Symposium on Caries in AI/AN Children

August 26-27, 2016, in Hood River, OR

Organized by QUEST

Dee Robertson, President

Supported by a generous grant from the DentaQuest Foundation
Traditional Blessing

Wehnona Stabler, MPH, CEO
Welcome from Dr. Patrick Blahut
Hold the applause...

This will be my last Symposium.
If You Don’t Know Where You Are Going…

Most any road will get you there…
If You Don’t Know Where You Are Going...

• With support from the ADA, in 2009 I organized the first Symposium on caries in AI/AN children.

• I definitely didn’t know where I was going...

• At the conclusion, Dr. Page Caufield said...
If You Don’t Know Where You Are Going

- With support from the ADA, I organized the 2010 Symposium along what Page recommended.
- We had academic presentations, followed by workgroups.
- I still didn’t know where I was going...
If You Don’t Know Where You Are Going

Two Watershed Meetings in 2010

1. IHS ECC Initiative Meeting
2. 2010 Symposium on AI/AN Children

Both addressed the same Fundamental Issue:

There has been no clinically significant improvement despite decades of efforts. Is this failure because:
- We are not doing enough of what we know works? or
- Are there knowledge gaps impeding our efforts?
If You Don’t Know Where You Are Going

Two Watershed Meetings in 2010

1. IHS ECC Initiative Meeting Conclusion:
   “We know how to control this disease!!!”

2. 2010 Symposium on AI/AN Children Conclusion:
   “There are profound knowledge gaps impeding our efforts.”
Use what we’ve learned since the 2010 Symposium to achieve clinically significant reductions in the remarkable oral health disparities for AI/AN children
What is **NOT** the purpose of this Symposium?

To promote any particular product or program or strategy
Something for Everyone

Supporters of Position A:
“I knew I was right all the time. Glad everyone else is catching up with me.”

Supporters of Position B (180 degrees from Position A):
“I knew I was right all the time. Glad everyone else is catching up with me.”
Symposium Goals

• Identify the **real barriers** to making progress as opposed to the ostensible barriers.

• Extirpate forever the illusion that expect that strategies somewhat efficacious in lower risk children will equally effective for AI/AN children.

• Develop guidelines for recommended programmatic actions that we expect will lead to reductions in the morbidity from caries in AI/AN children.

• Make the case that it is morally unacceptable for such extreme levels of caries in young AI/AN children to continue.
Symposium Agenda...
Agenda Day #1

1. Two short presentations on fundamental concepts that underlie our work, but are not usually overtly part of the dialogue.

2. Breakout session #1 has three concurrent groups of different constituents that meet individually to discuss issues of special relevance to them in the rest of the meeting.

3. Breakout session #2 condenses Symposium participants into two groups: one of the local dental directors and selected academics, and the other with the QUEST directors and organizational representatives.

After lunch:

1. Reports of specific QUEST activities and achievements

2. Reports of research on the mechanisms and effectiveness of silver ion antimicrobials in the treatment of caries in children.
Agenda Day #2

1. Presentations and a panel discussion by local dental directors on their clinical experiences treating caries in children with a non-operative approach.

2. The perspectives of two community members on a non-operative approach to caries in children in their own communities.

3. How to get past the last major local structural barrier preventing huge improvements in the oral health status of AI/AN children.

After lunch:

Saturday afternoon we pull it all together.

- What have we learned?
- How to take the next step?
- How do we measure ‘success?’
Now, on with the show...

Take it away, Bob-Meister...