demands of the patient
- c. Be aware of the risk factors
- d. Be able to make decisions in treatment planning

Objectives

Knowledge

The fellow will:

- a. Be able to perform a comprehensive oral exam
- b. Be able to design and fabricate dental prosthetics
- c. Be able to evaluate post operative status of dental prosthesis

4. Treatment Planning for the Dependent Elderly

General goals

The fellow will:

- a. Be able to identify special treatment needs and demands of the dependant elderly
- b. Understand the need for certain treatment plan modifications
- c. Be able to identify and understand Legal and Ethical Considerations

Objectives

Knowledge

The fellow will:

- a. Establish treatment plans addressing the specific needs of dependent patients.
- b. Learn to work within the guidelines of the legal system
- c. Establish a prophylactic oral hygiene program

Attitudes:

The fellow will demonstrate willingness to:

1. Communicate effectively and with empathy with elderly patients, recognizing the sensory, cognitive and other handicaps that can impede communication.

2. Treat elderly patients with respect and understanding
3. Demonstrate appropriate communication and interpersonal skills when interacting with care givers, professional colleagues and community groups
4. Appreciate the value of non-institutional living for many home bound patients
5. Appreciate the interdisciplinary “team approach” to patient care
6. Appreciate the Pivotal role of the family and the resources required to support both patient and family

Implementation & Evaluation

The fellow will provide primary care at Kings County Dental Clinic, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center Dental Clinic and Susan Smith-Mckinny Long Term Care under the supervision of the Department of Dental and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

In each of these settings the fellow will:

- a. Assess and formulate comprehensive treatment plans
- b. Provide follow up and continuity of dental care
- c. Participate in weekly dental lectures
- d. Bi-weekly journal club
- e. Monthly presentation of up to date materials in geriatric dentistry to other fellows.