



# Georgia Smiles

A Newsletter for the Georgia Oral Health Prevention Program

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## Holiday Smiles!

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What a busy last three months it has been for the GOHPP Program! October 15th, was the meeting of the Georgia Oral Health Coalition with many of the staff in attendance. November 6th, was the Dental Public Health Coordinators Meeting in Macon. DeKalb Board of Health's Dental Program participated in a BiNational Health Fair on October 10th, and celebrated Seal GA Day at Georgia Perimeter College on November 13th. The GOHPP welcomed the first Dental Sealant/Oral Health Education Specialist to our ranks. **Dr. Taylor** and **Aldene Lanier, RDH** of the Southwest District made the news on November 20th in the Albany Herald. Plus, **Dr. Vicki Waits** and **Linda Allen**, assistant with the East Metro District participated with the Christina Smiles Program on September 21st. On December 4th, GPHA had their annual business meeting in Macon. New officers were elected and the Georgia Dental Public Health Award of Merit was awarded.

All of these stories and more are inside so take a moment and enjoy! May your Christmas be so full of blessings that you don't have enough room to contain them all!



Welcome Dr. Jorge Bernal!

### NEW Dental Sealant/Oral Health Education Specialist

**Jorge Bernal** just joined DCH, as a Dental Sealant/Oral Health Education Specialist, brings over 10 years of experience in Dentistry and community health. With his international background, Jorge has leadership, interpersonal skills, and customer service. He has also participated in many national and international dental conferences.

After training, Jorge spent 4 years working as a dentist in Colombia, South America, in the remote area in the Amazon forest. His responsibilities included comprehensive dental care as well as promotion and prevention in variety of health issues, such as oral health, STD, nutrition, chronic diseases and many others.

Jorge graduated with a D.D.S. degree from the Javeriana University at Bogota, Colombia, and M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management from Emory University.

~ Carol Smith, RDH, BBA, MSHA



## GOHPP News

### Georgia Oral Health Coalition - October 15th, 2009

The Georgia Oral Health Coalition met Thursday, October 15th, at the Loudermilk Center in downtown Atlanta. After the Welcome and Introductions were made by Dr. Joe Alderman, the Mission, Vision, and Goals of the Coalition were presented. Dr. Alderman lead the review of the priorities and strategies developed in the previous Policy Tool Meeting with the following topics presented:

Coalition Building by **Dr. Alderman**

Surveillance by **Dr. Elizabeth Lense**

Oral Health and Total Health by **Joann Yoon**

Access to Care by **Dr. Richard Weber**

Legislative Advocacy by **Nelda Greene**



The different work groups were unveiled and participants signed up for their preferences. The changes in Doral's regional fee schedule for WellCare Georgia family members was discussed. Dr. Lense provided a comparison list regarding the percentage of change between the current and new rates by ADA code/Service and **Dr. Weber** shared a synopsis of the changes on his program.



### GOHPP Coordinators' Meeting—November 6th, 2009

The first face-to-face Georgia Dental Public Health Coordinators' Meeting, in a long time, took place in Macon on November 6th. Many of the districts were represented and topics included: budget updates/cuts, formation of a committee to work on revision possibilities to the allocation formula for GIA funding, Medicaid reimbursement issues including Wellcare, Peachstate cuts, and F-varnish, and CDC recommendations for the school based sealant programs. Continuing education presentations were given on HPV and Oral Cancer, H1N1 Update, and Special Needs Children.

Announcements were made including the availability of a prenatal grant for \$5,000, with a January 6th deadline, as well as, the availability of packages of sealant and F-varnish materials from United Concordia. For more information regarding these two announcements, please contact Carol Smith.

H1N1 vaccinations were also offered to participants while in attendance. The meeting was enjoyed by all, and Dr. Grier Godfrey graciously offered to host another meeting in the future.

## News from the Oral Health Initiative E-Newsletter, November 2009



### Can Cranberries Help to Improve Oral Health?



Besides urinary tract health and anti-cancer properties, Cranberries may help provide benefits to Oral Health by decreasing the ability of oral bacteria to adhere to tooth surfaces. A study from Tokyo Dental College found that depending on dose polyphenol fractions may protect against caries.

