

23 June 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR USAF Preventive Dentistry Officers

FROM: Consultant for Dental Public Health

SUBJECT: Preventive Dentistry Update # 23

1. 2009 Preventive Dentistry Course. The Preventive Dentistry Course will be held at the Dunn Dental Clinic, Lackland AFB, Texas from 6-10 April 2009. Topics to be covered at the course will include, among others, caries risk assessment, management of the high caries risk patient, periodontal risk factors, minimally invasive dentistry, responsibilities of the preventive dentistry officer, fluoride and new techniques for caries diagnosis, dentistry in a deployed environment, prophylaxis technician training, tobacco cessation, dental population health metrics and prevention in pediatric dentistry. There are 15 funded quotas that have been distributed throughout the USAF. There are a limited number of locally funded slots (5) available for this course which will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Those individuals interested in attending the 2009 Preventive Dentistry Course using local funds should contact Col Kevin Murphy, Chief, Dental Operations Division, AFMOA-SOUTH/SG3D by e-mail at <kevin.murphy@lackland.af.mil> or DSN 945-5244.

2. Population Health Metrics. Recently the Population Health Support Division has realigned under the auspices of AFMOA-SOUTH to become the Clinical and Business Analysis Division and has been physically moved to Kelly USA Base, which is now a part of Lackland AFB, TX. The Population Health Enhancement Branch of this division houses the Office of Dental Population Health and the current Dental Population Health Consultant, Lt Col Barbara Martin. The Dental Population Health website is still accessible at: <<https://kx.afms.mil/dentalpophealth>>.

This website continues to display the latest scientifically-based references and excellent examples of short presentations that can be used at Commanders Call to educate our personnel on how to prevent oral disease and improve their overall health and readiness. There is even a Dental Population Health Forum for questions to the Dental Population Health Consultant and for Dental Population Health-related discussion among the forum visitors. This can be accessed from the Knowledge Exchange homepage under Kx Forums.

Lt Col Barbara Martin provides each base with a monthly update of the population health metrics for their active duty personnel. This information can be used to target prevention efforts by identifying which squadrons have the largest numbers of individuals at high risk for dental caries, periodontal disease and tobacco-related lesions. This information can also be used as individual patient action lists to streamline intervention efforts at the patient level. Each DTF can use the data to manage their high caries risk program and to ensure that all patients with at least one PSR 4 sextant receive a complete periodontal evaluation within 30 days. Remember the AFIA will expect to see, during their inspections, how the clinics are using this information to improve the dental health of their base populations. If you have any questions on how to use these metrics, please contact Lt Col Barbara Martin at Comm: (210) 925-1748 [DSN 945-1748] or by e-mail Barbara.Martin@lackland.af.mil. Office symbol AFMOA/SGHC.

3. Current Events in Preventive Dentistry. Over the past few months some exciting events have occurred that we believe will make a difference in improving the oral health of our population. The Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry) webpage, accessible

through the Knowledge Exchange by choosing “Dental” and then “Dental Consultants” from the drop-down menus under “Functional View”. As with the Dental Population Health website, the Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry) webpage contains the latest scientifically-based references, all of the Preventive Dentistry Newsletters, any pertinent Preventive Dentistry Course read-aheads, and links to other helpful websites. You will also find a Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry) Forum for questions to the Dental Public Health Consultant and for Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry)-related discussion among the forum visitors. This can be accessed from the Knowledge Exchange’s Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry) webpage at the upper right-hand “Discuss” link. All Preventive Dentistry Updates [Newsletters] are also available at the following website: < <http://www.usuhs.mil/tsochs/military/healthpromo.shtml> >.

New Clinical Practice Guidelines are forthcoming with many updated changes as well as the ability to use an optional standardized High Caries Risk Program form. This form was developed at the 2008 Preventive Dentistry Course with the assistance and approval of the AFIA team. Critiques from the previous Preventive Dentistry Course and numerous inputs from the field had highlighted the need for a standardized High Caries Risk form and an approved Table of Contents that would standardize the Program notebook as well.

With the help of our outstanding speakers, Mrs. Janice Coughlin, and Lt Col Barbara Martin, this year’s course was a resounding success. An expression of our gratitude to these folks would not be complete without recognition and thanks to all of 2008 Preventive Dentistry Course attendees who worked tirelessly and with great diligence to produce the exceptional standardized Preventive Dentistry Program items. Please join us in lauding the following individuals: Lt Col Lena Arvidson [Aviano AB], Maj Carlos Diaz-Laboy [Edwards AFB], Maj Jonathan Evans [Ramstein AB], Maj Usha Gokhale [Lackland AFB], Capt Ashley Brooks [Dyess AFB], Capt Christopher Gerwig [Eilson AFB], Capt Tequilla McGahee [Laughlin AFB], SSgt Danielle Kabran [USAF Academy], Capt Zachary Perry [Minot AFB], Capt Leslie Salvaggio [Lajes AB], Capt Paul Smith [Travis AFB], Capt Zoya Sky [Mcguire AFB], TSgt Tracey Domingue [Tinker AFB], SRA Mary Medige [Elmendorf AFB], Ms. Gaye Adams [Charleston AFB], Ms. Monica Dunn [Eglin AFB], Ms. Lisa Esparza [Kirtland AFB], Ms. Christine Swanberg [Lackland AFB], and Dr. Roberta Melton [Austin, TX].

4. **Farewell.** As my tenure as your DPH Consultant comes to a close and I transition to Kelly USA Base, Texas to become the Officer in Charge of the Basic Oral Hygiene Course, I want to thank all of you for your support over the past four years in improving the oral health of our Air Force population. I am not only proud of the caliber of individuals that make up the USAF Preventive Dentistry team but also the enthusiasm and dedication they continue to exhibit toward the prevention and management of oral disease. I would like to encourage you to provide the same level of support for the new AF/SG Consultant for Dental Public Health, Col Gary C. Martin. He may be contacted at gary.martin@usuhs.mil or DSN 285-6972 after September 3, 2008. Until then, if you have any questions, you may contact him at gary.martin@tma.osd.mil or DSN 681-0039.

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Susan W. Mongeau, Col, USAF, DC

Military Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General for Dental Public Health