



March Newsletter



Passion for Dental Therapy Runs in the Family

By Chelsea Luong, ADTA Communications Associate

Meet Leandra Beech and Mek Apangalook, two sisters from Alaska who share a passion for dental therapy. Born and raised in the northern reaches of Alaska, in Gambell, St. Lawrence, the sisters developed an appreciation for dental care from an early age. Leandra, the oldest of three, started her career in dental care as a dental assistant in 2008. After gaining eight years of experience, she became a sponsor for the Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program. On the other hand, Mek initially attended the Southcentral Foundation Training Program for a different field before discovering her passion for dental therapy. She started her journey as a dental assistant with SCF for 11 years before seizing the opportunity to become a dental therapist.



[Click here to read more!](#)

Serving the Community, One Smile at a Time

By Blake Timm '98

Check out this article featuring our Director, Wilber Ramirez-Rodriguez.

"The only thing bigger than a passion for the dental profession for Wilber Ramirez-Rodriguez '10 is his heart for service."

"An associate professor in Pacific University's School of Dental Hygiene Studies, Ramirez-Rodriguez has used that heart to not only educate students but to provide dental services to underserved communities across Oregon through the Smile Care Everywhere program."





Legislative Updates



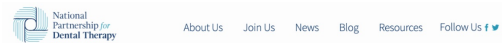
FLORIDA - House Bill B1173 offers Florida an opportunity to expand access to dental care and improve the health of Floridians, including giving dentists the option to add dental therapists to their dental teams through the licensure of dental therapists. While HB 1173 passed in its first committee the bill died in the Health & Human Services Committee on March 8, 2024. Floridians for Dental Access will continue its work to make dental therapy a reality in Florida. If you have friends, family, or colleagues in Florida, ask them to join the **Floridian for Dental Access campaign** today!

NEW YORK - Senate Bill S4428 aims to improve access to dental care in underserved areas by permitting the licensing of dental therapists and advanced dental therapists. This would enable these dental professionals to provide services in communities that currently face difficulties in accessing dental care. For more information, **click here.**

WISCONSIN - In a huge win for dental access in Wisconsin, SB 689 allowing the licensure of Dental Therapists in Wisconsin passed both houses of the legislature with bipartisan support. To learn more, **click here.**

National Partnership for Dental Therapy Resources Page

Visit the National Partnership for Dental Therapy's new and improved resources page! It presents a simplified interface with clickable tiles for Fact Sheets, Research, Advocacy & Communications, and Policy. Clicking on these tiles provides users with many informative resources.



Resources



[Visit the Dental Therapy Resources Page](#)

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is hosting the Indian Country Oral Health ECHO clinic **the second Wednesday of every other month at 12pm PT**. The one hour virtual ECHO clinic provides an opportunity to engage in a case discussion, receive recommendations from peers and an interprofessional team of specialists working in Indian Country, participate in a didactic presentation and join a learning community to effectively optimize minimally invasive dentistry, and treat patients locally with holistic, culturally appropriate care. CDE will be provided.



Who Should Attend?: Oral health staff serving American Indian and Alaska Native people, and others are welcome.

To Join: [Simply click here at the time of meeting](#)

To learn more, and sign-up for email reminders to join, **[click here](#)**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team at **echo@npaihb.org** or Tacey Mason, NTDS project director at **tmason@npaihb.org**.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



World Oral Health Day is Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

To learn more about good oral health and take part in this day, visit these websites to learn more.

- [World Oral Health Day 2024](#)
- [World Oral Health Day: Accelerate action to achieve universal coverage for oral health](#)
- [Research on Dental Therapy and Oral Health Equity](#)

Northlands Celebrate New Dental Therapy Program in La Ronge

By Derek Cornet

“We started the dental therapy program in September of 2023 and we started with seven first-year students and seven second-year students, so students who already have a background in oral health have an opportunity to move directly into second year. We will be graduating our first students with a Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy this June. We hope those learners are going to go out and serve northern communities, not only in northern Saskatchewan, but coast to coast to coast.”



[Click here to read more.](#)

Interested in Volunteering with the ADTA?

The ADTA is accepting volunteers for its five committees: Annual Conference Committee, Editorial Committee, Education Committee, Governance Committee, and Speaker's Bureau. Fill out this application if you are interested in volunteering with the ADTA. **Volunteers must be active members of the ADTA. If you are not a member but are interested in joining, [click here for membership information.](#)**



[Volunteer Now!](#)



If you are in need of scholarship funding, continuing education, or are interested in becoming a dental therapist, click on the opportunities below.

