

Spring 2002Spring 2001

Communications Update is intended to advise you and your staff of actions taken during the February 2002 meeting of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDA).

Communications Update is provided via ADA.org to approximately 4,000 recipients, including all of the Commission's accredited programs and their chief administrative and executive officers, American Dental Association officers and trustees, related dental organizations, Commission site visitors and other accrediting agencies. Those without access to ADA.org may request a paper copy of the publication by calling (800) 621-8099 x4653.

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Administrators should share this information with faculty and staff.

Expansion of Reciprocal Agreement with Canada

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDA) has a long-standing reciprocal agreement with the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. This reciprocal agreement includes the disciplines that are in the purview of both Commissions. With the addition of an accreditation program in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (OMR), the CDA sought an expansion of the reciprocal agreement between the two accrediting agencies to include OMR programs. Ms. Susan Matheson, acting director of the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, reported that the Canadian Commission approved the expansion of the reciprocal agreement.

Review of Specialty Standard Two

The Review Committee on Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics Education and the Review Committee on Pediatric Dentistry Education separately discussed issues related to the need to clarify the must statement related to program director qualifications. Specifically, the Review Committees recommended that the must statement: "The program **must** be administered by a director who is board certified in the respective specialty of the program. (All program directors appointed after January 1, 1997, who have not previously served as program directors, **must** be board certified.)" needed an intent statement identifying which certifying boards are acceptable to meet the standard. There was also discussion that further clarification was needed related to the sentence on alternative qualifications of a program director.

The Commission believed that careful consideration must be given before making additional intent statements or amendments to this standard, which could have implications for all advanced dental specialty education standards and accredited programs. The Commission believed that an ad hoc committee should be convened to

review the Standard and that a report be prepared for consideration at the August 2002 meeting. Furthermore, the Commission requested that the ad hoc committee consider the manpower concerns and apparent shortage of board certified specialists affecting some of the specialties during its deliberations.

Annual Accreditation Fee Increase

The Finance Committee proposed and the Commission approved a 5% increase in the annual fees for 2003; the Commission agreed. Such an increase will address inflationary costs as well as the additional expenditures anticipated in 2003. It should be noted that accreditation fees have not increased in five years.

Changes in Initial Accreditation Process

The Commission considered changes to the process used in considering applications for initial accreditation. Currently the Commission uses two processes, Accreditation Eligible (AE) and Preliminary Provisional Approval (PPA). The AE process is used for predoctoral, dental hygiene and oral and maxillofacial surgery residency programs. The PPA process is used for dental assisting, dental laboratory technology, advanced education and OMS clinical fellowship training programs.

During the Commission's re-recognition review by the US Department of Education (USDE), the USDE questioned the AE and PPA terms used by the Commission to designate initial accreditation. The USDE recognizes "Accreditation Eligible," but noted the terminology may be confusing since the Commission considers programs with this status to be accredited, rather than eligible for accreditation. The Preliminary Provisional Accreditation status is not recognized by the USDE because it is not based on a site visit, but rather a paper review.

The Commission directed that its written application process be converted to a site visit process for all programs seeking initial accreditation and that the accreditation term be changed from "Accreditation Eligible/Preliminary Provisional Approval" to "Initial Accreditation" for new programs that are not yet fully operational. The Commission adopted the following definition:

Initial Accreditation: Initial Accreditation is the accreditation classification granted to any dental, advanced dental or allied dental education program which is in the planning and early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation and not yet fully operational. This accreditation classification provides evidence to educational institutions, licensing bodies, government or other granting agencies that, at the time of initial evaluation(s), the developing education program has the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited education program for the specific occupational area. The classification "Initial accreditation" is granted based upon one or more site evaluation visit(s) and until the program is fully operational.

Further, the Commission directed that the term and procedures for "Initial Accreditation" be implemented in January 2003. The Commission will post updated information as it becomes available about the policies, procedures and documents to be utilized for "Initial Accreditation" on the Association's website, www.ada.org.

Criteria for Initiation of an Accreditation Program in a New Area

At its January 2001 meeting, the Commission considered a request from the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA) to initiate an accreditation program for postdoctoral general anesthesia programs for dentists.