The Center for Oral Biology and Eastman Department of Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center evaluated the anti-adhesive affect on oral health . The study indicated that cranberry juice may prohibit oral diseases, thus adding advantages to the links between cardiovascular disease and oral health. Now, some manufactures are starting to add cranberry extracts to oral care products.

~Cranberry Health News (letter), Cranberry Institute, Vol. 7, Iss. 6, Spring 2009, [http://www.cranberryinstitute.org/news/Newsletter/CHN\\_Volume7.html#oralhealth](http://www.cranberryinstitute.org/news/Newsletter/CHN_Volume7.html#oralhealth)

### Free Online Training on Protecting All Children's Teeth (PACT)

The Oral Health Initiative is launching the "Protecting All Children's Teeth (PACT): A Pediatric Oral Health Training Program", in a 13-chapter modules to educate regarding the oral health to overall health relationship including oral health guidance, preventive care, and photo galleries . It is designed for pediatricians in particular, those in training, and anyone interested in infant, child, and adolescent health. <http://www.aap.org/oralhealth/pact.cfm>

« More articles and information from the newsletter are available at: <http://www.aap.org/compeds/doch/oralhealth/pdf/Nov-09.pdf>

### Oral Piercings Raise Risk of Brain Abscesses

In the October 2009 edition of the *Archives of Neurology* , an article entitled "Multiple Brain Abscesses Associated with Tongue Piercing", described findings that oral piercings increase risk of brain infection. Not only noted were unsanitary conditions during the procedure , but also poor home care increased risk. The article sited the recent event of a 22-year old man who died weeks after oral piercings from multiple brain abscess.

~Moshe Yoel Herskovitz, MD; Dorit Goldsher, MD; Renato Finkelstein, MD; Yaron Bar-Lavi MD; Marius Constantinescu, MD; Gregory Telman, MD, Arch Neurol. 2009;66(10):1292) <http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=108994&sectionid=3510210>



## ★ ★ ★ Upcoming Events ★ ★ ★

- OSHA/Infection Control Update, Friday, January 22nd from 9:00 to 1:00
- Next GA OH Coalition meeting possibly: 1/21 or 1/28
- Ryan White HIV training, Loudermilk Center, Atlanta, Monday, February 15th (full day)
- Quarterly GOHPP Coordinators Meeting — date for the beginning of May is forthcoming
- Public Health Dental Hygienists Workshop - TBA

## News from the Districts

### DeKalb Board of Health Participates in BiNational Health Fair



A BiNational Health Fair was held at the **DeKalb County Board Of Health's** North DeKalb Health Center on October 10, 2009. Participating from DCBoH was **Dwayne Turner, DDS, MBA, Sherry Wiggins, RDH, BS, Miralla Vega, Latisha Triplett, and Kimberly Burke.** The Colgate Dental Van was present and the DCBoH dental team provided oral screenings, oral health education, OHIs, and oral health care aids for 225 people approximately. It is estimated that nearly 1000 people attended

### DCBoH Celebrates Seal Georgia Day

**Dwayne Turner, DDS, MBA, and Sherry Wiggins, RDH, BS,** with the **DeKalb County Board of Health** celebrated Seal Georgia Day on November 13th, in partnership with Dresden Elementary School and the Dental Hygiene Department of Georgia Perimeter College. Forty-one (41) children pre-screened by the health



Dr. Dwayne Turner

department dental team were eligible to participate.

The children were bused to the college in Dunwoody Georgia, where dental hygiene students placed a total of 153 dental sealants. Oral health education presentations were also provided, and goody bags with oral health care supplies, etc.



On February 19th, 2010, the dental team is planning another Dental Public Health event with GPC as well.

