

Faculty of Dentistry Senate update April 25th, 2016

On April 5th, we completed the long form for the University's biannual update on progress toward implementing diversity and inclusiveness at Dalhousie. This included the Faculty of Dentistry's responses to the Belong, External Task Force, Restorative Justice and Truth and Reconciliation reports. This update will be compiled with those from other units in the University and posted on the Culture of Respect Page in early May. Our responses to the External Task Force are attached.

We continue to work with our staff, students, faculty and profession to ensure the changes in climate and culture at our faculty are the 'new normal'.

Examples of some of our more recent initiatives include:

- Dr. Mary McNally was named the American Dental Educators Association's *Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence* for 2016. She competed with applicants from the U.S. and Canada and will spend three months at the ADEA office in Washington, DC to "Explore gender and diversity as elements of professionalism." She is the first Canadian winner since the scholar-in-residence program began in 1994. (Task Force recommendation #14, 15)
- The Dean's Office of the Faculty of Dentistry sponsored attendance of 37 dentistry and dental hygiene students at the 2016 National Health Sciences Students' Association Interprofessional Conference on Diversity & Inclusion in Healthcare in March. (Task Force recommendation #7)
- The second Women in Dentistry Circle, held in March, brought together practicing female dentists with our female fourth-year dentistry students to discuss the many challenges and opportunities in our profession; including balancing work and home life, managing sexism and misogyny in the workplace, employee relations, mentoring, and professional development. (Task Force recommendation #7, 14)
- A working group is currently reviewing and updating our Faculty Governance structure and reporting processes. (Task Force recommendation #2, 18)
- In early April, a group of 25 third and fourth-year students, plus five faculty members, hosted 36 special needs individuals as part of the Faculty of Dentistry's first Sharing Smiles Day. The objective of the day was to provide oral health education and build confidence and comfort among the participants by playing games and having fun together. (Task Force recommendation #6, 16)

- The impact of our involvement in community work continues to ripple through the Faculty of Dentistry. On April 7, two alumni (one of whom teaches part-time in the Faculty), Drs. Asile and Asraa El-Darahali, gave a presentation on their volunteer work in the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan. Entrance was by donation, with funds raised going to the Halifax Dentistry Student Society for Refugees and the North End Community Health Centre dental fund. In his closing remarks, executive director of the North End Community Health Centre Rod Wilson spoke highly of the Faculty of Dentistry’s involvement at the clinic, saying that we “provide care to patients who would have no access to it otherwise.” (Task Force recommendation #10, 16)
 - Link to Dal News article: <http://www.dal.ca/news/2016/04/04/on-the-front-lines--dental-care-in-a-syrian-refugee-camp.html>
 - Link to CBC coverage: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/bedford-dentists-300-children-syrianrefugee-camp-1.3526197>
- We continue our facilities and curriculum renewal, introducing the group practice model. This model is a highly collaborative way of delivering patient care involving dentistry and dental hygiene students, faculty, and staff and will include daily feedback and evaluation among and between all team members. (Task Force recommendation #5, 8)

We are particularly proud of the work of our **student leaders** over the past year. This group has sacrificed much of their free time over the last year, working diligently to develop a framework they, as students, can use to make sustainable changes to the climate and culture in our Faculty. Although they are in the midst of exams, they have asked to share their experiences and insights with Senate on April 25th. Please join us in making them feel welcome.

Respectfully submitted;

Dr. Debora Matthews

Chair, Next Steps Committee