

Message from the NIDCR Acting Director



The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is pleased to commission this special issue on the essentials of psychosocial intervention research to improve oral health. This special issue gathers together state-of-the-science guidance from leading experts in behavioral and social intervention research. It is meant to serve as a resource for the oral health community, as well as for research communities conducting behavioral and social intervention studies in other health fields.

The publication of this special issue reflects the NIDCR's commitment to behavioral and social science research, and the recognition that multiple factors, including individual patient and provider behavior, community characteristics, and the organization of health care systems, are key contributors to oral health. Social and behavioral science interven-

tions offer great promise for reducing the burden of oral diseases and disorders. Accordingly, NIDCR's Strategic Plan for 2009–2013 identifies increasing the Institute's efforts to support basic and applied research in the behavioral and social sciences as a means to produce meaningful improvements in oral health.

The ideal outcome of this special issue would be: a) that investigators would be equipped with the tools they need to conduct rigorous intervention research that leads to compelling outcomes; b) that early-career investigators, or investigators from outside the oral health field, might bring their professional energies to improving oral health; c) that the methods described in the pages that follow would lead to innovations in behavioral and social interventions to improve oral health; and d) that the highest quality intervention research would benefit those who need it most, and eliminate disparities in oral, dental, and craniofacial health.

In short, the NIDCR hopes this special issue leads to rigorous behavioral and social intervention research that makes a meaningful difference in oral health, and inspires researchers to tackle the behavioral and social barriers to further improvements in oral health.

Isabel Garcia, DDS, MPH
*National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research,
Bethesda, Maryland*

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Copyright of Journal of Public Health Dentistry is the property of Wiley-Blackwell and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.