- Join the dental team at Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry in Augusta, ME! Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry is a non-profit dental center overlooking the river and the State Capital, and they are looking for a full-time Dental Hygiene Therapist to join their team. To learn more about this opportunity, contact Bonnie Vaughan, Executive Director, at bssvaughan@msn.com or 207-623-3400. Do not miss out – apply by

March 21, 2024! For more information [click here](#).

- Michigan Community Health Centers are eager to hire dental therapists, and the Delta Dental Foundation will provide a \$5,000 Workforce Development Incentive to any dental therapist who accepts a position at a Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) member health center! **Watch MPCA's Career Center Page** for new career opportunities.
 - The importance of higher education cannot be overstated – education can be transformational for individuals, tribes and communities. The Washington Indian Gaming Association (WIGA) Scholarship Program provides scholarships to Native American and Alaska Native students pursuing opportunities in higher education. Since 2006, WIGA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships. **Applications for 2024-25 scholarships are due March 31, 2024.** Learn more and apply now by [clicking here](#).
 - [Community Catalyst](#) is hiring a [Senior State Advocacy Manager \(remote\)](#) to support partners working on dental therapy and other oral health issues. **[Click here to apply now!](#)**
 - [The Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship \(The Fellowship\)](#) is a program dedicated to supporting the growth and reach of diverse advocacy organizations and their leadership teams situated at the intersection of race equity, health justice, and organizational transformation. It honors the legacy and vision of Rob Restuccia, Community Catalyst's longtime and founding executive director. **[Click here to apply](#)** to participate in the Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship. **Deadline to Apply is March 25.**
 - The State of Vermont is in need of a dental therapy director at Vermont State University. Legislation passed in 2016 and filling this position will allow Vermont to begin its dental therapy education program. For more information, [click here](#).
 - Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists: A free self paced 3 credit CE course. For more information, [click here](#).
 - The NPAIHB Community Health Representative (CHR) Education Program is now recruiting for the CHR Advanced Course starting March 19th 2024! The CHR Advanced Course offers a culturally specific curriculum designed for Indigenous students looking to advance their education and get an insight into different medical fields within the Community Health Aide Program, such as dental health, behavioral health, and community health. For more information, [click here](#).
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- ADTA Virtual Conference Offered as Lunch & Learn Webinar Series February and March 2024
 - How Dental Practices Can Incorporate Alternative Care Delivery Methods & Virtual Appointments Into Clinical Practice (1 CE), March 13, 2024, 12 pm to 1 pm PT (2 pm CT, 3 pm ET)
 - SDF and Its Role in Medical and Dental Integration (1 CE) March 19, 2024, 9 am to 10 am PT (11 am CT, 12 pm ET)
 - Its all Fine, with Povidone Iodine (.75 CE), March 21, 2024, 9 am to 10 am PT (11 am CT, 12 pm ET)
 - The Evolution of the Oral Health Workforce in Australia Over the Last 50 Years, (1 CE), March 25, 2024, 12 pm to 1 pm PT (2 pm CT, 3 pm ET)
 - Public Speaking Training for Dental Therapists: Becoming Our Own Advocates (1 CE), March 28, 2024, 9 am to 10 am PT (11 am CT, 12 pm ET).
 - 2024 National Tribal Health Conference - Mark your calendars! National Indian Health Board will be hosting their National Tribal Health Conference on **May 19-23, 2024 in Rapid City, SD!**
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**ON DEMAND
LEARNING**



Below is a list of on demand webinars in the dental industry. To learn more, click on the event.

- [Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists](#)
- [Minimally Invasive Care in Dentistry: Healing Tooth Decay with Brush On Therapies](#)
- [An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value](#)
- [Glass Ionomer Cement: Prevention and Beyond](#)
- [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#)
- [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#)
- [Understanding and Providing Trauma-Informed Oral Health Care](#)
- [Dental Fear and Anxiety: Why It Exists and What Providers Can Do to Help](#)
- [Updating Your Knowledge of Dental Caries: Causes, Concerns, and Considerations](#)
- [Connecting Caries Risk Assessments and Cultural Awareness](#)
- [Managing Dental Caries: Evolving Strategies and Proven Techniques](#)

**Join the ADTA in ensuring all Americans have
access to high-quality oral health care.**

[Click here to learn more!](#)



The ADTA proudly partners with



American Dental Therapy Association (ADTA)

www.americandentaltherapyassociation.org

Questions? [Click here](#) for more information.

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