REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Dr. John Hellstein. Committee Members: Dr. Darren Cox, Mr. James Hinds, Dr. Viren Jhaveri, and Dr. Vikki Noonan. Guests (Open Session Only): Ms. Janet Svazas, executive director (exiting) and Ms. Lisa Mikita, executive director (entering), American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology attended the policy portion of the meeting. Staff Members: Dr. Sherin Tooks, director, Ms. Jennifer Snow, manager, Advanced Dental Education, and Ms. Danielle Patrick-Wade, senior project assistant, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Education (OMP RC) was held on July 11, 2019 via telephone conference call.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY EDUCATION

Informational Report of Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (p. 800): The Review Committee on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Education (OMP RC) considered the analysis of the frequency of citings data, which indicated that one (1) area of non-compliance was cited during the reporting period; the citation occurred under Standard 4-5.3 related to trainees actively participating in the gross and microscopic examination of surgical and necropsy specimens. Due to the limited number of citings, a trend in the data cannot be identified. The Commission will continue to receive reports annually summarizing the updated data on the frequency of citings of individual Standards.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

Consideration of Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms Related to Special Needs (p. 801): On May 28, 2019, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) to consider the standardization of a definition for “Special Needs” across the various Accreditation Standards under the Commission’s purview instead of using different iterations of the definition of special needs. The Special Care Dentistry Association believes that the definition of special needs in many of the educational program Accreditation Standards is missing vulnerable older adults. The SCDA has proposed a definition for “Special Needs” that is derived from the Dental Education Standards (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 801).

The OMP RC considered the proposed revision to the Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms submitted by the Special Care Dentistry Association. The OMP RC appreciates the importance of terminology to define patients with special needs, including a uniform approach to the terminology. As such, the OMP RC noted that a majority of the advanced dental education standards currently include a common philosophical statement in the Preface that is similar to the language proposed by the SCDA. The oral and maxillofacial pathology standards Preface states:
The profession has a duty to consider patients’ preferences, and their social, economic and emotional circumstances when providing care, as well as to attend to patients whose medical, physical and psychological or social situation make it necessary to modify normal dental routines in order to provide dental treatment. These individuals include, but are not limited to, people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairments, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, and the vulnerable elderly. The Standards reconfirm and emphasize the importance of educational processes and goals for comprehensive patient care and encourage patient-centered approaches in teaching, research and oral health care delivery.

Following discussion, and based on the existing language within the Accreditation Standards for oral and maxillofacial pathology, the OMP RC determined that no further changes to the standards are warranted at this time related to the SCDA’s request.

**Recommendation**: It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation direct that the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Dental Education Programs in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology be retained as written.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. John Hellstein,
Chair, Review Committee on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Education