The Commission directed that an ad hoc committee be appointed to further study the possible development of an accreditation process for these and other programs, including the financial and logistical implications. The ad hoc committee thoroughly reviewed documents related to the Commission's mission, duties, USDE recognition criteria and Bylaws for the American Dental Association. The Committee noted the 1979 historical precedent of accrediting advanced education programs in general dentistry.

After reviewing documents and establishing precedence, the Committee determined that the accreditation review of programs in areas other than predoctoral dental education and the recognized dental specialties is under the purview of the Commission, as evidenced by its review of programs in advanced general dentistry, dental assisting, dental hygiene and dental laboratory technology.

The Committee believed that other areas of dentistry might also request initiation of accreditation review of their training programs. The Committee concluded that prior to consideration of review of any additional areas of dental education, criteria should be developed for use by the Commission in determining eligibility for inclusion in the accreditation process.

At the February 2002 meeting, the Commission carefully considered the Committee's proposed *Criteria for the Initiation of an Accreditation Program in a New Dental Education Area*. The Committee suggested and the Commission agreed that an area of dentistry requesting initiation of a new accreditation program should be required to meet the criteria.

The proposed *Criteria* are:

1. The existence of a body of scientific dental knowledge underlying the discipline – knowledge that is in large part distinct from, or more detailed than, that of other disciplines already in accreditation review.
2. The body of knowledge is sufficient to educate individuals in an oral health field, not just in one or more techniques.
3. A sufficient number of established programs with a structured curriculum, qualified faculty, and enrolled individuals that accreditation can be a viable method of quality assurance.
4. Professional organization(s) or association(s) with principal interest in the discipline.
5. Peer reviewed publications or research in the discipline.
6. National or regional annual meetings for the discipline.
7. The programs are the equivalent of at least one academic year in length.
8. The quality of the educational program is important to the health care of the general public.

The Commission directed that the proposed *Criteria for the Initiation of an Accreditation Program in a New Dental Education Area* be circulated to the communities of interest for

review and comments. Written comments should be received in the Commission office by June 14, 2002. The Commission also held an open hearing at the 2002 Annual Session of the American Dental Education Association.

The Commission requested that the Committee meet prior to the August 2002 meeting of the Commission to consider the oral and written comments received. The Commission further directed that the Committee's final consideration of the *Criteria* be prepared for consideration at the August 2002 meeting.

Standards Revisions

Request from Special Smiles for Standard Revision

The Commission received a request from the Global Clinical Director for Special Olympics Special Smiles program to consider a change to *Dental Education Standard 2-25* and *Dental Hygiene Standard 2-18* to require programs to prepare graduates to be competent in providing oral health care for the mentally/physically disabled patient.

Although both Review Committees and the Commission believed that a standards revision was not necessary at this time, the Commission felt that programs should provide students with experiences in providing oral health care to mentally/physically disabled patients. The Commission determined that alternative language in support of the Commission's intent be prepared and considered at its August 2002 meeting. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to draft language that could be incorporated into both the Dental Education and Dental Hygiene Standards.

Proposed Revisions to Dental Assisting Standards

The Review Committee on Dental Assisting Education received feedback from the communities of interest regarding faculty qualifications required in the Standards. In general, the comments indicated concern related to requiring all faculty to have or be working toward a baccalaureate degree. The Committee believed that the Standard should be revised to require faculty providing didactic instruction to hold or be working toward baccalaureate degrees and that this requirement should not apply to those faculty delivering laboratory, preclinical or clinical instruction. The Review Committee proposed the following changes and the Commission directed they be circulated to the communities of interest for review and comment (**Bolding** represents proposed addition)

- 3-8 Faculty **providing didactic instruction** must have earned at least a baccalaureate degree or be currently enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program.

Written comments must be received in the Commission office by May 15, 2002 for consideration at the July/August 2002 meetings of the Review Committee and Commission. The Commission also held an open hearing at the 2002 Annual Session of the American Dental Education Association.

Miscellaneous and Policy & Procedure Updates

Report of the Dental Assisting National Board

The Dental Assisting Review Committee received an oral report from Ms. Cynthia Durley, Executive Director of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), regarding recent activities of the DANB. Ms. Durley reported that effective with DANB's 2002 testing schedule, eligibility pathways for the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Examination have been expanded to include candidates who are graduates of programs not accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Although recognizing that this new eligibility pathway is part of a two-year pilot study, the members strongly believed that implementation of this new pathway has the potential to diminish the reputation of the CDA credential and compromise the importance of Commission-accredited dental assisting education. The Committee also noted that the change was implemented without input from DANB's communities of interest nor did DANB seek approval from the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL). As part of their recognition as a certifying board with CDEL, DANB is required to notify CDEL if they plan to implement a pilot project and to seek input from the communities of interest.