## Albany



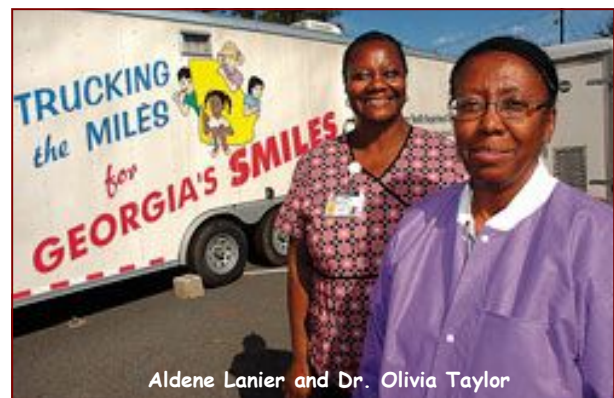
**Olivia Taylor**, DDS, District Dental Director and **Aldene Lanier**, RDH, of the Southwest Health District 8-2, made front page news of the Saturday, November 21st, *Albany Herald*. The story was about their three district dental programs including the Prevention Program. The mobile dental program was highlighted targeting the Title 1 elementary schools "willing to have them."

Also included were the fluoride rinse and varnish programs, the former targeting first graders and the latter, pre-K and kindergarten children. Dr. Taylor was quoted as saying, "This is an excellent service pushed by public health. If we can catch these kids at the pre-K and kindergarten stage, and get varnish on their teeth, it can cut down on cavities," Taylor said. "I'm really excited about it. I hope people will receive it well. The rinse gives protection but not like the varnish." She also said, "Most people do not think of tooth decay as a disease. If something is wrong with the tooth, something is wrong with the body. It is a big problem in children."

The biggest need in terms of human resources was described as the need for a dental assistant, which Taylor does get some help with. Once a week, dental assistant students from Albany Technical College help out.

Dr. Taylor described the program's progress as "...going good," and that, "It would be much better if we could get more schools involved." She also said, "the effort to serve those that can't always get the dental care they need is worth it."

Aldene Lanier, RDH, district dental hygienists went on to say, "We bring dentistry to them. We really don't want to treat a child that has a dentist. ...We are trying to meet the needs of those who do not have a dentist."



Aldene Lanier and Dr. Olivia Taylor

You can find the story at: <http://www.albanyherald.com/home/headlines/70681592.html>

## East Metro Participates with Christina's Smiles



Dr. Vicki Waits

Sept. 21, 2009, **Vicki Waits**, DMD and **Linda Allen**, dental assistant with the East Metro Health District provided treatment for kids that had been arranged by the Christina Smile crew. They provided exams, prophies, any treatment needed including extractions. X-rays were taken by the C.S. staff. There were 3 dentists working and each brought their own assistant. Dr. Waits and Linda saw around 10 or 12 kids that afternoon.



Linda Allen



## Georgia Public Health Association Meeting

The Georgia Public Health Association met at Mercer University on December 4th. The 2010 Medical/Dental Section elected officers and were as follows:

Chair - **Dr. Dwayne Turner**  
 Vice Chair - **Dr. Elizabeth Lense**  
 Secretary - **Dr. Ketty Gonzalez**



Dr. Lense, Dr. Alderman, & Dr. Turner making plans for 2010

Mr. Chris Erwin, Superintendent of the Banks County School System, recognized an unmet need for dental care among students attending his rural county schools. Banks County has no private dentists. Realizing that transportation was a significant barrier to parents taking their children to the dentist, particularly among lower income families, he advocated for a partnership between the school system and the health department where by the school identifies, processes, and transports students to the health department during school hours, and the health department dental clinic provides the students with complete dental care and a dental home. Because of Mr. Erwin's concern and dedication, this collaboration between the Banks County Board of Education and the Banks County Health Department Dental Clinic has significantly improved access to

comprehensive dental care for the children of Banks County in need.



Mr. Russ Toal, President GPHA, Dr. Dwayne Turner, Section Chair, Mr. Christopher Erwin, 2009 GDPH Award of Merit Winner, & Representative Mickey Channell, Georgia House District 116 (Greensboro)

Description of the Award: The Georgia Dental Public Health Award of Merit was initiated in 1989. The Award is presented to an individual or organization by the Oral Health Section, Georgia Public Health and the Medical Dental Section, Georgia Public Health Association for outstanding services and contributions to the Georgia Dental Public Health Program nationally, regionally, statewide, and/or locally.



**"Teamwork represents a set of values that encourage behaviors such as listening and constructively responding to points of view expressed by others, giving others the benefit of the doubt, providing support to those who need it, and recognizing the interests and achievements of others."**

~ Katzenbach & Smith