The Commission agreed with the Dental Assisting Review Committee that concerns should be expressed to the DANB about the change in eligibility pathways for the CDA Examination. Further, the Committee believed, and the Commission concurred, that the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure should be notified that the DANB might not have followed established procedures with regard to this matter.

Notification Period for Increases in Enrollment

The Review Committee on Endodontics Education considered a request from Dr. Eric Hovland, dean, Louisiana Health Science Center School of Dentistry to review the 12-month period of notification for an increase in enrollment of advanced specialty education programs in endodontics. Dr. Hovland believed that the existing policy placed an unnecessary burden on institutions and did not allow institutions to be flexible. The Review Committee discussed several different options and decided to maintain the policy as is.

The Commission discussed the issues at hand and the need for a 12-month notification, noting two other specialties, oral and maxillofacial surgery and periodontics, have authorized enrollment policies without a defined notification period. Feeling that further discussion was necessary and to consider the use of one policy for all requests for enrollment increases, the Commission directed that an ad hoc committee be appointed to study the policies and procedures used for submission of requests for increases in enrollment, to consider the implications for all dental specialty program areas and to report its finding to the Commission for consideration at its August 2002 meeting. In the meantime, current policies for the three disciplines will continue, pending a decision at the August 2002 meeting.

OMS Authorized Enrollment Reminder

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) programs planning to increase enrollment must contact the Commission **prior** to doing so. OMS programs are accredited for a specified

number of residents in each year of the program. Prior authorization must be obtained for an increase in enrollment beyond the authorized level in any year. Authorization must be requested for any reason and regardless of whether the increase is a one-time only or a permanent change in enrollment. Failure to comply with this policy will jeopardize the program's accreditation status.

In order to obtain an authorized enrollment increase prior to the release of Matching Program results, OMS programs are urged to submit requests for enrollment increases for consideration at the Commission's July meetings. However, requests for increases in authorized enrollment will be accepted at both the January and July meetings. Requests must be submitted prior to the anticipated enrollment date.

At its January 28, 2000 meeting, the Commission determined that effective January 2001 retroactive requests for authorization to increase enrollment will **not** be considered. This directive applies to both one-time and permanent increases. Accredited Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery programs seeking enrollment increases for consideration at the July 2002 meeting must have the requests in the Commission office no later than March 15, 2002.

For information on the procedures related to notification of change in authorized enrollment, contact Dr. Catherine Horan at (800) 621-8099 x2714 or horanc@ada.org.

Accreditation of Off-Campus Sites

Since July 1998 the Commission has operated under the "Policy Statement on Accreditation of Off-Campus Sites" that requires the Commission to conduct a site visit to an off-campus locations where 20% or more of the students'/residents' clinical instruction occurs. Citing the potential cumbersomeness of the policy, the Commission was requested to consider a revision to the policy. After seeking input from all 14 Review Committees, the Commission concluded that a revision of the policy is not warranted at this time.

Commission on Dental Accreditation Member Biographical Information

Members of the Commission on Dental Accreditation are selected in accordance with the *Rules of the Commission on Dental Accreditation* and the *Constitution and Bylaws of the American Dental Association*.

Ammons, William J, DDS, Seattle, Washington was appointed by the American Academy of Periodontology. Dr. Ammons is a periodontist and a dental school faculty member at the University of Washington.

Avery, William A, DDS, Grand Rapids, Michigan was appointed by the American Dental Association. Dr. Avery is a general practitioner in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Bell, Homer Clark, DDS, Greensboro, North Carolina was appointed by the American Association of Dental Examiners. Dr. Bell is a general practitioner in private practice.

Bolick, Gerald, EdD, Lenoir, North Carolina is one of four public members to the Commission. Dr. Bolick has an EdD from Duke University and an extensive background in education.

Braun, Thomas W, DMD, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was appointed by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Dr. Braun is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and Dean at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

Byrd, Lanier, PhD, San Antonio, Texas is one of four public members to the Commission. Dr. Byrd has a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin and is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at St. Philip's College

Christensen, Mark, DDS, Murray, Utah was appointed by the American Association of Dental Examiners. Dr. Christensen is a general practitioner in private practice.

Cohen, Ruben, New York City, New York, was a joint appointment by the American Student Dental Association and the American Dental Education Association. Mr. Cohen is a fourth-year dental student at New York University.

Dunsky, Joel, DDS, Boston, Massachusetts was appointed by the American Association of Endodontists. Dr. Dunsky is on the faculty at Harvard University and an endodontist.

Freeman, Irving, PhD, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is one of four public members to the Commission. Dr. Freeman earned his PhD in higher education from the University of North Texas, Denton, and is currently the Director of Medical Education and Research at The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Goldblatt, Lawrence I, DDS, MSD, Indianapolis, Indiana was appointed by the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Goldblatt is Dean of the Indiana University School of Dentistry. He is an oral and maxillofacial pathologist.

Graham, Bruce, DDS, Chicago, Illinois was appointed by the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Graham is a prosthodontist and the Dean at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.

Green, Frank, DDS, Bloomington, Illinois was appointed by the American Dental Association. Dr. Green is an orthodontist in private practice with Orthodontic Associates.

Hunt, Ronald W, DDS, Richmond, Virginia was appointed by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. Dr. Hunt is the Dean of the School of Dentistry of Virginia Commonwealth University and a public health dentist.

Jancar, Susan L, DDS, Winnemucca, Nevada was appointed by the American Dental Association. Dr. Jancar is a general practitioner in private practice.

Kalkwarf, Kenneth L, DDS, San Antonio, Texas was appointed by the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Kalkwarf is Dean of the Dental School of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and is a periodontist.

McTigue, Dennis J, DDS, Columbus, Ohio was appointed by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. McTigue is a pediatric dentist and is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry.

Meyerowitz, Cyril, BDS, MS, Rochester, New York was a joint appointment by the American Dental Education Association and the American Association of Hospital Dentists, representing postdoctoral general dentistry education programs. Dr. Meyerowitz is the Chairman of the Department of Dentistry at University of Rochester Eastman Dental Center.

Nimmo, Arthur, DDS, Gainesville, Florida was appointed by the American College of Prosthodontists. Dr. Nimmo is a prosthodontist and Chair of Prosthodontics at the University of Florida, Gainesville, College of Dentistry.

Norris, Lonnie, DDS, Boston, Massachusetts was appointed by the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Norris is Dean of Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and an oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Overman, Pamela, RDH, EdD, Kansas City, Missouri was appointed by the American Dental Hygienists' Association. She is Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs at the School of Dentistry, University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Phinney, Donna, CDA, MEd, Spokane, Washington was appointed by the American Dental Assistants Association. Ms. Phinney is the Program Director of the Dental Assisting Program at Spokane Community College.

Poulton, Donald, DDS, San Francisco, California was appointed by the American Association of Orthodontists. He is the Director for the Orthodontic Residency Program at the University of the Pacific, and he is an orthodontist.

Ruprecht, Axel, DDS Iowa City, Iowa was appointed by the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. Dr. Ruprecht is the Director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Program at the University of Iowa.

Simonian, Roger B, DDS, Fresno, California was appointed by the American Dental Association. Dr. Simonian is a general dentist in private practice in Fresno.

Sims, Barbara, Coral Gables, Florida is one of four public members of the Commission. She is the former Executive Director of the East Coast District Dental Society.

Tatum, Richard Carlos, DDS, Columbia, Maryland was appointed by the American Association of Dental Examiners. Dr. Tatum is a general practitioner in Columbia.

Tomich, Charles E, DDS, Indianapolis, Indiana was appointed by the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. He is currently a professor at Indiana University School of Dentistry.

Weiss, Leonard, DDS, Mayfield Heights, Ohio was appointed by the American Association of Dental Examiners. Dr. Weiss is retired chairman of the Department of

Dentistry at MetroHealth Hospital (Medical System). He is presently Senior Vice President of Quality Assurance and Professional Affairs for DentalCare Partners, Inc.

Portion of CDA Meetings Open to Observers

The policy portion of the Commission meeting is open to interested observers from the communities of interest. Those attending are observers only and do not participate in the Commission's discussion. Confidential accreditation matters continue to be discussed in limited attendance sessions.

If you plan to attend the August 1, 2002 meeting of the Commission, please return the appended pre-registration form to the Commission by June 24, 2002, to the attention of the Director's Office, Commission on Dental Accreditation.

This will assist the Commission in making arrangements for the meeting and will ensure that you receive a copy of the preliminary agenda and policy reports prior to the meeting. Review Committee summary reports will be distributed to observers at the meeting.

The Commission does not assume any travel, hotel or other costs for observers attending the meeting. Observers are not required to pay any registration or materials fee for observing the meeting.

Reporting Major Changes in Accredited Programs

The Commission on Dental Accreditation recognizes that education and accreditation are dynamic, not static, processes. Ongoing review and evaluation often lead to minor changes in an educational program. The Commission views these minor changes as part of a healthy educational process and encourages programs to make them as part of their normal operating procedures.

At times, however, more significant changes occur in a program. Major changes have a direct and significant impact on the program's potential ability to comply with the accreditation standards. These major changes tend to occur in the areas of finances, program administration, enrollment, curriculum and clinical/laboratory facilities, but may also occur in other areas.

The Commission must be informed of any major change that relates to an accreditation standard. The program must report such major changes to the Commission in writing within thirty (30) days. This report must document how the program will continue to meet accreditation standards.

When a change occurs and a program is not certain whether the change is major or minor, staff of the Commission should be consulted immediately. The Commission has guidelines for reporting major changes that may clarify what constitutes a major change and provide guidance in adequately explaining and documenting such changes.

Third Party Comments

The Commission currently publishes, in its lists of accredited programs, the year of the next site visit for each program (check the website). The United States Department of Education (USDE) procedures require accrediting agencies to provide an opportunity for third-party comment, with respect to institutions or programs scheduled for review. All comments must relate to accreditation standards for the discipline and/or accreditation policies.

Who can submit comments: Third-party comments relative to the Commission's accredited programs may include comments submitted by interested parties such as faculty, students, program administrators, Commission site visitors, specialty and dental related organizations, patients, and/or consumers.

How comments can be solicited: In fairness to the accredited programs, all comments relative to programs being visited will be due in the Commission office no later than 60 days prior to each program's site visit to allow time for the program to respond. Any unresolved issues related to the program's compliance with the accreditation standards will be reviewed by the site visit team while on-site.

Those programs scheduled for review are responsible for soliciting third-party comments from students and patients by publishing an announcement at least 90 days prior to their site visit. The notice should indicate the deadline of 60 days for receipt of third-party comments in the Commission office and should stipulate that comments must pertain only to the standards for the particular program or policies and procedures used in the Commission's accreditation process. The announcement may include language to indicate that a copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the Commission's policy on third-party comments may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, or by calling (800) 621-8099 x4653.

In addition, the Commission publishes in its spring and fall newsletter, ***Communications Update***, those programs being site visited January through June or July through December (see appended site visit schedule). Developing programs submitting accreditation eligible applications may be scheduled for site visits after the publication of ***Communications Update***; thus, the specific dates of these site visits may not be available for publication. These programs will be listed as such in ***Communications Update*** with a special notation that the developing programs have submitted accreditation eligible applications and may or may not be scheduled for site visits. Parties interested in these specific dates (should they be established) are welcomed/encouraged to contact the Commission office.

Types of comments considered: All comments submitted must pertain only to the standards relative to the particular program being reviewed or policies and procedures used in the accreditation process. Comments will be screened by Commission staff for relevancy. For comments not relevant to these issues, the individual will be notified that the comment is not related to accreditation and, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate agency. For those individuals who are interested in submitting comments, requests can be made to the Commission office for receiving standards and/or the Commission's *Evaluation Policies and Procedures (EPP)*.

Management of comments: All relevant comments will be referred to the program at least 50 days prior to the site visit for review and response. A written response from the program should be provided to the Commission office and the site visit team 15 days

prior to the site visit. Adjustments may be necessary in the site visit schedule to allow discussion of comments with proper personnel.

Comments should be submitted to:

Third Party Comments
 Commission on Dental Accreditation
 211 East Chicago Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60611
 or by fax to: 312-440-2915

Coordinated Site Visits

If an institution offers more than one dental education program, the Commission evaluates all programs during a single site visit whenever possible. Shared faculty, shared facilities and integrated curricula, as well as the time and expense involved in preparing for a visit, are among the reasons for coordinated evaluations.

The Commission encourages the coordination of its evaluations with evaluations by regional and/or other nationally recognized accrediting associations. It will make every effort to coordinate its evaluations with those of other associations if requested to do so by an institution.

The Commission has conducted simultaneous evaluations with regional accrediting associations such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and other specialized agencies such as the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or with state accrediting agencies such as the State Education Department, the University of the State of New York Division of College and University Evaluation. If an institution wishes to coordinate accreditation activities, the Commission should be contacted well in advance of the projected time of the site visit.

Meeting Dates

	JULY 2002	JAN. 2003	JULY 2003	JAN. 2004	JULY 2004
Predoc RC	July 10	Jan. 8	July 9	Jan. 6	July 9
Postdoc RC	July 11-12	Jan. 9-10	July 10-11	Jan. 8-9	July 8-9
DA RC	July 9-10	Jan. 7-8	July 8-9	Jan. 7-8	July 7-8
DH RC	July 9-10	Jan. 7-8	July 8-9	Jan. 7-8	July 7-8
DLT RC	July 9	Jan. 7	July 8	Jan. 7	July 7
DPH RC	July 12	Jan. 10	July 11	Jan. 12	July 12
ENDO RC	July 9	Jan. 7	July 8	Jan. 6	July 9
OMP RC	July 11	Jan. 9	July 10	Jan. 9	July 13
OMR RC	July 8	Jan. 6	July 7	Jan. 6	July 9
OMS RC	July 10	Jan. 8	July 9	Jan. 7	July 7
ORTHO RC	July 11	Jan. 9	July 10	Jan. 8	July 8
PED RC	July 9	Jan. 7	July 8	Jan. 7	July 7
PERIO RC	July 12	Jan. 10	July 11	Jan. 9	July 12
PROS RC	July 10	Jan. 8	July 9	Jan. 8	July 8
OA Comm		Jan. 30		Jan. 29	
Orientation		Jan. 30		Jan. 29	

Commission Aug. 1 Jan. 31 Aug. 1 Jan. 30 July 30

Staff Announcements

Two new employees joined the staff of the Commission this past January. Ms. Colleen Schmidt has assumed the position of Manager of Advanced Specialty Education and works with the oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics and dental public health disciplines. Colleen holds a Master of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene Education from The University of North Carolina. Prior to joining the Commission, she was a practicing dental hygienist and an assistant professor at the University of Missouri Kansas City, School of Dentistry, Division of Dental Hygiene.

Ms. Sherin Tookes has been appointed Manager of Dental Assisting Education. Sherin is both a Certified Dental Assistant and a Registered Dental Hygienist. She earned a Master of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene Education at the University of Missouri Kansas City. Prior to joining the staff, Sherin served as a dental assisting and dental hygiene educator in the Kansas City area. Most recently she served as the Director of the dental assisting program sponsored by Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, Missouri.

For Additional Information

The following staff may be contacted for additional information about the Commission and its activities, (800) 621-8099.

Director's Office

Ms. Karen M. Hart, director, x2940
Mr. Brian Papendick, lead project assistant, x4653

Allied Dental Education Offices

Ms. Sherin Tookes, manager, x2705
•Dental assisting education

Ms. Cheryl R. Parker, manager, x2675
•Dental laboratory technology education
•Allied site visits
•Allied site visitors

Ms. Linda A. Parks, manager, x2695
•Dental hygiene education

Advanced Education Offices

Dr. Catherine A. Horan, manager, x2714
•Endodontics
•Oral and maxillofacial surgery
•Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics
•Periodontics

Ms. Colleen R. Schmidt, manager, x2672
•Dental public health,
•Oral and maxillofacial pathology
•Oral and maxillofacial radiology
•Pediatric dentistry

- Prosthodontics
- Advanced site visits
- Advanced site visitors

Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, x2788

- Advanced education in general dentistry
- General practice residency programs

Predoctoral Dental Education Office

Ms. Rosemary Monehen, manager, x2721

- Predoctoral dental education
- Comprehensive dental school site visits
- Predoctoral site visitors

